

themselves for the rich and prostrate body of the eastern continent. Geographically, Europe is an appendage of Asia. The appendage has wagged—and perhaps poisoned—the main body.”

To carry out the “prisoner” theme still further, Gunther says that Japan is shackled to Shinto, India to the Brahmans. In these two countries, he adds, the religious attitude leads to mysticism, while in China it leads to resignation; in India, Iraq, Syria and the Near East, to an intense sectarian struggle; and in Palestine, to murder.

From one end of the continent to the other Gunther ranges, finding drama and color, interviewing leading personalities, piecing together threads of events, reporting, analyzing, interpreting. His obvious aim was to dig into the essential, interesting things about a country, a people and its leaders, and describe them so as to make them as impressive, as alive, to his readers as they were to him. That he has managed to succeed is as much a tribute to his insatiable curiosity and desire to carve down to the real meat of matters as it is to his ability to write so colorfully.

Gunther finds that personalities in Asia are almost as important as in Europe. Almost every country, he points out, is dominated by a man. “What would contemporary China be without Chiang Kai-shek, India without Gandhi, the Philippines without Quezon, Arabia without Ibn Saud?”

His personality sketches—quite aside from their importance as current history—are really literary accomplishments. Impressions are clear, forceful, dramatic. Manuel Quezon is “elastic, electric”; Chiang Kai-shek is “shrewd, suspicious, calculating. . . . This delicately featured Chinese soldier is a bulldog.” Madame Chiang Kai-shek is “alert, amusing, smoothly polished, full of graceful small talk, and enormously efficient”; Mohandas Gandhi is “an incredible combination of Jesus Christ, Tammany Hall, and your father”; India’s next most important personality, Jawaharlal Nehru, Nationalist leader, is an “Indian who became a westerner—an aristocrat who became a Socialist—an individualist who became a great mass leader . . . hardly a dozen men alive write English as well as Nehru”; Reza Shah Pahlevi of Persia is “capricious and lacks sense of bal-

bylines

We would caution Americans against propaganda, oral or written, which seeks to turn any class or race or religious group against another—*Statement of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (See page 54).*

President Roosevelt’s order to buy Argentine beef was in effect that of a carpenter ordering a half-dozen nails from a wholesale hardware house—*Carleton Beals (See page 28).*

Already the dangerous idea is gaining credence that we [Republican Party] can elect anyone we nominate—*Alfred M. Landon.*

The colleges and universities must confess that their offerings are such as to drive their students to seek mental stimulation in gladiatorial combats, college life and the consumption of live fish—*President Robert Hutchins.*

No industry has experienced the same amount of pirating and skull-duggery which have accompanied isolated cases of railroad development—*Charles W. Hurd (See page 24).*

Despite the ballyhoo, Garner, as a presidential candidate, is merely Landon with a sombrero—*Tom Meany in The New York World Telegram.*

No Austrian could be a Nazi twenty-four hours a day; it takes too much energy—*Mrs. John Gunther (See page 2).*

The human race is a collection of the most marvelous, ingenious and engaging idiots that ever got possession of a noble planet—*Walter Lippmann (See page 50).*

Complete independence for the Philippines now probably would mean servitude. They are unable to stand alone amidst the violent forces now loosed in the Far East. If the United States flag descends the result will be a bloody struggle for control—*Paul V. McNutt.*

Nobody in France wants war but everybody is ready to go if need be. Everyone is calm about it. That’s the most remarkable thing about the situation. Everyone is completely adjusted to going serenely if he has to—*Ambassador William C. Bullitt.*

It is not too much to say that if Jefferson were President today he would consent to run for a third term in order to defeat economic royalism or fascism—*Harold L. Ickes.*

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