

*Political Frontiers and Boundary Making.* By COL. SIR THOMAS H. HOLDICH. (London: Macmillan and Company. 1916. Pp. xi, 307.)

There is always danger when the technical expert in problems of governmental administration undertakes to enter the field of statesmanship and determine the policies upon which those problems are based. The present volume is the contribution of an expert boundary marker to the statesman's problem of determining the desirable boundary. The author has served for many years with distinction in the service of Great Britain in the determination of boundaries in India and the adjoining countries, and was a member of the Argentine-Chilean boundary commission. His concept of an ideal political boundary is in consequence influenced by his official duty of securing for his country the best strategic boundary. He believes that "the first and greatest object of a national frontier is to ensure peace and good will between contiguous peoples by putting a definite edge to the national political horizon, so as to limit unauthorized expansion and trespass," and on the basis of this thesis he undertakes to show what is the nature of a frontier which "best fulfills these conditions in practice."

It is with the major premise that most readers of the volume will be tempted to quarrel. If we have abandoned all hope of coöperation in the future between the nations now at war, if we believe that man will continue to remain "so little removed from the primitive stage" as the author now finds him to be, then we shall doubtless agree that it is necessary to separate nations "by a barrier as effective as nature and art can make it." If on the other hand we still have faith in the possibility of a future world peace based upon a better understanding of one another by the peoples of the various nations and a more complete democratic control by these same peoples over their governing agencies, then instead of making boundaries barriers of isolation we shall be ready to agree with Mr. Lyde when in his volume, *Some Frontiers of Tomorrow*, he holds that where frontiers are not clearly defined along national lines they should be assimilative, and that they should be everywhere anti-defensive, i. e., they should be identified by geographic features which tend to promote peaceful intercourse. The author, of course, is insistent upon the principle that territorial boundaries must as far as possible coincide with the wishes of the people included within them, but this principle is secondary to the creation of a barrier between state and state. Better for Roumania to abandon any claims to Bu-

kowina than to shift its boundary "from a good defensible one to a bad one."

Apart from the particular theory upon which the volume rests there is much that is of value in the author's description of the geographic features of boundary lines, and the chapters upon the delimitation of frontiers in Asia, Africa and South America will be read with particular interest.

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*A Political and Social History of Modern Europe.* By CARLTON J. H. HAYES, Associate Professor of History in Columbia University, two volumes. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1916.)

The first volume offers an excellent summary of three centuries (1500-1815) in a volume of 597 pages; while the entire second volume of 767 pages is devoted to the period since 1815. The theory of the economic interpretation of history is, of course, accepted, but it is used with moderation. There are special chapters on the commercial revolution, the culture of the sixteenth century, society in the eighteenth century, the industrial revolution, and social factors in recent European history, 1871-1914, while the whole work is based upon the idea that "the rise of the bourgeoisie is the great central theme of modern history." Other interesting features are the very full discussion of the Eastern question and the expansion of Europe into Asia, Africa, and America.

In thus expanding the traditional field of the textbook in modern history Professor Hayes has had to face what he calls "the eternal problem of selection." On the whole his solution is excellent. The Protestant revolt and the rationalistic movement of the eighteenth century might perhaps have received a little more attention, although it would have required the elimination of other material which is equally important. These difficulties could have been avoided by making the first volume as large as the second, or by selecting 1789 instead of 1815 as the divisional date. But this is only a minor criticism. The book is interesting and scholarly, and it can be highly recommended either to the general reader or to the teacher in search of a textbook. There are thirty-eight maps and a number of genealogical tables and lists of rules, and at the end of each chapter there is a good working