

## Take Your Choice . . .

The "utterly memorable" history of England entitled 1066 and All That by Sellar and Yeatman, Oxon et al, refers at one point to the "soothing" measures of Parliament in meeting the challenge of the Industrial Revolution by passing the "Tory Acts, Factory Acts, Satisfactory Acts and Unsatisfactory Acts."

Unfortunately the chaos engendered by the transition from the Industrial Revolution period to that of the Atomic Revolution, leaves very little in the way of consoling, but very hit or miss measures. Time has run out on things "soothing." Today we must choose quickly and intelligently, one among the several possible "alternatives"—that one which offers at least some guarantee that most of us will be on hand for subsequent choices.

What are the various routes open to us in our day?

1. We can allow ourselves to become Communists.
2. We can drift, hoping to avoid war.
3. We can become a completely mechanized, armed and decentralized economy and nation.
4. We can make "preventative" war on Russia today.
5. We can form a federal world government, with or without Russia.

What are the consequences of each possible path?

1. For the United States to become Communist requires a monstrous stretch of the imagination, involving incidentally a long drawn out bloody civil war, and a loss of our civil liberties—not so good.
2. For the United States to drift, as is the present course, is to build up a supersensitivity to things communist, dividing the world into two armed camps which, in the nature of things, overlap. Finally, we will find ourselves in a strategic position (Greece?) from which we cannot back out without beginning to drop atomic and epidemic bombs—not so good.
3. For the United States to arm to the teeth means decentralization of all major industry and urban populations, unprofitable to private enterprise, and so to be undertaken by a super-New Deal government, with consequent loss of civil liberties—a dreary prospect.
4. We can beat Russia to the draw now, before she builds any atomic bombs, but as we attack, her soldiers will occupy Western Europe, whose cities we would also be forced to obliterate. Then we would have to rule a world filled with hatred for Americans. We might not need our vanished moral prestige, however, in the subsequent collapse of our economy and our civil liberties, as we tried to feed and clothe the whole world—an appalling prospect.
5. And we can as people of the United States petition our Congress to call an International Constitutional Convention, similar to that which met in 1787, to delegate from every nation that measure of sovereignty which would constitute a body of International Law in the area of war-making and prevention—with jurisdiction over individuals. An international FBI is an intelligent answer to irresponsible war agitation and preparation. To date the only international weapon has been the "sanction", a polite term meaning international anarchy and war.

If Russia does not join at least she will be greatly inhibited from initiating war, knowing all the rest of the world is united under one responsible and effective government. And there is every indication that stark political realism governs Soviet policy. Russia and the United States have everything to gain from a common allegiance. France has already written in the idea of international government in her new constitution, and Britain is known to favor the principle.

Our country is the pivotal force in the movement either for or against responsible international government. If we do not choose to internationalize, we will in all probability follow one of the other four roads—all of which lead to inescapable catastrophe, in my opinion.

We are once again in the situation described by the aforementioned Sellar and Yeatman, apropos of World War 1, "Though there were several battles in the War, none were so terrible or costly as the Peace that was signed afterwards . . ."

If one of the Salem faculty may gently suggest a course of action—it is that all of us seriously examine the possible "alternatives", and write our Congressmen our sincere conclusions as to what course we want our government to follow.

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