

## PREFACE

ON the invitation of the Halley Stewart Trustees, I gave last autumn the five public lectures which form the chapters of this volume. Any authority or interest they may have is derived from personal observation of social and political events and tendencies in several countries during the past forty years. The views put forward and the conclusions reached or suggested are mainly my own. Did they not bear upon matters of urgent moment, at home and abroad, their publication would scarcely be justified. Yet they may serve a useful purpose if they stimulate thought in others.

H. W. S.

