

THE AUTHORITY OF MIGHT AND RIGHT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649198252

The authority of might and right by A. v. C. P. Huizinga

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

A. V. C. P. HUIZINGA

**THE AUTHORITY OF
MIGHT AND RIGHT**

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

THE AUTHORITY OF MIGHT AND RIGHT

BY

A. v. C. P. HUIZINGA

Author of "Belief in a Personal God," "The American
Philosophy Pragmatism," etc.



BOSTON

SHERMAN, FRENCH & COMPANY

1911

COPYRIGHT, 1911
SHERMAN, FRENCH & COMPANY

JC
516
.H8
1911

ANDOVER-HARVARD
THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY

MAR 21 1912

HARVARD
DIVINITY SCHOOL

H40,469

THE AUTHORITY OF MIGHT AND RIGHT

10

11

12

13

14

THE AUTHORITY OF MIGHT AND RIGHT

In the struggles of life with individuals and with nations the query often comes, whether might is right, or right is might. In the raging conflicts when all available means of power to gain victory for the principles which individuals or nations endeavor to vindicate or to establish, often the right seems shattered by the forces of evil, and the people have inclined to the scepticism of the subtle sarcasm in the phrase: "God is on the side of the strongest battalions!" On close scrutiny, however, it appears that might and right are not terms to be opposed; that this query really reads, whether the wrong is right, or the right is wrong. Might in itself being innocent of moral quality, the assertion "might is right" would make success the a posteriori criterion in regard to the moral right or wrong of our given action or principle. This *amoral* pragmatism would say whatever has succeeded is so far forth right. Whoever, or whatever fails of success is thereby declared to be wrong. It knows of no struggling for a lost cause, knows of no defeated principles of right; it recognizes only success.

The worldly, rationalistic temper of prudent calculation always has worshiped success, looked with an eye to the future, acted with an ear to the ground. Lacking faith worldly wisdom tries to reason itself secure, in spite of the Biblical declaration that "the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God."

The world's prudential wisdom, this rationalistic unbelief, measures with things seen the unseen and unperceived, the deep and hidden things of God! This sentiment is by whole diameters removed from the heroic faith in the right under trying circumstances, which Lowell expresses in the lines:

"Truth forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne,
Yet, that scaffold sways the future!
And behind the dim unknown
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own."

The principle of goodness and that of evil manifest themselves in their outward behavior. All things shall one day be proclaimed from the housetops and the hidden secrets laid bare. Though outward behavior may not exactly correspond to inner sentiment, it is in general but