



A World Peace Army

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Full Citation: Frank D Eager, “A World Peace Army,” *Nebraska History* 24 (1943): 6-12

Article Summary: Eager explains the need for an international army to “compel peace permanently.” A tax on freight that moves in international waters would support such a peace army.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Woodrow Wilson

Keywords: League of Nations, arbitration

Photographs / Images: Frank D Eager



COLONEL FRANK D. EAGER

A World Peace Army

COLONEL FRANK D. EAGER, LINCOLN *

It is proper on this Memorial Day that we take inventory on what we have accomplished, and what we intend to accomplish, through the enormous sacrifices of our people, and the loss of lives, incident to war. The most important announcement that has come from President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill is that this war will be prosecuted until we obtain the "unconditional surrender" of our enemies. That is as it should be. There must be no negotiated peace.

With unconditional surrender and complete submission on the part of our enemies, we will be in position to make the world "Safe for Democracy." To that end, on this sacred day we shall inquire how this may be done.

We shall win the war on the battlefield. The greater problem is whether we shall win the peace. There is grave danger that we will fail again as we did at Versailles in 1918.

Why did we fail them then? What were the reasons and what are the lessons we should learn from that failure? We should not repeat the same mistakes this time.

From history we must learn. Let us investigate. Who was the dominating character then as Franklin Roosevelt is today? It was President Woodrow Wilson. I am one of those who felt a deep admiration for Woodrow Wilson. He was a great student, scholar, historian and humanitarian. His motives were clean and his purposes high and above reproach.

Why then did Woodrow Wilson fail? Simply because he attempted too much. He undertook the impossible. His plan was to accomplish the millenium and establish Utopia for all the world immediately and at a single stroke. It could not be done because large areas of the world, with enormous populations, were not ready for such an advanced form of civilization.

Through his League of Nations and International Court,

* Address broadcast May 31, 1943.

Wilson undertook to establish democratic government throughout the world. He would impose it upon millions of people who did not understand, in the slightest degree, the meaning and responsibilities of self-government.

In the Covenant of the League of Nations he provided what he described as "the new Magna Carta" for labor, abolished slavery, abolished child labor, supervised and controlled the navigable rivers, supervised trade treaties, and in a hundred ways imposed a world wide super-government over all the nations of the earth. The things that he tried to do were all humane and worthy. But they were a thousand years in advance of what many of the people of the world were able and ready to accept and put into operation. "It was Greek" to them. Nations would not submit their sovereignty to the control of such a super-government.

Under the leadership of Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, the Senate refused to surrender the sovereign rights of the people of the United States to the control of such a foreign organization. The Senate acted rightly and wisely when it did so. Under the same circumstances it is my opinion that the U. S. Senate will do the same thing again. The people of this country are not willing to be regimented and governed by any set of foreign officials.

In the face of these facts, what must we learn and what shall we do to make future wars impossible and to promote the growth of democratic government? In other words, what can we undertake that we can *also* accomplish? It is better to undertake less, and get it done, than to undertake too much and accomplish nothing.

How much is the world as a whole ready to accept? There is *one thing* upon which there is almost universal accord and approval. That is that there must be *No More War!* Probably ninety-five per cent of the inhabitants of the earth will subscribe to this proposition.

Therefore the settlements at the close of the war should be divided into two entirely separate and distinct divisions. One, for the sole purpose of setting up the governmental machinery necessary to prohibit war and compel peace. The other, and entirely separate division, should be given the task of settling all

other problems arising as a result of the war, such as boundaries, reparations, territorial disputes, punishment of international criminals, finance, trade treaties, the supervision of sea lanes and air lanes, and innumerable details.

This is the way. The first is the one of most interest to the people of the United States. Unless we succeed in making future wars impossible, we have fought this war in vain. If we have a method and a means to *compel peace permanently* we will have accomplished much. How then can that be done? Keep your mind solely on the one purpose — prohibit war any place in the world. How shall we do it?

There is but one way that it can be done. That is by the establishment of a police or military organization sufficiently powerful to prohibit war, or the preparation for war, at any time or any place in the world. It must be organized and dedicated to that purpose alone. It must have no other duties than to compel peace everywhere and at all times.

This can be done because all the peoples of the world are ready and willing to outlaw war forever. There is no other subject that they would so unanimously agree upon. It is for such reason that this purpose must be kept entirely separate from all other problems.

How can that be done? I suggest that it can be done by utilizing and combining into one organization all the military strength of the United States and Great Britain (and possibly Russia), together with all the military equipment of the vanquished nations (Germany, Italy, and Japan), and all the military equipment of the subjugated nations, into one military organization under the command of the President of the United States, the King of England, the Congress of the United States and the British Parliament (and, if necessary, Russia), dedicated and limited solely to the task of compelling peace at all times throughout the entire world.

It would be required that the President, the King, the Congress and the Parliament all approve the selection of the Commanding Officer of this tremendous force. They would also, by unanimous agreement, select the permanent location of this military power on ground that would be purchased and internationalized so as not to belong to any nation, but to all the nations of the world.

Organized, equipped, and dedicated to such a noble purpose, it is unthinkable that the people of England and the United States, through their President, King, Congress and Parliament, would ever make any attempt to utilize this military power for their own selfish ends. At any rate we must have such a force, and the authority to control it could not be placed in safer hands. To place control with a larger number of nations would increase the chances for quarreling and disputes that might ultimately, through factional strife, destroy the efficiency of the organization and perhaps bring about its complete disintegration, and the world would lapse again into the barbarism of war.

The maximum duties of this military power should be set forth in a charter signed by all the nations willing to cooperate, and would consist of only a few simple and definite duties.

The first duty would be for it to send a notice to every country to discontinue building any military equipment of any kind or making any other preparations for war, either for aggression or defense. The reason would be that they could have no possible need for them. Under no circumstances would they be permitted to make any use of them.

The second duty would be to advise every nation that its territorial integrity would be protected against any aggression at any time.

The third duty would be to advise every nation that in the event of dispute with any other nation, the dispute must be settled by arbitration. That they would be free to set up their own method of arbitration if they desired, but in the event that they could not reach an agreement as to method of arbitration, then the following rule would prevail: Each of the disputing countries would be asked to designate five commissioners to consider the questions in dispute and if possible reach an agreement for settlement. If they could not settle the dispute, then this military power would appoint five additional commissioners, having no personal interest in the outcome of the suit, to sit in with the original ten, making a total of fifteen commissioners. When a majority of the fifteen reach an agreement for the settlement, then that agreement shall be final settlement of the dispute and will be enforced by this military power. The system corresponds exactly to the system for settling disputes in this country through

the United States Supreme Court. When five or more of the nine judges reach an agreement, that decision becomes binding upon all parties to the dispute and will be enforced by the United States Marshal, and if necessary by the Army and Navy. It is only its power to enforce them that gives any value to its decisions.

The fourth duty would be to advise every nation (1) That this military power has only one duty, which is to compel peace by prohibiting war or the preparation for war. (2) That every nation will have complete control of all its internal government and international trade and commerce. (3) That it will continue to have entire control of its religious and educational institutions, and of all matters pertaining to the health, labor, and happiness of its people. (4) That to the maintenance of this guarantee is pledged *the sacred word of the President, the King, the Congress and the Parliament*, unanimously. No further or safer guarantee than this is possible or necessary.

Every nation and people on earth will be benefitted by the establishment of this guarantee for world peace. Having been assured and guaranteed its right to Self Government, and the protection of its territorial boundaries against invasion or trespass by any aggressor; and having been provided with a safe, honest and just method for settling of all of its international disputes, the people of each and every nation may then devote their time and energy to the development of its natural resources for improvement of the living standards of its inhabitants, without being burdened with the enormous expense and waste incident to the maintenance of an army, navy, and military organizations for their own protection. Through this saving would come a tremendous improvement in living standards everywhere in the world.

There would be some expense, of course, for the maintenance of this *World Peace Army*. When spread over the entire world, and with only the one army and navy to maintain, the expense for each nation—the burden and expense per capita for the peoples of the world, would be truly negligible in proportion to the enormous savings and gains made through the abolition of war, with its vast devastation, waste, and ruin of life and property.

To support this World Peace Army a very small ad valorem tax should be levied on every ton of freight that moves in interna-

tional commerce. The amount of this tax and its method of collection should be determined by the unanimous approval of the President, the King, the Congress and the Parliament; the United States and Great Britain paying on exactly the same basis as every other nation.

No organization with less power than is provided for this *World Peace Army* can do the job. International agreements and treaties are obsolete. Before the war lord, the dictator and the aggressor they are mere "scraps of paper." As Napoleon said, "God Almighty and Justice are always on the side of the big battalions and the long range guns."

It is literally true today. If we are to have world peace we must be prepared to compel peace everywhere. And for that purpose we must have the one and *only* array of big battalions and long-range guns permitted to exist anywhere, ready and dedicated to its one duty, namely, *To Compel Peace*.