

Theodore Dreiser's New Book Is the American "J'Accuse"

World-Famous Author Exposes the War Conspiracy; Urges Amity with the USSR

AMERICA IS WORTH SAVING, by Theodore Dreiser. Published by Modern Age. 292 pages. \$2.50.

By Samuel Adams Darcy

Theodore Dreiser has written a magnificent book. It is a trenchant and well documented brief for the peace and freedom of our people against the pro-Churchill and pro-Hitler advocates in the United States. Its style is swift and flows easily. Its language is the characteristically blunt direct American idiom which makes evasions impossible. It is closely reasoned. And it deals a powerful punch.

Dreiser knows the contending forces in the struggle. He sees that the main danger of our being dragged into this war lies in the possibility of our ruling class foisting upon us the illusion that the British Empire is fighting for democracy. The American people understand the very real iniquity of the Nazis. The efforts of our ruling class in promoting the American imperialist empire now depends upon their success in saddling us with the alliance with the British war effort. They count on the strong influence of Anglo-Saxon culture in this country. Dreiser, knowing all this, resists the temptation to be side-tracked into lengthy and academically equal-sided discussions about all issues, and hits hard at the main question—shall we serve the British ruling class in this war and promote our own imperialism or shall we have an independent foreign policy that serves our national (not Wall Street - allied - to - British - imperialist) interests.

Bares Lies Of Pro-British

He exposes every falsehood of the pro-British propagandists. They say they are fighting against Nazism. He details facts to show that they, together with American and French finance capital, not only built Hitlerism to power but that they are now importing Hitlerism into England and the U. S. The British propagandists say that Britain is the "other democracy" to the United States. Dreiser pulverizes that in a splendid chapter. He particularly tears apart those who plead our duties to the British Empire on ethical and cultural grounds by showing the ideology of the British ruling class to be chauvinist towards us and British imperialism to be our past, present and future enemy. He pleads for better relations with the true friend of the American people abroad—the Soviet Union.

"Why," Dreiser demands, "can't we get an American slant on affairs just for a change? Why can't we face the facts squarely and put aside the surge of our unnatural passion for our worst enemy? Why can't we formulate a solid, realistic national doctrine with regard to foreign relations which will become traditional—which every citizen will know in detail and understand—and by which all our defense policies will be guided as new conditions arise? Events are moving and changing so fast, and if we don't get ourselves an American doctrine concerning our relation with other countries, and let it be known and stick to it, we can only end by finding ourselves alone in a war - mad, hate-filled world with no compass to guide us, not even the compass of internal democracy."

"We must make an end, however ruthless the means that have to be employed, to the possibility of individuals and small groups accumulating and inheriting huge sums of money, which they inevitably use to suborn the government and to get us into foreign wars by the eternal search for more profit."

As supporting material to his main thesis, Dreiser also has

short but excellently written sections on the basic identity of purpose, function and owning-class domination of the Nazi and British capitalist systems; and by contrast with that, the great achievements of the Socialist society of the USSR. He also has a well written section on the lessons of the French capitalist debacle. And throughout the book are scattered many valuable comments upon the decay and harmfulness of capitalism in the United States.

To everything he puts the test of—What serves the people and what serves the interests of the small, greedy and most reactionary finance capitalist groups? With this very excellent compass he finds his way to the truth with remarkable aim.

Criticism has been made that the book lacks balance, i.e., it has great emphasis on studying internal problems but inadequate emphasis on the importance of learning from the USSR. Or that Dreiser must balance his assault on British imperialism by making equally lengthy analysis of German imperialism or of American expansionist policy. It would not be Marxist. It would be class-room pedantry to join in criticism for shortcomings on these scores. Nazism is at the moment well exposed to Dreiser's readers. To write more than he does would be "beating a dead dog" and to add that to the 292 pages would detract from the main theme and main task of the anti-war forces. Further, his exposing the whole character of this war is the best way to defeat our own imperialism's objectives in it. And that's our main problem vis-a-vis American imperialism! Surely American imperialism does not escape with any credit in the book as it is. Also Dreiser says some debatable things which are aside from the main theme and which would bear further thought on his part. Only class-room theorists will be disturbed by them. To measure every sentence of Dreiser's with some academic yardstick of theory is silly pretentiousness.

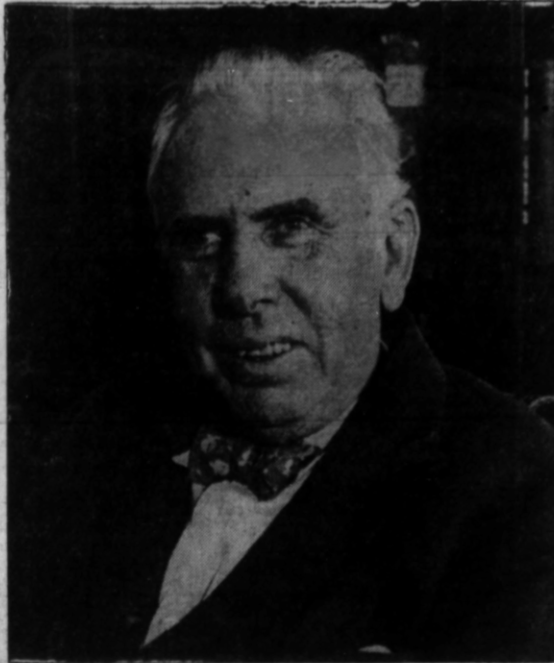
Written for Specific Purpose

"America Is Worth Saving" does not pretend to be an encyclopedic statement of the world situation. It is written for a specific purpose: 1) to expose British war propaganda; and 2) to turn our nation's attention to the solution of its very critical internal problems (the problems of class struggle as we Communists say). These two purposes are excellently served. By this Dreiser hopes to defeat the age-old trick of ruling classes to divert the people from their grievances and suffering at home by involving them in a war with other countries.

Despite the tenseness of British life, and the aggressiveness of the British ruling class, many of the greatest acknowledged cultural leaders of England have been outspoken in their pro-peace, pro-people and pro-USSR policies. One need only mention the names of George Bernard Shaw, the Dean of Canterbury, H. O. Welles, and J. B. S. Haldane. In the United States, Theodore Dreiser at that height stands almost alone. He is unquestionably our outstanding man of letters. Even the reactionary bourgeoisie concede him to be the Dean of American Novelists. And the test of crisis has strengthened him in the right—by happy contrast to the Nation-New Republic stripe of liberals.

You ought to know Dreiser. He knows us Americans very well. He will soon be 70. A rugged crusader in appearance and in action such as we like to think is typical of the great fighters for freedom in our country. There is no pose of "intellectualism" about him. Once he heard that "Red Squad" Hynes of Los Angeles had pushed Wm. Z. Foster around in a police station. In blazing wrath Dreiser confronted Hynes and gave him a terrific verbal lashing for it in language Hynes needed no literary education to understand. Yet Dreiser authored twenty-four books before this one, including six of America's most important novels now become classics in our literary tradition; three volumes of verse; five of short stories; two plays; the balance in essays, criticism, travel, etc.

From having worked chiefly as a newspaper reporter in Pittsburgh, New England, in the Middle and Far West, New York etc., he knows our country from the bottom, so to speak. And



THEODORE DREISER
He speaks tonight at Manhattan Center

because he has friends, some of whom are at the head of great corporations, he knows the lives of the rich too.

Out of that knowledge there is in him a burning partisanship for the working people that surpasses the understanding of a great part of the upper class reading public.

Dreiser personally invaded Kentucky when the struggle was most intense to help the Harlan miners. He fought against chauvinism and race hatred by defending the Scottsboro boys. He took a leading and active part in the struggle to free Tom Mooney. He went to the Soviet Union to investigate the anti-Soviet campaign of slander here and wrote a book answering it. He is now enlisted in the defense of Earl Browder and my humble self against the persecution of us. He struck some of the most telling blows in the defense of Harry Bridges. He wrote this very book "America Is Worth Saving" in the midst of a national tour devoted to keeping us out of war, during which he discovered that he had to fight for the right to speak as well. Hardly a battle occurred for the people or for progress during the past two decades but benefited from Dreiser's activities and gifted writing.

He is no word merchant; he is

not satisfied with piecing phrases together. He is a writer whose life is spent in crusading and whose great pen is devoted to defending right and justice for the common people. He likes the idea that he is carrying on the fight which his close friend Lincoln Steffens handed over to him at his death against capitalist greed, cheating, and political skulduggery.

America can be proud of Dreiser. Nearing 70, he is still youthful and full of vitality. He has a great future.

I expect that the press and official literary publications, being as pro-British or pro-Hitler as they are, will studiously avoid Dreiser's book. They have no answer to it. It will scorch their hypocritical souls. They won't even have the stamina to read it through. They can only hope to limit its reading public or to divert the discussion of the book to side issues and so limit the exposure of their own wickedness.

Do you know a person who does not see at all or as clearly as he or she should the ugly nature of this war and the menace of our involvement in it? Then present that person with "America Is Worth Saving" by Theodore Dreiser and contribute thereby to your own as well as to all our national welfare.

Basin St. Chamber Music Society, WJZ at 9:35

Symphony Hall features excerpts from Richard Strauss' "A Hero's Life" over WQXR at 8 P.M. . . . American School of the Air presents story of the Coal Workers over WABC at 9:15 A.M. . . . Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 heard on the Midday Symphony over WNYC . . . Basin Street Chamber Music Society over WJZ at 9:35 P.M. . . . Richard Crooks sings over WFAF at 8:30 P.M.

MORNING

8:35-WNYC-Around New York Today with Hal Halpern
WQXR-AP News
9:00-WFAF-Condensed News
WJZ-Woman of Tomorrow
WNYC-Masterwork Hour, Music of Handel, WABC-News
WQXR-Your Request Program
9:15-WABC-American School of the Air, Story of the Coal Workers
9:30-WABC-Food Forum
WOR-UP News
WJZ-Breakfast Club
WFAF-Morning Shopping Basket
9:45-WQXR-UP News
WFAF-Edward MacHugh, the Gospel Singer
10:00-WNYC-Ada Koppitz, Pianist
10:15-WQXR-Chamber Music
10:30-WQXR-Salon Concert
10:45-WQXR-Garden Journal
11:00-WMCA-Ida Bailey Allen's Woman's Hour
WJZ-Trans-Radio News
WQXR-Composers Hour, Schumann
WABC-Treat Time, Musical Varieties
11:15-WNYC-Clark Dennis, Tenor
11:30-WMCA-News, WJZ-Wife Saver
11:45-WNYC

AFTERNOON

12:00-WNYC-Midday Symphony
WHN-UP News
WJZ-Wee Wee Randall, Songs
12:15-WMCA-News
WJZ-Northern Quartet
12:25-WJZ-UP News
12:30-WQXR-Trans-Radio News
WJZ-Nat'l Farm and Home Hour
WFAF-Pittsfield Singers, Quartet
12:45-WFAF-Condensed News
WJZ-Consumer's Quiz
1:00-WFAF-Gordon Gifford, Baritone
1:15-WMCA-Easy Aces
WJZ-Four Belles Quartet
1:30-WMCA-Sweetest Love Songs of Today
WNYC-Metropolitan Revue
WFAF-Sophisticated Ladies, Trio
2:00-WNYC-News
2:05-WNYC-Opera Matinee, "Carmen," Biset
2:15-WNYC-UP News
2:30-WJZ-Rochester Civic Orchestra
3:00-WQXR-Music of the Moment
3:15-WABC-Golden Treasury of Music with Jan Pearce and David Ross
3:30-WMCA-News, WQXR-AP News
3:55-WQXR-Music of Haydn
3:40-WFAF-Vic and Sade
WNYC-News
4:00-WOR-UP News
WQXR-Hour of Symphonic Music
4:15-WJZ-Club Matinee
WNYC-Pages of Melody
5:00-WMCA-News
WJZ-Irene Wicker, Children's Stories
5:15-WQXR-Melodies from Gilbert and Sullivan
5:30-WMCA-Tunes and Needles
WFAF-Jack Armstrong, Children's Program
WQXR-Music of the Great Masters
5:45-WFAF-News
EVENING
6:00-WOR-Uncle Don
WNYC-Municipal Concert Hall, Ernest Bloch, Suite for Viola and Piano
6:15-WJZ-sports
6:25-WFAF-AP News
6:30-WMCA-Today's sports

WOR-Trans-Radio News
WQXR-Dinner Concert
6:45-WOR-Her's Morgan WABC-News
WHN-Sports Program
7:00-WOR-Elan Lomax Sports Review
WMCA-Serenade at Seven
WQXR-Golden Horseshoe
WFAF-Fred Waring
7:15-WMCA-News
WFAF-Newsroom of the Air
WABC-Lanny Ross
7:30-WMCA-Nita Carol, Songs
WJZ-Benny Goodman
WQXR-Treasury of Music
8:00-WFAF-James Melton, Tenor, Francis White, Soprano
WJZ-I Love a Mystery
WQXR-Symphony Hall
8:30-WFAF-Richard Crooks, Tenor
WABC-Ray Francis in "My Bill"
8:45-WNYC-UP News
WMCA-Strike Up the Band
9:00-WMCA-News
WABC-Ray Francis in "My Bill"
WFAF-Doctor I. Q. Quiz Program
9:15-WMCA-On With the Dance
WQXR-Minature Concert
9:30-WFAF-Show Boat
WQXR-Musical Personalities, Maria Jeritta
WJZ-AP News
9:35-WJZ-Basin Street Chamber Music Society
9:45-WMCA-Dance Hour
WQXR-Invitation to the Waltz
10:00-WMCA-Late Hour
WFAF-Louise King, the Lady
Lady WABC-Guy Lombardo
10:30-WFAF-Golden Glove Finals
WQXR-Brahms, Alto Rhapsody
10:45-WNYC-News WABC-News
WQXR-News
11:00-WFAF-AP News
2:30-WMCA-Tunes and Needles
WJZ-UP News
WHN-Cinderella Hour
WQXR-Just Music
11:15-All Stations Dance Music
12:00-WMCA-News
VHNN-Music to Read By

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Film Star



Frederic March portrays one of the group of European refugees, whose plight is told in the film "So Ends Our Night."