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THE LEAGUE OF
NATIONS UNION



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1919



THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION is identified with no one political party and is in no sense a pacifist or defeatist organisation, but, on the contrary, a Society of men and women of all parties and creeds, who accept the principles laid down by President Wilson, and are resolved that out of the war we shall secure no patched up and temporary peace but the complete overthrow of the militarist system and the abolition of aggressive war.

INTRODUCTION

WE have won the war. No citizen of the British Empire doubted that we should win it.

The free peoples of the world, the great democracies of Europe and America, have defeated the Hohenzollerns and the military despots of Germany.

BUT shall we reap as the harvest of our victory a permanent and lasting peace?

The mere triumph over Germany, however overwhelming, cannot repay us for our sacrifices, or would compensate the nations of Europe for what they have suffered in the last four years.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

Unless we gain a peace that will give the free peoples of the world safety—safety for long years to come—from any recurrence of the curse of war we shall have failed in all that matters most.

IT is not enough for us to have won the war, we must also win the peace. We must make this old Europe a better place for our children than it has been for us.

THE war, as President Wilson has said, must prove a “war of emancipation—emancipation from the threat and attempted mastery of selfish groups of autocratic rulers.”

And if we are to achieve that purpose, the coming peace must rest, not on the mere word or agreement of any ruler of Germany, but must be guaranteed and made secure by all the forces of freedom, by the strength of all the free peoples of the world, organised and banded together, to settle international differences by reason and not by force, and to prevent future wars.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

This is the policy of a LEAGUE OF NATIONS, a great international partnership which shall henceforth guarantee the world's peace.

PRESIDENT WILSON has said that “that partnership must be a partnership of peoples, not a mere partnership of Governments.”

If it is to be a real partnership of peoples, you and I must understand what it means, and be prepared to take our part in making it a success. And the sooner the peoples of all the Allied countries understand this policy, accept this policy, and press this policy upon their rulers, the sooner will war, with all its sacrifice and suffering, be ended for ever, and a just and lasting peace secured.

ALL have in one way or another helped to win this war. We now appeal to every man and woman to do something more, to help President Wilson and the Allied Govern-

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ments to establish the basis of a permanent and righteous peace.

THE League of Nations Union has been formed to enrol the people of Great Britain, to enlist them as volunteers for this great work. Other Societies are hard at work in America and other Allied and neutral countries.

DURING the great Civil War in the United States a League was formed of people who called themselves Abolitionists. They desired to abolish slavery. The League of Nations Union desires to abolish war: not merely to defeat Prussian militarism now, but to break and destroy all militarism for all time. We want to build on victory a new and better Europe, where there will be no room for world conquerors and war lords, where the reign of Law and Justice shall be enthroned as sovereign over all peoples.

WILL you join us?

"A supreme moment of history has come. The eyes of the people have been opened and they see. The hand of God is laid upon the nations. He will show them favour, I devoutly believe, only if they rise to the clear heights of His own justice and mercy."**"**

PRESIDENT WILSON.

The League of Nations Union

22, BUCKINGHAM GATE, S.W. 1

A British Organisation founded to promote the formation of a World League of Free Peoples for the securing of International Justice, Mutual Defence, and Permanent Peace.

Associated with the American "League to Enforce Peace," and other Kindred Societies in the United Kingdom and Abroad.

OBJECT OF THE UNION.

The establishment as soon as possible of a League of Free Peoples desirous of ending war for ever willing to agree,

1. To submit all disputes arising between themselves to methods of peaceful settlement.

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2. To suppress jointly, by the use of all means at their disposal, any attempt by any State to disturb the peace of the world by acts of war.
3. To create a Supreme Court, and to respect and enforce its decisions.
4. To establish a permanent Council which shall provide for the development of International Law, for the settlement of differences not suitable for submission to the Supreme Court, for the supervision and control of armament, and for joint action in matters of common concern
5. To admit to the League all peoples able and willing to give effective guarantees of their loyal intention to observe its covenants,

and thus bring about such a World Organisation as will guarantee the freedom of nations; act as trustee and guardian of uncivilised races and undeveloped territories; maintain international order, and thus finally liberate mankind from the curse of war.

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THE POLICY OF A LEAGUE OF NATIONS

THE same development of science and industry which has rendered necessary some political unification of the world, has also increased the range and destructiveness and cruelty of warfare to an extent which threatens the whole fabric of civilisation. War becomes continually more atrocious, while it becomes, at the same time, less conclusive. War in the future holds out no prospect even of a triumph of violence, but only of the disintegration of human society.

IT becomes supremely necessary, therefore, that such a world-wide League should be set up to establish a common guarantee of freedom and security, to relieve the graver frictions between human communities and so arrest this development of war which threatens to destroy mankind. This has become so manifest that in nearly all civilised countries there have now arisen groups and associations of men to advocate, to study the problems of, and to bring about what perhaps is best called a LEAGUE OF FREE NATIONS—a League to disestablish war and treat aggressive warfare

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as a crime, whose members are prepared to make all their covenants and treaties openly before all men, to submit all their disputes to peaceful settlement, and by welcoming every honest adhesion ultimately to comprehend the whole world. Such a League of Peace is not merely compatible with, but follows logically upon, the profession of all the great world religions; it can endure only with the educated and organised assent of the masses of mankind. It appeals, therefore, to all churches and educational organisations, to academies, universities and teachers, to writers, the Press, and every possible means of propaganda, for support and service.

IT is the opinion of this Union that such a League should act through a Council representing the wills of its constituent nations, and that in determining the constitution of such a Council due regard should be had to the standing, the stage of civilisation, and the population of each State. The purpose of the League is to ensure the ordered development of the world. It does not propose to perpetuate existing conditions and boundaries for all time, but to secure that war shall not be the method of their readjust-

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ment. The Council of the League should have at least the threefold function of:—

1. Maintaining a free and independent Supreme Court in which States may sue and be sued.
2. Providing for the codification, amendment, and extension of international law; for joint consideration of questions affecting transit; tariffs, access to raw materials, migration, health, and international intercourse generally; and for intervention and conciliation in all disputes between the constituent States.
3. Supervising, limiting, and controlling the military and naval forces and the armament industries of the world.

THE League, when fully established as a World League, would naturally become the guardian of the independence of small nations, a security for subject peoples, the protector of undeveloped races, and the trustee for all unassigned regions; and thenceforth there could be no annexations without reference to the League. Such a League, therefore, can only include the German peoples if they are effectually freed from militarist government and relinquish

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clearly and convincingly the dreams of imperial conquest and world domination that have inspired them. The League, to quote President Wilson, must be "a partnership of democratic nations; no autocratic government could be trusted to keep faith within it or observe its covenants. It must be a League of Honour." To such a League a liberalised and democratised Germany, no longer war-proud and war-greedy, will be welcomed as a member; of such a League a militarist, autocratic State could form no part. Until the World League of Nations be formed free nations must necessarily stand as the bulwark of the free civilisation against such States as still cling to a belief in the old order of dominant force, and such States must remain cut off as far as possible, economically as well as politically, from the comity of civilised peoples.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

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Any British subject is eligible as a Member. Persons of other Nationalities may be elected Honorary members by the Executive Committee.

Members are required to pay a minimum subscription of 1s. per annum. A minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. a year will entitle a member to a copy of the Monthly Report issued by the Union.

[The MINIMUM subscription has been fixed at 1s. in order to make as wide an appeal as possible; but the costs of organisation and propaganda and research are necessarily heavy, and members are therefore invited to contribute to the funds of the Union as liberally as their means permit.]

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