

**THE GREAT ANALYSIS: A  
PLEA FOR A RATIONAL  
WORLD-ORDER**

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The Great Analysis: A Plea for a Rational World-Order by Gilbert Murray

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"I am a child in these matters."

—*The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour.*

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings . . ."

—*Psalm VIII.*

# THE GREAT ANALYSIS

A PLEA FOR A RATIONAL  
WORLD-ORDER

by W<sup>m</sup> Archer

WITH A PREFACE BY  
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## PREFACE

SOME time ago my mind happened to be aching from the effects of two addresses delivered to applaudive gatherings by two more or less eminent acquaintances of mine. I will not mention their names, partly because I am rather fond of the one, and partly because I am not very fond of the other. They differed in most of their views, but they agreed in assuring their respective audiences that the only true political wisdom lay in a mixture of fraud and fury. All politicians were corrupt:— they made no explicit exception in favor of themselves or one another. The leaders had risen to the head of their difficult profession by repeated exhibitions of incompetency,

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## PREFACE

and won the confidence of their followers by habitual mendacity and cowardice. No human mind was open to reason in public matters; no man or woman desirous of being just to another. The remedy for all ills was force, especially force practised by the weak against the strong. Every minority in the nation — Syndicalists and Coal owners, Suffragists and Anti-suffragists, Orangemen and Catholics, Publicans and Teetotalers — could compel the nation to obey it, if it only had the nerve and hated its neighbors sufficiently. In the distance you might have to face a glorious martyrdom in a last ditch; meantime you could revel in slander and evil passions, with a serene consciousness of duty fulfilled. Just then, feeling sick and a little bewildered, I fell in with the MS. of this book, and I confess it came to me like a spring in the desert. It was, I knew, the work of an able

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man, though only a looker-on at politics. The scheme it suggests will, no doubt, seem to many people very remote from actuality; but it is at least sane and sweet-tempered. It is based on a belief in reason and reasonableness. Its political aim is to find out by organized knowledge what is good for society as a whole, not to snatch by strategy what is good for a particular group.

Criticisms of detail will occur to every reader, and perhaps criticisms of principle too. The knowledge on which political action can be safely based must always be an intimate, if not necessarily an exact, kind of knowledge. And it may be even harder than our writer admits to reach any such real understanding of the remoter societies of the world. But as far as our own country is concerned, the mass of new and exact information is growing with

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extraordinary rapidity year by year. I do not believe that any one who has not gone specially into the subject can realize how enormously our armory of social knowledge has increased in the last two or three generations. If in these matters knowledge is power, we certainly ought to be able to manage our affairs far better and more boldly than did our grandfathers.

If Aristotle were alive I should have no more doubts. He would take over triumphantly the organization of the Great Analysis — it is just the subject he was working at — and lead us within some measureable time to the Great Synthesis which should follow it. This is not the first time that he has been missed; and I can only hope that the anonymous author of this book may find a way to replace him by some fairly satisfactory understudy.

GILBERT MURRAY.