

THE PROBLEM OF THE PACIFIC

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649680511

The Problem of the Pacific by C. Brunsdon Fletcher

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

C. BRUNSDON FLETCHER

**THE PROBLEM
OF THE PACIFIC**

**THE PROBLEM OF
THE PACIFIC**

TO
MY WIFE
WHOSE PATIENCE
HAS NEVER FAILED ME

403985

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THIS book is not an ordered history of the Pacific. Its main object is to show how four Powers during a century have been reaching towards a mastery of half the world—the Pacific Ocean covers a whole hemisphere—and only as the main facts of this mastery are kept in mind will a Peace Conference be able to do justice to the interests now dominant. Critics, however, may fairly urge that a better plan could have been made, and a more satisfactory result produced, from the mass of information actually in my possession. But the book has been written in the midst of other work, with the strain of a journalist's life never relaxed; and while leisure would have enabled me to rearrange and rewrite many of the chapters, I have been obliged to offer what has been done as it stands.

It may be contended, perhaps, that "The New Pacific" has already covered most of the ground, and that otherwise some of the questions raised are premature. But the former book touches only a small part of the Pacific, and leaves Japan entirely outside its discussion of prominent problems. The whole Pacific is now taken for a short study, because sooner or later it must be considered as a

whole. It is imperative that the truth about the largest ocean on the earth's surface should be available in some form, however faulty; and thus I must plead guilty of temerity for the sake of peace.

The immediate prompting to give this larger view of the Pacific has come from certain references to Australasia and Canada by writers like Professor Keith, who is an authority upon their history and constitutions. Professor Keith says, in effect, that Australia and Canada feel for Japan contempt merging into fear; and the visit of the American Fleet in 1908 is used in this connexion to point a moral. Contempt is said to cover "a considerable amount of uneasiness, especially in connexion with the development of the Empire of Japan, which manifested itself in the almost ludicrous affection of the greeting shown in both Dominions [Australia and New Zealand] to the fleet of the United States in its famous voyage of intimidation to Japan." * The "ludicrous affection" shown by English-speaking communities in the Pacific to visiting kinsfolk is supposed to represent a fear, perhaps better expressed as faith, in the might of a big brother, as though the British Navy had been lost sight of and a strong Mother Country forgotten. But if British battleships had visited Australasian waters the welcome would have been so warm that words would have failed to express it. The element of kinship would only have been stronger in that

* "Imperial Unity and the Dominions," by Arthur Berriedale Keith, D.C.L., D.Litt., p. 191.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

ix

case. British battleships have never visited Australia; but if Welsh miners recently could be so impressed by a mere moving picture of the great Navy, what would have happened in the Antipodes if the actual fleet had come? Only as the influence of the United States upon the British Dominions in that ocean is understood can the attitude and mental disposition of the latter be appreciated. It is my excuse, therefore, for writing another book that factors like these in the Problem of the Pacific must be remembered and studied if a satisfactory solution is to be found.

C. BRUNSDON FLETCHER

SYDNEY, *May* 1918

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37