

PATRIOTISM

PATRIOTISM is a sentiment which may be made use of to accomplish any national purpose, good or evil. It is an effective means of appealing to those who do not have the keenness of insight necessary to analyse causes and conditions, and frequently stands for much that is wrong and retrogressive. It is often used as the cloak under which national selfishness and even bureaucratic selfishness may conceal its ugliness.

A real patriot is one who insists that his country shall act worthily, not one who is willing to support his country through thick and thin no matter whether its course be praiseworthy or not. In other words, a true patriot is he who demands that his country shall take the course which shall develop in it the highest ideals of which it is capable, and who is willing to sacrifice everything for the fructification of these ideals.

It is therefore clear that in a given event the world will be better or worse off for the existence of patriotic sentiment according to whether the success of the cause for which the country stands and for which the spirit of patriotism is aroused