

I have no time available to pursue this theme to-night. Geopolitics is not geography—it is political geography turned into the geography of power politics. The geographer as such is concerned with the study of men and things as they are: if he has any political motive it would be the hope that an enlightened people of the world could live amicably together through mutual understanding. The fundamental philosophy of geopolitics is the use of power for political ends—though these ends may not necessarily be those of Haushofer and his pupil Adolf Hitler.

The World After the War

Now let me wind up this address to you by getting back to Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, with whom I started:—"He that knows not what the world is, knows not where he is himself." Who of us does really know what this world is. After the war we will have to rebuild it. All that a wider dissemination of geographic knowledge can give us is something towards better understanding of ourselves and the other peoples of the world with whom we have to live. All sorts of people will be to the fore with quick and ready remedies for our political, social and economic sickness. To me it seems there are three major things to strive for—liberty, justice and truth. If better, fuller, sounder geographic knowledge of the world and of ourselves will lead us nearer to truth, perhaps it will help us some of the way towards liberty and justice as well.

All sorts of problems there are about which we will soon have to have definite opinions. The question of the autarchic state in the post-war world is likely to be one of the first. Can we shut ourselves up behind the doors of a semi-closed economy? Or will we come out in the open in a demand for a reasonably free trade world—in my opinion the only sort of post-war world that has any reasonable chance of peaceful working?

By the Canberra agreement recently negotiated, our Government has claimed for us wider responsibilities in the Pacific Island zone. Are we going to send officials there to discharge the responsibilities we have assumed? If so, I suggest the need for them to be as fully informed in fundamental geography and anthropology as we can make them here.

We listen to demands for a greater population after the war. Do we or those who make these demands have any clear idea as to where we are possibly to get these extra millions? Or do we clearly see what we would do with them if we had them?

However, I will spare you any more questions—questions to which I would hardly venture to attempt an answer. The present war revealed in most of us an appalling ignorance of the world at large—an ignorance even of our own country. Tucked away here in an out-of-the-way corner of the earth, we were largely a nation of ostriches. I put it to you in all seriousness that every citizen needs more and better geographic knowledge. Enlightened public opinion based on knowledge and understanding is preferable to a public opinion based on prejudice and isolation from the rest of the world.

"He that knows not what the world is, knows not where he is himself."

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LAST DAY—SATURDAY, 11th MARCH, 1944