

tually be necessary. Persia is one, Morocco another, Nicaragua, and some of the minor central American states, are others. But they are few in number and the paramount interests of certain great powers in each, if anarchy compels interference, are already generally recognized. Readjustment of the political boundaries on the world's surface in future will be the outcome of war, as in the case of Alsace-Lorraine, or of voluntary agreement, as in the case of the American states in 1775, or more recently of the confederation of Canada, Australia, and South Africa.

But if aggression has not been the policy of the British government in the past, far less is it its policy to-day. The imputation to it of a desire for expansion as the outcome of a war of conquest is patently absurd. Other powers may cherish the idea, because they are cramped for the room in which to expand, but the Empire has far too much to do to hold and people its own territories to think about further expansion. Moreover, such a policy is contrary to the whole spirit of British institutions and of the British people. The underlying idea of British foreign policy is, and always has been, to preserve the complete freedom of the Empire.

This freedom is of two kinds. There is first of all the liberty of the individual. The main object of government in British communities is not to aggrandize the state, as is the case with some foreign nations, but to afford the individual citizen complete liberty to pursue his own development and advancement, material, moral, and spiritual, as he thinks best, subject only to the restraint of law. That can only be done if the government can protect him from being forcibly disturbed by foreign powers. There is also the liberty of the whole. No nation is really free which is not complete master of its own policy and which cannot determine that policy without consulting the will of some outside power. For instance, if the British fleet were destroyed by the German fleet, Britain's real liberty would disappear, even though no army landed on its shores, for