

and it is only a few devotees of a particular issue, such as peace and war, who strive vainly to defend the true principle. These discussions will never find a ground to build on until they first deal with the whole question of morality, its nature and its value. A particular issue like pacifism on its own will not convince the world of an absolute standard of morality. C.P.

The latest PEACE AIM PAMPHLETS, issued by the National Peace Council, contain an essay on *The Two Currents in the Modern Democratic Tradition* by Christopher Dawson (in 'Democracy and Peace' by Christopher Dawson and Malcolm Spencer; 6d.). The author here adds to the largely unrecognized debt that England and the United Nations owe him for his profound analysis of political theory and history. While admitting the disastrous confusion in the use of the term 'democracy,' he refuses to despair of its meaning something specific. But distinctions are necessary, and he introduces a most valuable and necessary one. The constitutional democracy of England and most English-speaking countries is built up on a long tradition of political development, so that opposition, within or without, does not constitute a threat to existence. Absolute democracy, first realized during the French Revolution and quickly seized upon by the politically immature, rests on the idea of a general and indivisible will of the people and leads inevitably to the one-party system, to which any opposition, either within or without, is a threat to existence. Somehow these two traditions must be made to work together if there is to be peace; but the dictatorial democracy is inclined to tamper with the constitutional system of the other type, disintegrating it by the technique of the Trojan Horse. Mr Dawson thinks that if this type of aggression can be ruled out there is yet hope for the two democracies to co-operate. This essay should be given a wide public just now.

Other recent Peace Aims Pamphlets include *Germany and Europe's Future*, by Mosa Anderson (3d.); *The Third Challenge*, by J. Middleton Murry (6d.); *The United Nations Charter*, Text and Commentary by various authors (1/-); *New Model for Europe?*—a discussion reprinted from 'The Economist' (6d.).

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