

Designed as a textbook, with adequate bibliographical notes supplementing each chapter, and written in an easy and attractive style, the author in writing this volume has performed a distinct service to political science. There is no doubt that it will be widely used as the basis for courses in political theory in our universities. Instruction in this branch of political science has been somewhat restricted for the lack of entirely satisfactory texts. To the meeting of this need, Professor Holcombe's work makes a real contribution.

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*Labor and Politics.* By MOLLY RAY CARROLL. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1923. Pp. ix, 206.)

This volume is a scholarly study of one aspect of the relation between labor and politics in the United States. The writer deals in part one with "The Function of Trade Unions and Democracy," in part two with "The History and Program of the Federation," and in part three with "Law and Politics in the Federation's Program." One of the most useful chapters is the last one which discusses the limitations of the Federation's program as judged by its own standards.

Miss Carroll's study is a painstaking inquiry into the relation of a specific industrial organization to politics and law, and is of great value as a compact statement of the Federation's policy. From the point of view of the student of politics and political parties, it is of course, necessary to examine the relations between the forces of organized labor and the partisan political powers more broadly, in order to obtain the right perspective. The relation of the labor leaders to the party leaders, of the labor group to the agrarian and business groups, the network of local battles in which labor has fought in various cities and states, the labor personnel in public office, the relation of organized labor to various aspects of the spoils system;—all these and many other significant factors must be studied in order to reach an understanding of the attitude of American labor toward politics and government.

The value of Miss Carroll's study lies in the fact that it covers carefully one part of this field, and thus facilitates subsequent studies of a more comprehensive nature.

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*The Genesis of the War.* By the RT. HON. H. H. ASQUITH. (New York: Doran & Company. 1923. Pp. 405.)

*The World Crisis.* By the RT. HON. W. S. CHURCHILL. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1923. Pp. xii, 578.)

*Where Are We Going?* By the RT. HON. D. LLOYD GEORGE. (New York: G. H. Doran & Company. 1923. Pp. 371.)

The aim of Mr. Asquith is "to trace the genesis of the war up to its actual outbreak, with especial references to the policy pursued by Great Britain." No one can write with greater authority and the author presents a clear, scholarly and unimpassioned account of the political and diplomatic events from the accession of the ex-Kaiser in 1888 up to 1914. There is practically no suggestion of bias unless it is a slight tendency not to dwell sufficiently upon the German point of view. For example, is the significance to Germany of the Franco-Russian Alliance adequately emphasized?

Mr. Asquith shows to what an alarming extent feeble or unscrupulous people may guide the destinies of nations. There is no exaggeration in his estimate of the part played by von Bülow in initiating the *Welt-politik* of 1900, or in his description of the "inconceivable credulity" of the Kaiser, an example of the "readiness of a credulous and prejudiced judgment to accept gossip for evidence and rumour for proof." It is a depressing tale of fear, suspicion, and stupidity bringing about a diplomatic impasse. The diplomatic problem is given in a nutshell (p. 156): Germany persisted in the belief that England was pledged to an anti-German alliance with France and Russia. The whole of the section on pre-war preparations shows the universal suspicions which existed in Europe, a situation which forced even England, one of the least involved, to prepare for extreme contingencies.

It was the naval policy of Germany with her disdainful refusal to agree to a "holiday" that led to strained relations with England. The immediate diplomatic problems which baffled all attempts at solution and finally led to war arose mainly from Germany's "enmeshment in the tangle of Austrian interests, Austrian ambitions, and Austrian intrigues in the Near East" and from the "Germanisation of Turkey which had been going on for years," and had aroused the antagonism of Russia.

The second volume, by Mr. Churchill, is a brilliant and thrilling account of battles on land and sea; it is also an *Apologia*, and on the whole free from vindictiveness. The Dardanelles campaign is the central topic and the author analyses with wonderful lucidity the