

MAN'S STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY

(By George Peck)

History is the story of man's efforts to establish economic security. At least this has been true during the 4,000 years of which we have any authentic knowledge. What transpired during the other 250,000 years that men ruled the earth, we do not know but it seems probable, however, that during that period, it was more true than it is today.

This struggle will continue to be the first problem of man, at least as long as any of us live. And just as long as it is man's first problem, unless mankind undergoes a spiritual renaissance, we will have wars, because wars are the result of man's frustrated efforts to achieve economic security.

America's present danger emanates from Europe and Asia. Let's take a look at them and try to get a proper perspective.

The troubles of these two continents have always been the same—their peoples have never had enough food or other natural resources to go around. As a last measure of desperation, war invariably has been the means employed to improve a nation's economic position.

Today, Europe and Asia are the hodge-podge of hundreds of races of men that have fought more than 1,000 large and small wars during the past 4,000 years. Periods of peace have been the exception and not the rule. The balance of power and the possession of territories have changed hands time and again.

A typical case is the first great civilization—Egypt. Since being

toppled from her pinnacle by the rugged Hyksos about 1800, B. C., she has been conquered and ruled by Assyrians, Negroes, Semites, Syrians, Persians, Macedonians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks, French and finally English. And that probably is not the end.

The questions of who owns what and who is entitled to it, have been hopelessly lost in the confusion of endless conquest and counter-conquest. The blood-lines have been fantastically mixed as a result of wholesale slavery and the commonly accepted practice of raping the captured women.

The idea that men can live at peace with his neighbors is peculiar to those nations that have within their borders, all of the good things of life necessary to maintain a satisfactory standard of living. America is one of these fortunate nations. As a result we have deluded ourselves into believing that the once-vast expanses of ocean protect us from all harm. In other words we have been living in a fool's paradise.

That dream has been shattered. For the first time we are facing reality. We are woefully unprepared to face it. Our problem is no mere shortage of armaments. We can build those. Our real need is national intelligence—a sound, sane conception of what America really is, so that we may realize why it is worth fighting for. That is harder to build than tanks, planes and battleships.

We Americans know less history and practical economics than any educated race in existence. If you happen to be the exceptional American, please forgive us. If you are not, you may find in Part 2 of

"Man's Struggle For Economic Security" which will appear in this newspaper next week, some modicum of help toward shaping your judgement as to a solution of our problems.