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Dulles: WAR OR PEACE

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WAR OR PEACE. By *John Foster Dulles*. New York: Macmillan. 1950. Pp. vi, 274. \$2.50 (cloth) and \$1 (paper).

The author, a recently appointed state department adviser and one of the chief architects of America's bi-partisan foreign policy, feels that war is probable unless our people understand both the strength and the inadequacies of our post-war policies for peace and are prepared to take positive action to cure the deficiencies which currently exist in those policies. Mr. Dulles begins this book by describing the imminent danger of the "cold war," tracing the growth of Russian Communism from a handful of whiskered, fanatical Bolsheviks to a dangerous aggressive and completely unscrupulous world power and concluding that future generations will look back with amazement if a "shooting war" is averted. Yet that, of course, is our task, and to show what has been accomplished since 1945 the author describes in some detail the activities which culminated in the establishment of the United Nations. He tells us what that organization has done in the way of rehabilitating such places as Iran, Greece and the Italian Colonies and shows that the use of the veto power has necessitated regional associations for peace (i.e., the Rio Pact of 1947 and the North Atlantic Treaty) among nations which, because of history, geography, or economic interests, have always been closely allied. While Mr. Dulles sees the need for a continuing bi-partisan foreign policy in this country, for a stronger United Nations charter, and for increased Western unity, perhaps the most important part of this book is that section which deals with our spiritual shortcomings. To a large extent, we are told, the United States is in its present predicament because of the failure of our eighteenth and nineteenth century idealism. We once offered the world a new concept—freedom for the common man—and our prestige abroad was so high that, the author feels, no ruler could have hoped for the popular support necessary if he were to attack us. But since World War I, while we have enjoyed an unparalleled material triumph, we have retrogressed spiritually. And this the man in Western Europe and the man in Asia understands. Russia, on the other hand, offers in its "dialectical materialism" a philosophy with a high-voltage emotional appeal. We may know

that that philosophy is false and that its supporters are completely insincere, but so effective is Russia's propaganda machinery that, to millions of the world's people, Communism seems to offer a gloriously Utopian way of life. Certainly this is so in those areas which, for one reason or another, have been abysmally depressed, economically, for a great many years. And what is the solution? Obviously not intermittent broadcasts which describe, often to people who have no radios, the high living standard of the American worker. Obviously, too, even we do not have the resources necessary to buy, for an indefinite time, the support of the remaining free peoples. Rather, our recourse is to show them a spiritual way of life and government and a sincerity superior to even the most theoretical communism. In spite of the obvious difficulties, this, Dulles holds, we are potentially equipped to do.