

Current History

FEBRUARY, 1953

Volume 24 Number 138

Editor:

D. G. REDMOND

•

Associate Editor:

CAROL L. THOMPSON

•

Assistant Editor:

MARY K. HAMMOND

•

Promotion Manager:

MARY A. MEEHAN

•

Contributing Editors:

FREDERICK H. CRAMER

ALZADA COMSTOCK

SIDNEY B. FAY

DONALD W. MITCHELL

NORMAN D. PALMER

FREDERICK L. SCHUMAN

RICHARD VAN ALSTYNE

COLSTON E. WARNE

50 cents a copy

5 dollars a year

Canada 5 dollars fifty cents
a year. Foreign 6 dollars a
year.

Published monthly by Events Publishing Co., Inc., 108-10 Walnut St., Philadelphia 6, Pa. Editorial Office, 108-10 Walnut St., Philadelphia 6, Pa. CURRENT HISTORY founded 1914. Combined with FORUM, March 1, 1950. Entered as second-class matter May 12, 1943, at the post office at Philadelphia, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Indexed in *The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*. Individual copies may be secured by writing to the publication office. No responsibility is assumed for the return of unsolicited manuscripts. Copyright 1953, by Events Publishing Company, Inc.

IN THIS ISSUE

From 1942 to 1947, Dr. Julian Towster served with the Department of State; in 1948 he published *Political Power in the U.S.S.R., 1917-1947*. He has taught at the University of Chicago and at Columbia University's Russian Institute. At present, Dr. Towster is Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California.

Dr. Ruth C. Lawson needs little introduction to CURRENT HISTORY readers; her penetrating analyses of United Nations affairs appear frequently in these pages. She is Associate Professor of Political Science at Mount Holyoke College.

Dr. Alzada Comstock, a Contributing Editor of CURRENT HISTORY, has been reporting on British affairs in our pages for many years. Professor of Economics at Mount Holyoke College, Dr. Comstock has studied at Columbia University, the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, the London School of Economics and the University at the Sorbonne. Her articles have appeared in many learned journals.

Dr. Ernest J. Knapton is Head of the Department of History and Government at Wheaton College. Dr. Knapton has lectured at the University of Washington, Brown University and Harvard University. He is author of *The Lady of the Holy Alliance* (1936) and *France Since Versailles* (1952). Dr. Knapton has been writing for CURRENT HISTORY since 1943.

Dr. Sidney B. Fay, Professor Emeritus of History at Harvard University, is well known to our readers for his studies of Germany. Author of *The Origins of the World War*, Dr. Fay is a specialist in German History. He is one of our Contributing Editors.

Dr. Wayne S. Vucinich is Associate Professor of History at Stanford University. He served as East European specialist with the Coordinator of Information and the Office of Strategic Services, from 1941 to 1944, with the Allied Control Commission for Bulgaria, in 1944 and 1945, and with the Department of State in 1945 and 1946. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of California (Berkeley) and completed his graduate study at the Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Dr. Vucinich has been writing for CURRENT HISTORY on the Balkan Countries for several years.

(continued on page 114)

litical and economic judgment is Europe's dislike of our rapprochement with Franco Spain. The Spanish problem serves to divide the N.A.T.O. countries and to accentuate their differences.

Obviously, Europe looks at the Soviet Union from a different and closer vantage point. Criticisms of our policies voiced abroad must be considered carefully. The United States must not resent the comment that springs from a democratic European free press.

Yet the United States must continue to emphasize the positive aspects of her European policy. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization can point to real achievements, political, economic and military. For the past five years, a major war between the East and West has been avoided, despite the several occasions that could have caused the outbreak of war. During this period, of course, both sides have been growing in strength. But the N.A.T.O. powers are a real deterrent in 1953.

The general improvement in the European situation should not be minimized. European neutralism is of less importance now than it was two years ago. Communist parties have lost support in most West European countries.

The European Coal and Steel Community is now a functioning entity, pointing the way toward steady improvement in the European economy, despite the demand for rearmament.

Americans are extremely sensitive to criticism from their Allies and to dis-

agreement among the N.A.T.O. powers. But there are signs that behind the Iron Curtain there are more serious disagreements among the satellites. It has not been long since Yugoslavia left the Soviet grouping. The recent trials in Czechoslovakia indicate that unity does not yet prevail.

If the N.A.T.O. powers stand firm, there is a more than even chance that they can at least delay World War III. As the pessimists point out, history seems to prove that armament stockpiles lead eventually to war. But disarmament is not practical unless both parties agree. To neglect the rearmament of Europe would be extremely dangerous.

There is at least a possibility that a rearmed Europe supported by the United States can deter Russia until there is a basic change in Soviet strategy. Stalin cannot live forever. And more than one ambitious empire has crumbled in the struggle for succession.

In the final analysis, this is the justification for our policy toward Western Europe. If war comes, the North Atlantic Community is better able to fight and win in 1953 than it was one, two or five years ago. Despite some temporary setbacks, by 1954 it will be even stronger. But we should not lose sight of the fact that this great deterrent force may in itself delay the start of a major war until Russia turns from its aggressive course.

(continued from the inside front cover)

In this issue, we welcome **Dr. Shepherd B. Clough** to our pages. Dr. Clough, Professor of History at Columbia University, served as a member of the division of economic studies of the State Department in 1942 and 1943. In 1943 and 1944, he worked with the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation; during these war years, he was also Associate Editor of the *Journal of Economic History*.

Carol L. Thompson, Associate Editor of *CURRENT HISTORY*, did her graduate work at Mount Holyoke College in the field of United States Government. Mrs. Thompson joined the *CURRENT HISTORY* staff in 1942.