

Its use was to assist the altruist State in putting forth the utmost possible amount of energy. A State that loved others only would not be nearly so strong as one that loved itself also, as a minister to the welfare of others. The altruistic principle when it stands alone, without the necessary prop of patriotism, soon decays, and becomes too weak to withstand the meaner impulses of sloth and luxury, with all their attendant evils. And here we may remark on the fallacy that is involved in condemning all small States to extinction. The value of a State is proportionate, not to the number of its inhabitants, but to the greatness of its achievements.

It has been our singular good fortune that both these principles have received adequate recognition in our Parliament. The Whigs have represented universalism; the Tories patriotism. It is a general rule that the first is appropriate to dealings with people within our Empire; the second, for peoples with whom we are at war. So long as the Boers held out, our proper guide was patriotism; as soon as they laid down their arms, universalism. The justice of our cause, though it ought to be our only guide while we are still at peace, loses all relevance directly war is declared. During the course of a war, either to question that, or to forget our patriotism, is treason, and deserves to be punished as that.

Before leaving the subject let us apply these considerations to our own case. Let it not be supposed that in extolling our mission I extol ourselves. It is one thing to have a mission and another to fulfil it, and the neglect of its duty is the delinquency which brings down on a nation the scourge of God. On this charge it would be difficult to clear us. Let us consider