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Synthesis. A Monthly Review Of International Culture And Politics.

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SYNTHESIS
A MONTHLY REVIEW
OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AND POLITICS

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S Y N T H E S I S

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AND POLITICS

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A time of revolutionary changes requires novel forms of discussion, a bold and constructive intellectual approach. Publications of a new type are needed to deal with new problems and mirror a new world situation. Intellectuals who wish to contribute their share to the solution of the present crisis must not shrink from risks or experiments. This fourlingual Review of International Culture and Politics has been conceived, and will be conducted, in that experimental spirit, without which there would be no progress, no hope, no future.

The editors of SYNTHESIS believe that modern civilization constitutes an indivisible entity which will perish, or will be saved, as a whole. It is the purpose of this magazine to promote the cause of universal civilization; to present modern thought in all its complexity; to become a meeting-place of various philosophies and opinions, a bridge between nations and continents, between East and West, between Socialism and Democracy.

It may seem utopian to abide by cosmopolitan, humanitarian ideals, in a century which has already witnessed

two world wars and even now faces the possibility of a third worldwide conflict; a century which has broken down geographical barriers-- only to demarcate political and ideological frontiers with a bitterness hitherto unknown; a century of technical progress and moral retrogression, of confusion and bigotry.

But it is the very emergency of the present state of international affairs which, in a sense, justifies our hopes. Intelligent men and women all over the world begin to realize that a new war would mean, inevitably and inexorably, the end of our civilization; that we will have ONE WORLD -- a world of organized peace -- or NO WORLD AT ALL.

If our epoch is only too prone to the mortal sins of Intolerance and Isolationism, there is also a contrary tendency at work-- a tendency towards unification.

This tendency, which manifests itself politically under the name of the United Nations, is also a dominant factor in the sphere of intellectual life. Clearly, a mind interested only in the cultural trends and achievements of his own country will soon grow sterile and provincial. Nor is it sufficient any more to limit one's interest to any particular aspect or domain of intellectual life; the various spheres cannot be separated: they overlap, merge, want to become a whole. Medieval thinkers knew many truths, hostile to one another.

All truths are now seen to be interdependent; never was synthesis easier of attainment - never was it more vital, more indispensable.

In a shrinking world, the realm of thought has to be expanded.

If nationalism is becoming a pernicious folly - the same is true of intellectual one - sidedness and specialization. The tendency towards unification, which is the tendency of this magazine, has a double meaning, a twofold direction: It wants to reconcile and coördinate, not only the traditions and aspirations of various nations and races, but also the manifold currents and aspects of modern civilization - education and philosophy, religion and economics, science and politics, poetry and sociology, history and art. All these categories have to be presented and integrated in a periodical of that proud and ambitious name, SYNTHESIS - a greek term meaning "composition or combination of parts, elements, etc., so as to form a whole; the whole thus formed."

SYNTHESIS is an independent magazine - not affiliated in any way with any particular government or political party, any religious or literary movement.

SYNTHESIS is a fourlingual publication: all contributions will be presented in English, Russian, French and Spanish.

SYNTHESIS has its editorial headquarters in the Netherlands—a country whose cultural and political climate appears singularly propitious for a venture such as ours. The homeland of Erasmus and Spinoza, the refuge of Descartes and many another persecuted genius—Holland, with its ancient tradition of militant humanism and liberal hospitality, is the ideal site for a magazine that wishes to keep away from the rivalries of the great powers and yet remain in contact with the main currents of international politics and intellectual life. We take it as a good omen that this review will be printed in the neighbourhood of the Peace Palace—landmark and pride of the Dutch capital.

SYNTHESIS will appear each month — each issue comprising from 60 to 100 pages. There will be illustrations — photographs, cartoons, and colored reproductions of modern paintings.

SYNTHESIS is not to be an organ of professional journalists but a center of creative minds. There will be contributions, not only by the world's outstanding writers, but also by such men who have distinguished themselves in other spheres — educators, statesmen, musicians,

artists, scholars, business men, explorers, doctors and so forth.

Educational matters will be given the highest priority in our columns. For the editors of this magazine believe that Education, if anything, will save mankind from ultimate disaster. SYNTHESIS will make it its policy, therefore, to invite the leading pedagogues of all countries to express their views and relate their experiences - thus stimulating the general interest in those vital issues.

Such discussions may help clarify the complex problems of modern pedagogy and be instrumental in establishing new methods of international education.

As for politics, men of action as well as professional commentators are expected to contribute to our monthly surveys and debates. Each number of the magazine is to present a symposium dealing with one of the great current problems. These symposia, or printed round-table conferences, will be open to any political leader or thinker of moral integrity and constructive ideas - whatever his nationality and his opinions.

Other symposia will be devoted to the discussion of philosophical questions - themes of general interest and timely relevance. It is our ambition to make this review a place where the wisest men of five continents like to meet and exchange their ideas in a free, informal manner.

Also, SYNTHESIS will keep its readers informed about the most recent developments in the various fields of international science — dwelling in particular on such highly topical subjects as modern physics and psychology. There will also be literary and historical essays, in addition to regular columns reporting on cultural activities (literature, music, art, film, the theatre) in various parts of the world.

Although primarily a non-fiction magazine, SYNTHESIS will offer characteristic samples of creative writing in our time — short stories and poems by world-famous authors and by promising beginners. The editors of this review will not content themselves with featuring great literary names but want to discover new talents and tendencies — in the fields of poetry and fiction as in any other domain of intellectual life.

The opening number of SYNTHESIS will present as its main feature a symposium on the question of HOW TO ORGANIZE A BETTER WORLD? Representatives of the major churches and religious groups will be invited to contribute, together with leading statesmen and thinkers — men like :

Winston Churchill, President Edward Benes, General Dwight, D. Eisenhower, Cordell Hull, General John C. Smuts, Andrei Vichinsky, Henry Wallace, Harold Stassen, Trygve Lie (Secretary-General of the United Nations),

J.G. Guerrero (President of the International Court of Justice), Julian Huxley (Secretary-General of Unesco), G.B. Shaw, Albert Einstein, Benedetto Croce, Ortega y Gasset, and others.

The first philosophical symposium will deal with the principles and potentialities of EXISTENCIALISM - presenting contributions by Prof. Karl Jaspers (one of the founding-fathers of that school of thought) and Jean-Paul Sartre, the French champion of the much-discussed movement.

One of the world's outstanding pedagogues -- if possible, Dr. Maria Montessori -- will be in charge of an international symposium on education.

These are some of the articles we hope to present in the first three or four issues:

T.S. Eliot, "The Idea of World Literature"

Thomas Mann, "Goethe - Citizen of the World"

Bruno Walter, "Music as a World Language"

Aldous Huxley, "World Religion - A prerequisite for World Peace"

Jacques Maritain, "The Catholic Church and Socialism"

Karl Barth, "Religion and the Re-education of the German People"

André Gide, "Hellas and Christianity"

François Mauriac, "The Cultural Mission of France"

Ilya Ehrenburg, "The Intellectual in the Soviet Union"

Jan Masaryk, "Czechoslovakia - A Bridge between East and West"

Nelson Rockefeller, "Democracy in South America"

Gabrie Mistral, "Cultural Currents in South America"

Richard Wright, "The Future of the American Negro"

Dr. Sutan Sjahrir, "The Future of Asia"

Pearl Buck, "China's Contribution to World Civilization"

Dr. Elisabeth Meitner, "The Future of the Atom"

Gunnar Myrdal, "The Economic Potentialities of Europe"

Theodor Reik, "The Legacy of Sigmund Freud"

Harold Laski, "The Living Thoughts of Karl Marx"

Upton Sinclair, "The Novel as a Political Weapon"

Alberto Moravia, "New Art in Italy" (illustrated)

Jean Cocteau, "The Film as a Work of Art" (illustrated)

G.A. Borgese, "World Government"

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