



My Current Reading

Author, editor, magazine writer, **Russell Lord** has made a name for himself as America's premier writer on agriculture and problems of the land.

FAITH AND WORKS IN FLEET STREET, by J. W. Robertson Scott (Hodder & Stoughton, London)

CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY, by Alan Paton (Scribner's)

RAINTREE COUNTY, by Ross Lockridge, Jr. (Houghton Mifflin)

THE WAYWARD PRESSMAN, by A. J. Liebling (Doubleday)

TOWARD WORLD PEACE, by Henry A. Wallace (Reynal)

LOVE AGAINST HATE, by Karl Menninger (Harcourt, Brace)

THE IDES OF MARCH, by Thornton Wilder (Harper)

PORTRAIT OF JENNIE, by Robert Nathan (Penguin reprint)

OUR PLUNDERED PLANET, by Fairfield Osborn (Little, Brown)

THAT WINTER, by Merle Miller (Sloane)

for an eventual war against Russia. I said the real enemy is Britain and America.

But each of the enemies heard only what he wanted to hear. The decadent, depraved capitalistic and Jew-ridden Americans and British heard only that I intended to destroy the Bolsheviks. And the clumsy, blundering Bolsheviks heard only that I was going to destroy the stranglehold of British and American corporation imperialism on Western Europe. We grew strong because each side had an economic system which the other feared and hated, and because each had a fanatical desire to see the other destroyed.

DEAR fellow leaders, please believe me. The same stupid, ignorant, confused, blundering, blind fools in both countries can be counted on to make the same mistakes once again.

We shall have another chance!

And this time we won't fail because of the treacherous Goerings and

von Jodls. This time I have you—you to whom I have really been a father; you to whom I have given secretly my deep devotion and care; you in whose bloodstream flows the very essence of National Socialism; you whose minds and hearts are one in your fanatical zeal to fulfill the Great Aim. Yes, this time I can count on you, and I trust you to bring about the redemption of Nazism and its victory in the world.

Now, listen carefully, for it is important that you know not only what it is you are expected to do but what will happen in the months and near years ahead, and how the idea of Germany can be resurrected and made triumphant.

Our job is a simple one. We must make history work for us. We must seize upon and exploit every event and development and turn it to our advantage.

The shooting phase of the war now ends. It leaves only two great nations in the world—the United States and Russia. The rest of the world is a power vacuum. Here is where history favors us, because the ruling groups in each nation will be made uneasy by this power vacuum. The old fears and hatreds between capitalism and Communism will now be set upon a world stage, but they will be only a minor factor in the developing tensions between the two great nations.

For a brief time—perhaps a matter of months or only weeks—there will be apparent good will between West and East. There are already plans underway for recreating the old League of Nations idea in order to formalize their supposed friendship. But do not be fooled by any new league. It will come to nothing. The Americans do not really want one any more than the Russians do. The Americans will use fancy words as usual to make the world think they are supporting what they will call the rule of law in the world; but they will never—never, I tell you—be willing to be part of anything which would really have such power. Mark my word, they will find a clever way of proposing a world organization in which there will be no fixed obligations. And Russia—stupid, inept, suspicious Russia—doesn't have to insist on anything. The Americans will propose a grandiose but futile league, and the Russians will smile to themselves and accept.

But the new league will change nothing. The world power vacuum will remain. Each side will be insanely fearful that the other will try to use the power vacuum for eventual military purposes. And in the straining for favorable position, great tensions will develop which can result

in the ultimate downfall of both.

I shall describe to you now the three stages of tension, incident, and explosion leading to the destruction of Russia and America, carrying with it the annihilation, as well, of Britain and France.

The first stage will have the Far East for its setting. America will pour all her energies into a quick defeat of Japan before Russia, now very eager to help out in the Far East, will be able to move her army onto Japanese territory from Siberia. Japan will thus become the first specific and open expression of the fear and distrust between the two, and this fear will be accentuated by military power facing each other.

Meanwhile, the same thing will happen here in the Reich. Russia and the West will never be able to agree on a peace treaty for Germany. Now that Russia has her armed forces here, she won't want to move out. And the Americans and the British will keep armed forces here because they are afraid of the Russians. Again, there will be distrust backed by potential military might.

ELSEWHERE in the world, Russian and American military forces will be staring at each other. Everywhere there will be trouble—China and Italy and Greece and Czechoslovakia. We have bequeathed to Europe—as I promised we would—a legacy of hunger and disease and rats and stone heaps and rotted bodies. It will be too great an opportunity for the Bolsheviks to resist. But the Americans will be worried that if the Bolsheviks come to power in any of these countries, these countries will be used as a possible base of military operations.

Next comes the second stage—the stage of propaganda preparation for the war. This will not be difficult in either country. In Russia, the leaders for thirty-five years have hated America and Britain because those countries tried to destroy the gains of the revolution by intrigue and military expedition. The Russians lack food and feed themselves on crisis. Most important, they will avoid any conciliatory attitude because they are afraid that will reveal how weak they really are. As for America, now that she is rich and sleek and fat with war profits, she will turn as she always has in the past to conservatism. The Republicans will accuse the Democrats of being Communists. But the Democrats, just to prove how conservative and safe they are, will start a holy crusade against Communism. Both parties will then compete with each other in denouncing Communism, but neither party will be able to limit its denunciations to the idea of Com-

munism or Communism in the United States, but will denounce Russia at the same time.

Meanwhile, Russia, balked at strategic military points around the globe, will unleash all her fury at America. The President will be denounced as a vicious warmonger and the government will be charged with trying to foist its imperialism on peoples all over the world.

Once this happens, the war of nerves will be on in full force. America will probably make public all its information and charges about the German-Russian non-aggression pact. Russia will counter by laying bare all the secret data about Munich.

Then we come to the third stage—specific incidents leading to war. It could happen in Italy, in France, in Greece, in Turkey, in Palestine, in Czechoslovakia. As America tries to organize all Western Europe, and Russia tries to organize all Eastern Europe, at some point there may be resistance. If Czechoslovakia shows any real resistance, the Russians will move in. If Italy shows any real resistance, Americans will move in. And if anything happens on the border between Yugoslavia and Greece, both America and Russia will move in.

Palestine will find Britain with one foot in and the other going out, America with one foot out and the other going in—and Russia with both feet ready to jump in and out at the same time. Europe will have a stake in the outcome of the civil wars in China and India.

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You must see these incidents against the background of the new weapons. At the end of the war, Germany as you know had in its preliminary stages the development of chemical, biological, climatological, and atomic weapons which, if we had only been able to develop them earlier in the war, would have assured victory for us in a matter of hours. We were developing V-2's which could carry explosives over oceans. We were developing submarines which would have blasted New York and Washington off the face of the earth if we had had only six more months. We were developing atomic weapons through heavy water which could have produced radioactive clouds of death covering thousands of miles. We had just perfected and were already manufacturing the greatest weapon of all time when Von Rundstedt opened the gates and allowed the enemy to pour through. This weapon, as you know, was Tabun, a chemical agent that is dispersed in the air in almost infinitesimal quantities and is impossible to detect, but which attacks the brain

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Personal History.

At first glance there seems to be little in common between New York City's beloved mayor, Fiorello La Guardia, and James Madison, whose Federal years are covered in the second volume of Brant's continuing biography (reviewed this week). La Guardia, whose memoirs appear below, was a native New Yorker, son of an Army band master, proud of his immigrant parentage, vociferous, and a great showman. Madison was a Virginian of a settled family, a quiet, retiring, scholarly figure, much overshadowed by his versatile friend Jefferson. Yet both men possessed the highest qualities of statesmanship: fairness, integrity, persistence, and a wide-ranging imagination. These are qualities as much needed in American public life as they are rare. And these are qualities which belong, fortunately, to other American statesmen—like Stimson, whose memoirs have also recently been published.

Story of a Great American

THE MAKING OF AN INSURGENT.
An Autobiography, 1882-1919. By Fiorello H. La Guardia. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1948. 222 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by ROBERT S. ALLEN

ALL HIS life Fiorello La Guardia labored and fought valiantly and honorably. Throughout his long and memorable career, he never swerved from the hard path of impeccable personal and public integrity. Always, he hated and crusaded against greed, corruption, misrule, and reaction. As few leaders of his time, he never compromised on what was right, decent, and enlightened.

In "The Making of An Insurgent,"

La Guardia relates simply and quietly how he came to be that way. Without bombast and self-righteousness, and also, surprisingly, without the turbulence that sometimes characterized him, he unfolds in this posthumous autobiography the formative forces and experiences that fathered his indomitable liberalism. This book could well have been titled "The Making of a Great American." That would have been a perfect fit for the profoundly moving story it records and the truly great citizen who wrote it.

It is a sad story, although definitely not doleful reading. There is humor in it, and it is lively and well written. But the sadness arises from the practically unrelieved shabbiness and sordidness that La Guardia encountered throughout his public career, and the fact that his untimely death cut short the completion of his life story and cost the nation a towering liberal champion it could ill spare. It is a real tragedy that this man who was such a great American, and who performed such distinguished service for his country, did not live to serve it further, as only he could. Particularly in these anxious days, when we have been "captured by pygmies."

The book covers La Guardia's career up to his service as an Air Corps Major in World War I. Although he was still a young man, he had already had a widely varied and full life, ranging from the Federal Immigration Service both in the United States and abroad, the odorous garbage can of Manhattan politics, to the no less odorous pits of Capitol Hill in Washington. From the very start he encountered heart-sickening crassness and venality.

As a youth, working as an interpreter in the Immigration Service's Night Court, an older employee told him, "You can get experience in this

