4-1-1961

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BOOK NOTE


An exploration of American foreign policy in the decade 1945-55 is put into the framework of United States participation in the United Nations and many of its specialized agencies. Such a study is revealing not only of particular attitudes about the three major areas here dealt with—refugees, economic assistance, and human rights—but also of some basic strengths and weaknesses of the country's long-range objectives in foreign relations generally. One recurring theme is the now almost legendary "externalizing" of domestic values and habits dominant in American society. An example of this is seen in the early efforts to establish an International Trade Organization dedicated to freer non-discriminatory trade among all nations. The author describes the main idea behind such an organization as "the thoroughly American tenet that 'a large foreign trade after victory will generate production and therefore wealth.'"1 Perhaps the most impressive thing about the book is the excellent chronicle of events which characterized the post-war idealism of America—official and private—in which the tremendous resources of the New World were used to re-vitalize the Old (through the Marshall Plan). From an initial leadership in the several fields of relief (UNRRA), refugee relocation (IRO), and human rights (Universal Declaration of Human Rights) in the first half of the decade, the country is shown to have retreated into disillusionment and suspicion in the second half. Mr. Hyde traces in some detail the combination of domestic influences such as McCarthyism and the fatiguing experience with the Cold War which produced this change of heart. While the nation may have "learned to temper its idealistic hopes"2 in this decade, we are told, United States participation in the United Nations has greatly strengthened that body and has indicated ways in which future international cooperation in vital areas of human welfare can become increasingly effective.

BOOKS RECEIVED


1 P. 100.
2 P. 227.

