

# The Alternative to War and Chaos

By Jerome Dowd

**I**T is a law, universally applying to all biological and as well to social organisms, that, with any increase in mass or division of labor, there must be a corresponding increase in cooperation or integration.

For illustration, in the growth of a plant or animal, there is always an increase in mass and in division of labor. A specialization takes place by which each part performs a separate function which is necessary to the life of the organism. In the degree that this specialization takes place, there must be a corresponding coordina-

important service in a larger integration has now become an overgrowth which, like a cancer in the individual organism, obstructs the reciprocally beneficial interchange of goods among nations which have grown to be interdependent.

And no further progress in civilization is possible until the people of the world attach themselves to some ideal that transcends the limits of national boundaries.

The value of any ideal depends upon the distance of its perspective, i.e. upon the number of people who would be benefited by its realization. Politically, morally

will be the absorption of the weak states by the strong and the rise of a totalitarian European and Asiatic Power.

Thus the necessary integration will have been accomplished, but by the most costly and dehumanizing process possible. Besides the loss of life and property in such a process, every higher product of human culture will have become retarded and degraded—the family, institutions of learning, science, the fine arts and even religion.

It is an idle dream for the American people to imagine that they can keep out of this second World War. They may indeed refuse to send their sons to be slaughtered in the bloody carnival but they cannot escape the consequences of it. If it goes on, some day we will have to battle for our survival against a totalitarian European and Asiatic State. And in the meantime, our loss of trade due to the impoverishment of Europe and Asia and the barriers which the totalitarian state will set up against us, will so augment our problem of unemployment as to bring about an internal revolution and the regime of a dictator.

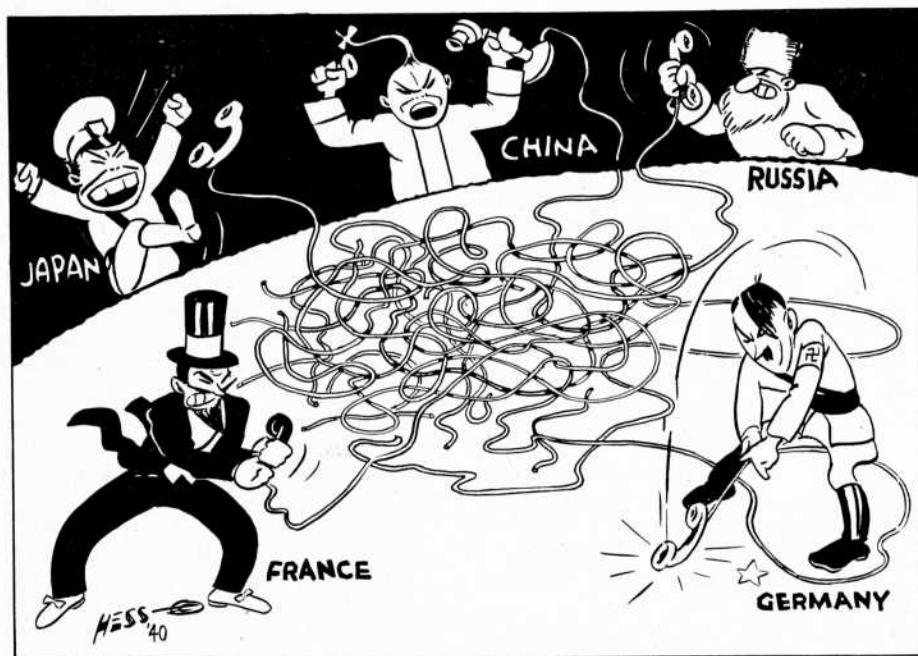
The American isolationist thinks that the expanse of two oceans is a sufficient protection to our nationality without the need of our assuming any obligations to our distant neighbors, but, if history teaches anything, it is that natural barriers are only a temporary protection. The Egyptians, Babylonians and the Greeks imagined that the geographic boundaries of water and deserts would render them safe from foreign invasion. They were, therefore, isolationists and refused to cooperate with their neighbors in the interest of mutual protection and service. The result was that the progress in transportation abolished the distance that separated them and they successively fell under the yoke of foreign powers.

With the present-day improvements in transportation by water and air, the natural barriers that have heretofore isolated the American people will be no more of a barrier against a totalitarian European-Asiatic State than a mosquito netting. The only durable protection to any nation is its ability to cooperate with its neighbors on the basis of mutual service.

A policy of isolation or neutrality can accomplish nothing except to postpone the inevitable which will be the more disastrous the longer the postponement.

In any great international issue, a nation is likely to suffer more from a policy of neutrality than from the consequences of taking a courageous part in the settle-

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These modern improvements call for a co-operative switchboard!

tion, or integration of the parts, otherwise the organism dies or is permanently impaired in its growth.

Whatever interferes with this integrating process is injurious to the organism. In the human organism the growth in mass may take the form of a cancer which absorbs the vitality of the organism without giving anything in return.

In any social group, as a nation, the same law applies. Any increase in numbers or division of labor must be accompanied by a corresponding increase in cooperative control. When nations become interdependent by reason of the interchange of goods, there must be a commensurate extension of international cooperation, otherwise the nations will be unable to obtain the resources necessary to their existence and will develop antagonisms and conflicts leading to war.

Nationalism which once rendered an

and religiously, we are a dead or dying people unless our purposes or ideals are continually expanding to comprehend the good of a larger and larger group of humanity.

The present state of international war and chaos is due to a lack of that international cooperation or integration which is necessary to the reciprocal growth of the separate nations.

This inevitable integrating process has been brought about in two ways. First, by military conquest. Second, by international cooperation and fraternity.

Unfortunately for everybody concerned, the first method is now dominant in the world. Nations which need outside resources for their existence are going on careers of conquest to get them, since their own selfishness prohibits the acquisition of them by a peaceful means. If the military method continues, the final outcome

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ment of it. Victor Hugo once truthfully remarked that between a man who commits a wrong and one who stands with folded arms and permits it to be done, the latter is the worse because he is a coward. Who can measure the depth of moral degradation into which the American people will sink in consequence of witnessing the most gigantic and inhuman conflagration that the world has known, and doing nothing about it?

I believe that the necessary and inevitable extension of cooperation or integration among the peoples of the world should, and can be, accomplished by other means than war. But, if it is ever accomplished by the peaceful process, it will be necessary that the champions of it be mobilized to the same extent as the champions of war.

Every citizen of every State who favors the peaceful procedure should become a positive factor in its accomplishment, which means that he must not only express his sympathy with the peaceful policy but go into action with his store of knowledge and material sources until the battle is won.

We know from history that public sentiment in reference to any moral issue is totally impotent against a united minority until that sentiment is organized. The slavery issue in the United States is a good illustration.

Therefore all people who favor the settlement of international questions by a peaceful means should go into immediate action by organizing local associations which should be followed by state, national and international ones. And no one should stand back upon the plea that no agreement can now be reached on account of the present hostile attitude of nations toward each other. Even if an international conference agreed upon nothing, still the most essential first step would have been taken which is the education of public sentiment. Whenever the public is sufficiently aroused and organized in favor of any social action, sooner or later, a line of action will be agreed upon. "He that seeketh, findeth."

The great error of the Versailles Treaty was not in an irrational creation of national boundaries but in failing to deal with the fundamental cause of the war which was the obstacle to reciprocal benefits in international trade which had forced the nations to seek the resources necessary to their existence by conquest.

The shallowest person ought to be able to see that it is better to effect a reciprocally beneficial exchange of goods by peaceful cooperation than to wait for it to be accomplished by a rampant military power which gobbles up the territory of the people who stand in the way of it.

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