

PREFACE

This book is an attempt to deal with some of the important problems which confront the Chinese statesman and diplomat, and those who have anything to do with China. It has been the author's hope to give a true picture of things in the Far East and to suggest constructive schemes for every subject touched upon. He has tried to avoid patriotic bias and to discuss politics with disinterestedness; and it is hoped that he has not altogether failed in his efforts.

The world has become small through the rapid means of communication and through the economic interdependence of its different parts, and it is certain that, before many years have passed, a country with a territory extending over four million square miles and with a population of nearly four hundred millions, will play a far more important part in the intellectual and economic developments of the world than it does at present. It will indeed be most gratifying to the author should this book afford some food for thought to readers interested in human progress and international relations.

Most of the chapters were written while the War was still in progress, and that explains the present tense in Sections 2 and 3 of Chapter 9 (on 'China in the War' and on 'Chinese Labour'). Section 1 in the same chapter has been revised since the Armistice, and again since the signing of the Peace Treaty.

The Peace Conference, which required the author's