

*East is East and West is West*

The differences in the standard of living between races or between countries have throughout the world's history been a constant irritant that have often resulted in wars between "the haves" and "the have nots". It is true that there have been many wars where there was very little difference between the warring groups in their standard of living. Usually however in such cases the aggressor hoped to gain something at the expense of the aggrieved. As long as economic differences between national or other groups exist there will no doubt be a tendency to resort to war as a means of adjusting those differences.

As a result of World War II, whose causes can be traced to these same economic differences, there has been a tendency for the world to be divided into two main groups—East and West. The Eastern group includes practically all of Asia and part of Eastern Europe. The Western group includes Western Europe and America. There is a marked difference in the standard of living of the two groups of which both groups are conscious. The fact that the standard of living of the Western group is higher than that of the Eastern group is a cause of irritation and of envy on the part of the Eastern group. The irritation has been added to by the belief, strongly held by the Eastern group, that the favoured position of the west is in some measure at least due to trading and territorial advantages held by the West. The fact that the United States and Great Britain and France have trading advantages in the East which are not compensated for by any comparable trading opportunities afforded to the East in the Western countries is also an aggravation. Added to this is the fact that both France and England have territorial possessions in Asia and Africa which are not favourably regarded by the Eastern group.

The fires of nationalism burn fiercely wherever a country or a district is occupied by a foreign power. This is illustrated in the case of Korea today. The occupation may be benevolent and it may be quite acceptable and beneficial to the people in the area occupied, but inevitably neighbors and patriots will feel that a territory has been violated and a wrong perpetrated which must be redressed. This was the case in India and it is still the case in Indo China, in Hong Kong and in Malaya. It may or may not be the case in the Philippines.

It appears from any viewpoint that the world is becoming divided into two hostile camps—East vs. West. The animosity of the East towards the West is encouraged by two main considerations—firstly the relatively higher standard of living enjoyed by the West and secondly an intensification of national consciousness in the East which is challenged by Eastern colonial territories held by the West.

Unless some reconciliation can be found for these two hostile attitudes of East towards West and vice versa, the world will be drawn closer and closer towards a third world war.

The question for which an immediate answer must be found, if a conflict is to be avoided, is what can be done to overcome this great difference in living standards between the East and the West. The prosperity of any and every country depends on its trade, that is, on both domestic trade and international trade. This being so, it is apparent that only by increasing the trade of the East and by improving its trading position with the West can any hope be found for improving its standard of living. This increase in trade need not necessarily be found wholly in the West, but from that increase which is found in the West both East and West can benefit, economically as well as politically.

It is important that every possible encouragement be given to international trade if international peace is to be found. This necessarily means a new concept of trade and tariff. A scientific international tariff based on national wage levels is recommended as a practical solution.