

pro - British feeling, for which Field Marshal Smuts is almost wholly responsible.

But "Pan-Africanism" is merely one aspect of the philosophy of Field Marshal Smuts. His political action and his statesmanship, even his personal habits, illustrate a philosophy he has held since University days and which he outlined in a book in 1926. He calls this "Holism," from the Greek word meaning "whole," and briefly this argues that Nature abhors incompleteness of all kinds, and that the true nature of things is expressed in their union, their integration with their like. Field Marshal Smuts' entire career has been devoted to integrating sections and spare parts into workable entities—a holistic enterprise.

Possibly the most far-reaching influence of holism on world politics is that exemplified in the League of Nations. During the last war, Field Marshal Smuts wrote a pamphlet outlining the plan of the League of Nations, which was in the light of holism, just a logical step towards world unity. This pamphlet came to the eye of Woodrow Wilson, who was attempting to work out a similar plan. Field Marshal Smuts was content to allow Wilson to sponsor the League, with which, however, he had planned a generous treaty similar to the Boer War treaty which had worked out so well.

The main plan of the League, and many of the details embodied in the Covenant, were entirely Field Marshal Smuts' own idea. Wilson took over Field Marshal Smuts' scheme lock, stock, and barrel.

The Field Marshal was bitterly disappointed at the outcome of Versailles, foreseeing that the harsh treatment of Germany would produce a later war, and believing that the Treaty made the League virtually unworkable. He thus tried to put holism into practice on a smaller scale in South Africa. His first

attempts were not very successful. In 1924, he was ousted at the polls, and the anti-British General Hertzog took his place.

Field Marshal Smuts spent the next seven years in obscurity, developing his philosophy and writing his book on holism. In 1933, seeing that South Africa should abandon the gold standard, he fused his party with that of General Hertzog, and sat in Hertzog's United Party Cabinet. In 1939, feeling that the interests of Commonwealth unity outweighed party unity, he acted accordingly.

Since 1939 Field Marshal Smuts has shown that his abilities in practical

holism had improved from his years of meditation, and, as has been explained, his emphasis on the global importance of Nazi aggression was vindicated by the events and united the country behind him. Not only has he succeeded in giving South Africa a war industry and army which compare favourably with any others in the United Nations, but his use of the natives, who have collaborated in the war effort very ably with whites, has gone a long way towards

solving the racial problem of South Africa.

The chief concern of this seventy-four-year-old statesman to-day, apart from winning the war, is the prevention of the disintegration of the world, and in particular of the British Commonwealth of Nations. His holistic philosophy sees in the British Commonwealth a unity which should be preserved as an aspect of the wider unity which he envisages in the future in an effective League of Nations.

His concern with the preservation of the Commonwealth began when, after the defeat of South Africa in the Boer War, he felt, as one of the defeated generals, that South Africa's future was inextricably bound up with that of the Common-

