

ADDITIONS, INTEGRATIONS, CORRECTIONS AND SUPPLEMENTS
TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ARNOLD JOSEPH TOYNBEE*

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Additions to Part I, Works by Arnold J. Toynbee

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287) *Britain Relinquishes Imperialism, Toynbee Says. Noted Historian Sees Empire Policy Undergoing Important Changes As Labor Party Gains*, in «The Daily Princetonian», Monday, February 24, 1947, pp. 1, 3.

NOTE

An interview given by Toynbee in Princeton on Thursday, February 20, 1947, after delivering his lecture on *One World, One History* at the first public session of the Tenth Bicentennial Conference (see nos. 285-286).

* *A Bibliography of Arnold J. Toynbee*, compiled by S. Fiona Morton, with a Foreword by Veronica M. Toynbee, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1980.

BRITAIN RELINQUISHES IMPERIALISM

Is Great Britain undergoing a general de-emphasis of Imperialism? According to Professor Arnold J. Toynbee, Research Professor of International History at the University of London, it is and there are several significant reasons for the change. In an interview which took place on Thursday night, shortly after the noted historian's lecture, *One World, One History*, Professor Toynbee reviewed the idea of England relinquishing direct responsibility for many of the empire's territories hitherto administered by the United Kingdom.

According to him, the majority of Great Britain's possessions were gained at a time when the peoples of these territories were «not opposed to having the responsibilities lifted from their shoulders, and placed upon the more capable ones of a strong power». He continued by saying that «the British Empire was bound, in any event, to enter into this new chapter in its history, and the recent desire on the part of the colonies to regain their freedom is attributed to one primary aspect of the situation. By exposing these territories to the democratic principles of a nation such as England, the advantages of self-government in a free country became very apparent to the natives».

Naturally enough these colonies began to desire freedom, and «in many cases have reached that time when they are ripe for enjoying it. It is only unfortunate that of all the times for making what is bound to be a difficult transition, the changeover has to come when England is preoccupied with a rather unpleasant situation at home».

When asked about his country's feelings toward Palestine, the delegate from England remarked that «the same relations applied with the Holy lands as with other countries under British administration». He is certain that Great Britain would be content to «get rid of the burden of Palestine, if a peaceful solution to the problem could be found. In fact, she has handed the issue to the U.N.»

It is Professor Toynbee's opinion that the tropical African possessions will probably be the last to attain complete self-government.

In conclusion, the historian asserted that his country was «undergoing a gradual, but nonetheless important, change of policy. The Labor party will gain in power with the corresponding reduction of the conservative element, and the former British empire may undergo a transition, but England will still be England, and the Englishman will still stay very close to the middle of the road».