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political results of the Second World War are the domination of the larger part of Central Europe by Russia, and the end of isolationism in the United States. Owing to the submarine, the aeroplane, and the rocket, the Atlantic has almost ceased to exist. The American realises that he is not a very long way from Europe, as he used to be, and that he needs the British Empire just as much as we need him. The death of isolationism has been proclaimed over and over again by Byrnes and Truman. America has come into Europe, not as in 1917, but has come to stay. An offensive Anglo-American partnership would be madness, but a defensive partnership, strong enough to prevent Russia attempting to push further west is already in being. Bismarck used to say: 'We do not want Russia in Central Europe, and the only way to keep her out is to push her towards the East. If ever there is an explosion, let it take place in the East. Do not get in her way in the Balkans or Turkey, otherwise you will have to fight in Europe.' That was Bismarck's policy. Can we adopt it by not getting in her way? I doubt whether in the long run the British Empire will be able or willing to keep her grasp off the Straits. That grave problem is looming up and I do not envy the British statesmen who will have to deal with it.

What ought we to do in these difficult times? Firstly, the British Empire must do all it can to make a success of U.N.O., marred though the Charter is by that terrible clause allowing a veto by a single member on all effective action. We have to work it because the Charter was the best we were able to get. We could not have a new League without Russia, and she was only willing to come in on those terms.

Secondly, we must maintain, and if possible increase, our intimate and trustful relationship with our cousins beyond the Atlantic, the Mighty American State, not the biggest but the strongest and richest community in the world. She has suffered no losses in her great industrial apparatus; not a factory in America was destroyed by bombs in the air or shots from the sea.

Thirdly, we must help to put France on her legs again, give her all the material and moral help we can, not only for her sake but for the preservation of our way of life and of the civilisation which the Americans carried across the Atlantic and still preserve.

Fourthly, we must strive to keep in with Russia, to be patient with her, to realise how the different outlook arises from her utterly different background, differences of geography, language, culture, her nearness to Asia, the admixture of Tartar blood, the complete absence of political education. While we are practising the difficult art of parliamentary government, theirs is a system of autocracy, sometimes efficient, sometimes inefficient. Mr. Wallace has advised his country's spokesmen not to stand out for every single point. If you read the Russian official declarations, you realise that they feel we are always opposing them. They forget that they are always criticising us much more sharply. Happily, Mr. Bevin shares Lord Grey's conviction that the greatest quality of a Foreign Secretary is patience."

Dr. Gooch was given tremendous applause at the conclusion of his address. He answered a number of questions put to him, and finally Mr. Joss, former President of the Swiss Institute, proposed a hearty vote of thanks, ably seconded by Mr. Deutsch, and very warmly supported by all present.

W.B.

ACADEMY CINEMA

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"DAY OF WRATH" (A)

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Just as Spain had its Inquisition, England its religious persecution, so in the 17th century Denmark indulged in an orgy of witch-hunting. Blinded by fear and superstition, men died by the power of the "Evil One," women perished at the stake — all to "the greater glory of God". A Norwegian author, Wiers Jenssen, wrote a novel round this theme, "Anne Pedersdotter" (adapted for the English stage under the title of "The Witch"). This is the story upon which Carl Dreyer has based his latest film, "Day of Wrath" (Vredens Dag).

"Day of Wrath" is produced with the same meticulous care for historical detail that distinguished Dreyer's silent masterpiece "Jeanne D'Arc" and reaches similar heights of artistry, both pictorially and dramatically. At Dreyer's side worked the same assistant as in "Jeanne D'Arc", Paul la Cour.

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