

impossible to believe that the decision of the group of nations will not be brought about by expedience rather than by righteousness. What again is to happen when a nation considers that it has been unjustly attacked and is completely convinced of the righteousness of its cause. Let us suppose for example that Great Britain is deeply engaged in some police action in Europe -- not quite possible since Locarno -- and let us suppose again America and Japan to come to blows. It has been shown that Japan could and Japan probably would seize the territory of Hawaii and impose her sovereignty there. We may be sure that no such step would be taken were Japan not determined to pursue the contest to the bitter end. Would it then be wrong for America to take action to defend herself and her citizens? The decision then between national and international police action is a very doubtful one.

The essay in the next place treats war as a sin in itself and this is indeed the tendency of many writers. Yet there are other views. Father Vaughan, one of the keenest of modern thinkers, says that war is a product of sin and until you can destroy sin you cannot destroy war. War is not a single action which we can praise or condemn; it is a condition and that condition is the result of civilization.

lastly we have the ethical theory that no good can come out of war. This may very well be the subject of debate; it is doubtful whether any series of human actions is such that when its results are perused to infinity will not appear to have been productive of some good to someone. We say, it is true, today that no good came out of the war, but shall we be as general in our statements in fifty years?

(V) So far it is to be noted that we have not been criticizing either the presentation or the political theories contained in the essay as being necessarily faulty, but as unlikely to meet with such general concurrence as is necessary if ~~the~~ the much desired results are to be obtained. Truth lies at the bottom of a very deep well.