

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

by Teodoro Tagliaferri (University of Naples Federico II)

Nos. 285-286
(September 14th, 2023)

Additions to Part I, Works by Arnold J. Toynbee

1947

285) John H. Vennema, *Toynbee Asks World's Scholars for a Unified View of History*. «*One World, One History*» Topic of Eminent British Historian's Speech in which he Warned against Decrease in Historical Vision which Looks at History in Separate Units, in «The Daily Princetonian», Friday, February 21, 1947, p. 1.

NOTE

Report of and excerpts from a speech on «the uses of history in promoting intercultural cooperation on a world scale» given by Toynbee the night before at the first open session of *The University and its World Responsibilities*, Tenth Bicentennial Conference, Princeton, 19-21 February. See *The University and Its World Responsibilities. Tenth Bicentennial Conference Will be Held February 19-21 at Princeton Inn*, in «Princeton Alumni Weekly», February 14, 1947, pp. 6-7, 9; *Alumni Day Program of Events*, ivi, January 31, 1947, p. 3, and February 7, 1947, p. 3; *Bicentennial Alumni Day Issue*, ivi, February 28, 1947, p. 3; John Vennema, *75 Scholars to Participate Today in 10th Conference. University and Its World Responsibilities To Be Discussed by Prominent Educators*, in «The Daily Princetonian», Wednesday, February 19, 1947, p. 1.

In the «Princeton Alumni Weekly» the title of Toynbee's speech was sometimes referred to as *One History, One World*.

Toynbee's Princeton lecture anticipated in some parts Item 1476 (A.J. Toynbee, *The Unification of the World and the Change in Historical Perspective*, The Creighton Lecture in History for 1947-1948, delivered at the University of London, 17 November 1947, in «History», new series, XXXIII, 1-2, February and June 1948, pp. 1-28).

285) *Internationalist Talks at Conference Tonight*, in «The Daily Princetonian», Thursday, February 20, 1947, p. 1: «Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee of London's Royal Institute of International Affairs will speak on *One World, One History* at a public session of the Tenth Bicentennial Conference to be held this evening at 8:30 in 50 McCosh [see no. 284]. A noted British

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

historian, Dr. Toynbee recently went on record as saying that if the United Nations fails to achieve full Russo-American accord, «the alternative, by the law of probability, is that we shall get unity and peace by one great power's knocking out the other, as in the ancient world». He added that neither Russia nor America wants war, but that the fear and suspicion prevalent in the world today could breed another struggle».

ONE WORLD, ONE HISTORY

The presentation by historians of a unified view of the history of all known civilizations, surviving or extinct, was urged by Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee at a public session of the Tenth Bicentennial Conference held last night in McCosh 50.

Speaking on the topic *One World, One History*, the eminent British historian pointed out that through a unified study of history we should be able to reach a better understanding of the diverse civilizations and peoples of our present-day world.

«We are living in a world of paradoxical contradictions», Dr. Toynbee began. There exist today alterations of unemployment with shortages of manpower, a sense of humanity side by side with class feeling and nationalism. These contradictions are extended to the field of history where the horizon is quickly expanding while the field of historical vision his decreasing just as rapidly.

This decrease in historical vision is the defect which Dr. Toynbee would correct, since national histories are «unintelligible when taken out of their cultural contexts». Hence to explain the history of the United States one would have to take into account the whole of Western Christendom.

Similarly Western Christendom tends to be unintelligible when taken as an entity. It is merely one of the five civilizations that survive in the world today; and these are merely five out of about nineteen that have come into existence since the first appearance of a representative [of the, T.T.] species about 6000 years ago.

The four other existing civilizations – Orthodox Christendom, Islam, Hindu Society and the Far Eastern Society – have, within the last four hundred years, been thrown into close contact with each other largely because of the efforts of Western Christendom, the only civilization that has been extended on a world-wide trans-oceanic basis.

«The expansion of Western Christendom has merely consummated the unification of the world», Dr. Toynbee warned, «and has not been the agency that has produced more than the last stage of the process». Furthermore, Western Ascendancy in the world is certain not to last as one or another of the eighteen non-Western civilizations, living or non-living, will

assuredly assert its influence. Eventually the Western Society «will gradually be relegated to the modest place which is all that it can expect to retain [...] by comparison with these other cultures which, through modern expansion, the Western Society has brought into association with itself and with one another».

«Seen in this perspective», Dr. Toynbee concluded, «History calls upon historians to break out of the prison wall of the local and short-lived histories of nations and cultures and accustom themselves to taking a synoptic view of history as a whole».