

GAMBLERS IN EUROPE

Who Play With Nations For Their Stakes

BEHIND the veil of secret diplomacy in the last few years, says the writer of this trenchant article, lies a sorry tale of the humiliation and outwitting of democracies by dictatorships. In the greatest gamble of all—with the world for prize—Hitler and Mussolini have bluffed through to victory. When will the democracies cry "Halt!"?

Written for the "Record"

by

A.J.H.



... The hand not raised in benediction.

IF the views and facts in Mr. G. T. Garratt's book, "Mussolini's Roman Empire" are correct—and the supporting evidence is so weighty as to apparently put them beyond argument—then Mussolini must supplant Ananias.

This book, published by the Penguin Press as a "special," is acclaimed as the most important book on Mussolini for some years. The author was the "Manchester Guardian's" correspondent during the Abyssinian War and spent most of the year 1937 in Spain, of the history of which troubled country he gives a very succinct and concise account.

In his opinion Mussolini is definitely more dangerous than most Englishmen believe, and, he exclaims, "in every country bordering on the Mediterranean, people are asking why don't the English take Mussolini's ambitions more seriously?"

Since this book went to press, Anthony Eden has fallen from power and Neville Chamberlain has concluded an agreement with Mussolini, the full value of which remains yet to be proven.

Britain's Part

MR. GARRATT'S book, together with a companion Penguin "special," "Blackmail or War," by the noted French diplomatic writer, Genevieve Tabouis, is an absolute essential to anyone seeking even moderately to understand the present diplomatic situation in Europe, and in particular the danger represented by the totalitarian States under the blackmailing and bluffing policies of Hitler and Mussolini.

Both writers show how great a dis-service was rendered to Britain and humanity by, in the first place, Woodrow Wilson, and, in the second place, Ramsay Mac-

Donald, through their idealist and disarmament policies. The visions conceived by these two elderly gentlemen have directly fostered the present international mess and created the opportunity for the "gangster" tactics now threatening humanity. Through Britain's assistance of their aims and reliance upon the ideal of collective security, the opportunity has been presented to the dictators to hold the world to ransom.

THE most recent humiliating examples so far as Britain is concerned, are Abyssinia and Spain. In both cases, Britain's record is far from good. The French writer treats Britain with the politeness and consideration one would expect from both her nationality and sex, but it is left for Mr. Garratt, an Englishman himself, quietly but effectively to tear the veil from the secret diplomacy of recent years and reveal just how Britain has been humiliated, side-stepped and cajoled to the point of imperilling her own position and the very future of humanity.

THE blunt statements are made and proven to the hilt that Britain's Foreign Office had full foreknowledge of Mussolini's aims and objectives in Abyssinia. Two years before he made his first move, they were aware of his plans.

Far from offering any opposition, the Foreign Office, by the passage of an Order-in-Council prohibiting any British volunteer assisting Abyssinia and restricting by every means possible the export of arms to Abyssinia, rendered invaluable service to Mussolini in his raid upon that Christian and harmless people.

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... The face that bluffed the world.