

of the Great War, was an excellent idea, and in the form presented by the present volume, it is well done.

J. S. REEVES.

*Democratic Ideals and Reality: a Study in the Politics of Reconstruction.* By H. J. MACKINDER. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1919. Pp. xi, 266. \$2.00.)

MR. MACKINDER is a man of distinction. He has been director of the London School of Economics. He is a member of Parliament. He has written *Britain and the British Seas*. But, up to the present, the most significant fact in his career has been the publication, in the *Geographical Journal* for 1904, of his address on "The Geographical Pivot of History". Since then, everyone interested in the larger aspects of history or human geography has waited impatiently for the book in which he would present his views in their definitive form. The book is now before us, somewhat disguised under the title of *Democratic Ideals and Reality*, somewhat obscured by being made to serve as the basis for "a study in the politics of reconstruction", but a very remarkable contribution, nevertheless, to political thought.

The book is, essentially, a study in the strategy of empire, and the author's thesis, reduced to its most obvious terms, is that whatever power controls the area of the Russian empire must eventually control the world. His own statement is, perhaps, less immediately intelligible: "Who rules East Europe", he says, "commands the Heartland: Who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island: Who rules the World-Island commands the World" (p. 186). By "World-Island" is meant the entire Old World land-mass of Europe, Asia, and Africa. By "Heartland", Mr. Mackinder, it must be confessed, means somewhat different things at different times; but, primarily, it signifies the central area of Eurasia, in which the rivers flow either to inland seas, like the Caspian and Aral, or into the Arctic Ocean.

This area has been of the utmost importance in history, and is destined to a still greater future. The marginal powers of the past, like Greece and Rome, have been overthrown by attack from the rear. The Russian dominions, based upon the impenetrable Arctic, cannot be attacked from the rear, and hence constitute an ultimate seat of power. An organized empire, entrenched in this area, in command of interior lines of communication, would be free to strike at will at any point between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

In chapters III. and IV., Mr. Mackinder considers this area, first, from "the seaman's" and, second, from "the landman's point of view". Chapter V., the Rivalry of Empires, is a study of the influence of Russia in European politics during the nineteenth century; the key to the whole situation in East Europe, Mr. Mackinder thinks, is the German claim to dominance over the Slav (p. 155). The recent war arose from the revolt

of the Slavs against the Germans (p. 170). West Europe must necessarily be opposed to whatever power attempts to organize the resources of East Europe and the Heartland (p. 171). Hence, to arrive at a condition of stability, there must be set up a "middle tier" of really independent states between Germany and Russia (p. 212).

In chapters VI. and VII., the author sets up certain principles making for "the freedom of nations", and "the freedom of men". There must be no nation strong enough to have any chance against the general will of humanity (p. 207); no nation may be allowed to practise commercial penetration (p. 219); every nation must be assured equality of opportunity for national development. In discussing the freedom of men, Mr. Mackinder shows himself a disciple of Le Play. If nations are to last, their organization must be based dominantly on local communities within them, and not on nation-wide interests (p. 228). Local communities must have as complete and balanced a life of their own as is compatible with the life of the nation itself (p. 231).

Mr. Mackinder has produced a book which is of signal interest and importance to all students of history and of politics. It is, therefore, with deep regret that the reviewer must admit that he has not fulfilled the promise of his address of 1904. Instead of developing the ideas there presented, and so making a permanent contribution to knowledge, he has elected to employ his materials in support of a political philosophy that appears to be out of harmony with the most hopeful tendencies of our times.

FREDERICK J. TEGGART.

#### BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*Histoire de Lorraine (Duché de Lorraine, Duché de Bar, Trois-Évêchés)*. Par ROBERT PARISOT, Professeur d'Histoire de l'Est de la France à l'Université de Nancy. Volume I. *Des Origines à 1552*. (Paris: Auguste Picard. 1919. Pp. xiv, 520. 9 fr.)

THE region here in view is, in the large, that lying between the Vosges on the east, the Ardennes and kindred heights on the north, the Argonne to the west, and on the south the forest band stretching from Argonne to Vosges—approximately what the Romans included in their Belgica Prima, and the Church in its archdiocese of Trèves. In a stricter or more specific way, it is the region where settled the three Belgian peoples Mediomatrici, Leuci, and Verduni; where the Church built its dioceses of Metz, Toul, and Verdun; where in feudal times arose numerous sovereignties, but outstandingly the duchy of Upper Lorraine, the duchy of Bar, and the Three Bishoprics; where since the Revolution have been the four departments of the Meurthe, the Meuse, the Moselle, and the Vosges.

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