

Powers, were pretexts, not motives, for the Intervention.

As for the factors which led to the evacuation of Siberia by the intervening forces (except for the Japanese) in 1920, Professor Manning discusses quite adequately one of the main factors—the defeat of Kolchak by the Bolsheviks in 1919—but somewhat less adequately the other—the end of the war with Germany in November 1918, and the ensuing pressure of public opinion in the Western democracies to “bring the boys home” from a profitless and no longer justifiable operation. With regard to the eventual evacuation of Siberia by the Japanese in the latter part of 1922, Professor Manning grasps one main factor—international diplomatic pressure on Japan at the time of the Washington Conference—but misses another—the increasing hostility of Japanese public opinion toward the Siberian Intervention.

If the book leaves a good deal to be desired as a piece of historiography, Professor Manning's approach to his subject is irreproachably impartial. He denounces the atrocities committed by the Japanese and the Whites, and he holds no brief for the Reds. When he comes to his concluding chapter, however, his understandable desire to relate his topic to the present leads him rather far afield. He is quite correct, of course, in terming the Intervention a fiasco which accomplished little except to damage the prestige of the intervening powers and to furnish the Bolsheviks with a jagged propaganda club with which to beat them. He ventures out on a pretty thin limb, however, when he seems to imply that the Bolsheviks learned from the Intervention the diplomatic tricks which they have been using ever since, including the formation of Trojan horse coalitions with non-Communist left-wing parties. Teheran, Yalta, and the postwar bolshevization of Eastern Europe flow almost inexorably, in Professor Manning's chain of reasoning, from the Intervention. This strikes me as far-fetched and forced.

The United States has intervened militarily on the East Asiatic continent four times within the last half century—in the Boxer Rebellion, in Siberia, in wartime and postwar China and Southeast Asia, and in Korea. The implications and results of these acts of intervention have a great contemporary importance, in view of the possibility that the United States might some day open air and naval operations against the Chinese mainland. Anyone interested in this problem, however, is not likely to be very greatly enlightened by a reading of Professor Manning's book.

New Prophets on the Lifeline

CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. By Hedley V. Cooke. New York: Harper & Bros. 366 pp. \$4.

By HANS KOHN

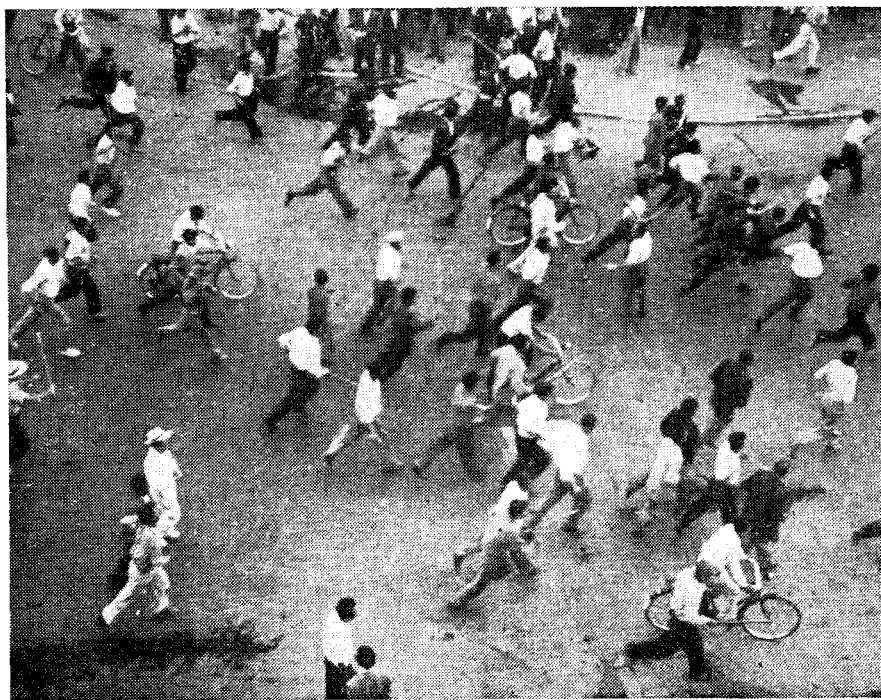
DURING the great struggles for the control of the Old World—the Napoleonic Wars, World War I, and World War II—the Middle East represented one of the decisive battlefields. Since then, its importance has even grown. With the richest oil fields of the world within its confines, the Middle East has become an economically decisive area for any contest between the great powers. The upheavals produced by the slogans of totalitarian propaganda, by the temptations of a worldwide conflict, and by the intrusion of ferments like the new state of Israel, stirred the formerly lethargic fellahin, the backward peasant masses of these countries, into action which finds its expression in a fanatical nationalism. Since the end of World War II, a large number of books have appeared in the effort to acquaint the American reader with the conditions of a part of the world to which, until very recently, he paid very little attention.

The present book by Dr. Cooke differs fundamentally from the many journalistic accounts which have recently flooded the market. It brings no stories of personal encounters or interviews, and though Dr. Cooke apparently lived as former United States

consul in Palestine and Turkey, there is little evidence of personal contact with the countries and the peoples. Nor will his way of writing endear him to the reader who wishes to be entertained more than informed. Dr. Cooke, who has been a consultant of the Middle East Planning Staff of the Economic Cooperation Administration, presents a scholarly study of the economic and social conditions of the lands between Egypt in the West and Iran in the East. He has studied all the many documents available and shows clearly the economic foundation of the social and political unrest agitating these lands.

Especially noteworthy are the chapters which Dr. Cooke devotes to Iran and to Jordan. The long common frontier with Russia gives oil-rich Iran special significance. American assistance in the spirit of the Point Four concept has been supplied to Iran, and its prestige there is probably more at stake at present than anywhere else. “The grandiose seven-year plan, which involved intimate cooperation between the Iranian Government and a group of American engineering firms,” Dr. Cooke writes, “is now seriously threatened with failure. A final col-

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—Acme.

The 1951 Teheran riots—“temptations of world conflict.”

lapse would constitute a major blow to the prestige of the United States in Iran and, moreover, would surely have serious repercussions in the rest of the Middle East. Because of these circumstances, a departure from the usual criteria of aid-worthiness would seem to be in order, as far as Iran is concerned. Otherwise all economic aid programs for the Middle East may be jeopardized."

In view of the present critical situation in Iran, Dr. Cooke's advice is much to the point. By expelling the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, Iran, it is true, has destroyed the very foundations upon which the project was to have been built, namely the revenues from oil. Nor does the extreme nationalism make any rational schemes of social advance possible. Had a large-scale loan or grant been made to Iran in July or August 1950, however, the whole psychological atmosphere might have changed for the better. In Iran's case, where the stakes are particularly great, a loan sufficiently large for successful application might be a wise *political* investment even without any assurance that the money would be well spent.

Another country which Dr. Cooke favors as suitable for a model program along Point Four lines is Jordan. Since Jordan is the least developed of all Middle East countries, any marked improvement there will serve as a spur to other lands. Because of the necessity of absorbing several hundred thousand Arab refugees from Israel, Jordan has particularly acute economic problems at present. At the same time, it is one of the Middle East lands with relative tranquility and where land tenure is now well established on a basis of small individual holdings. In view of the fact that Point Four money and trained personnel are limited in quantity, it would be good to concentrate them in small countries where visible improvement in the general living standards could be more easily produced.

Dr. Cooke presents the serious student of Middle East affairs with a detailed and thorough survey of the economic plans and possibilities pointing towards long-range improvements of Middle Eastern living standards.

A Multitude of Grievs & Joys

MY INDIA. By Jim Corbett. New York: Oxford University Press. 163 pp. \$3.

By ARTHUR S. LALL

JIM CORBETT's India is an India at two levels. At one level there are eleven thrilling stories of adventure mostly in the remote foothills of the Himalayas. There are exciting encounters with tigers and leopards and, in most cases, human courage and good fortune prevail so that the ultimate outcome is satisfactory. As a book of adventure stories well told, this volume will be a deservedly popular publication, particularly at a time when tales of human bravery and courage, without the awesome results of these qualities, will make a strong appeal. But India has so long been associated with tiger-shoots that, at this level alone, there is nothing very special about Corbett's book.

"My India," however, is also written at another entirely different level, and it is here that it has uniqueness and special charm. Corbett did not live the life of the average Englishman in India. Apart from the time spent in performing governmental or other functions, the British in India lived in small exclusive colonies. They had little contact with Indians other than those who, by education and disposition, were themselves attracted towards England. The India of the British was the India of the administration and of the commercial world of Bombay and Calcutta. As a consequence, few of them have been able to write about the Indian people with a background of personal experience. Jim Corbett does not fall into this category. Born and reared in the Himalayan foothills, he spent most of his life living with the people of a remote village there. For the years that he lived outside the village, he was employed in a relatively humble capacity at a railway ferry where his life again

brought him into continuous contact with the Indian working man.

With this background, Corbett's India, as might be expected, turns out to be a very different place from the generally accepted idea of the Indian scene. Corbett's picture is not that of events happening to people, but of the underlying drama of the lives of the people. Thus, while on the surface the caste system seems to be operative, underneath there are human situations in which it is continually breaking down—as it does when the high-caste Brahmin priest slips off his sandals and makes obeisance at the deathbed of an untouchable. In a more practical sphere, caste prejudices break down when an untouchable is appointed head man of a gang of workmen drawn mainly from high-caste Brahmins and Kshatryas. Again, India turns out not to be a land inhabited by easy-going, other-worldly people. Corbett finds that there are no drones in a poor man's household in India. Young and old have their allotted task to perform and they do it cheerfully. Every passage of the book is alive with this kind of directness of contact with the life of the people of India. It is much to Corbett's credit that, though he must have been aware of other approaches by the English in India, his own approach remains completely unaffected so that no apology is tendered and no explanation given for what he sees. It is this quality which gives the book its significance as a current document on India. The people with whom Corbett lived display fortitude, charity, and a heroic quality in their daily lives. It is because of these characteristics that we in India see hope in the future.

Corbett is a natural writer. His education has been meager but he
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