

MAGNITUDE OF BRITAIN'S TASK

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One purpose I had in my present visit to Britain was to gain, from the point of vantage which Britain affords, a truer picture of the world conflict than is possible anywhere else. I am more than ever convinced that the dangers we face together are world-wide dangers. The very existence of this island is threatened. ^{At} Suez and Gibraltar, and throughout the whole Mediterranean basin, there is constant danger of enemy attacks. From the West and from the East, the security of India is threatened. In the Far East, menacing clouds hang over Singapore. The most vital sources of British supplies and the routes of communication and transportation are everywhere in danger. To all this must be added the enemy's gains in the long list of conquered nations. No greater mistake could be made than to fail ^{adequately} to measure ~~the combined allied forces against~~ the magnitude of the task; ~~to~~ to think that British interests alone are menaced by this world encircling danger. The strength, the resources and the rapacity of the enemy are so great that no country which still possesses its freedom and independence is secure today.

We face, today, battles, not of nations, but of continents. If tomorrow, the world is not to face a battle between hemispheres, it is going to take all the strength that all the free peoples can muster to keep the conflict in this hemisphere, and finally to extinguish it before the whole world is in flames.