

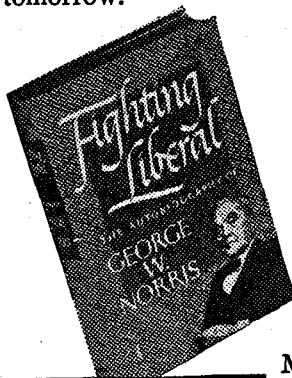


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A PRICE FOR PEACE, by Antonin Basch. Columbia University Press. 209 pages. \$2.50

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The book traces and analyzes economic developments in Europe between the two wars and during World War II. The sound analysis is well illustrated with carefully chosen statistics. Professor Basch believes that, "Europe will have to maintain and intensify her development—already strong in the interwar period—toward a further specialization of production and particularly of export."

The chapter, "Europe Goes Left," is most provocative. The issue of private enterprise versus state ownership, and that of planned economy, are more than ever in the center of world controversy. Professor Basch registers the trend toward state ownership of industry and planned economy. Regarding state ownership, it is the author's opinion that "the decision of this important problem is not sought on economic merits, but that it has become a *political issue*. It has become once more the center of a fight for power. . . ." Professor Basch states that "it is certain that the nations will not want to go back to the *status quo ante*," yet he is apprehensive of vital economic and social decisions implied in a radical program aiming at the nationalization of industry.

The issue thus raised lies at the very heart of the preoccupations of the United Nations leaders entrusted with the task of putting Europe back on its feet. It is hard to visualize how the determined mood of the peoples of Europe, bent on major structural changes, could be conciliated with the idea of a truce recommended by Professor Basch for the period of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the European economy.

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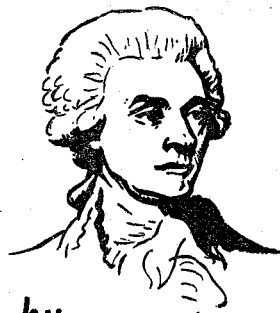
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