

PSYCHOLOGY

Intelligent Understanding Best for Fighting Spirit

Democracies Have Advantage of Dictatorships Because We Can Permit The Highest Development of Character

DEMOCRATIC nations can beat the Nazis at developing a victorious fighting spirit, because only in the freedom of democracies can soldiers, sailors and airmen understand what they are doing and feel themselves an intelligent part of the national effort.

In addition to this greatest hope of superiority, the democracies can and do use all the tricks of the dictators in building up military morale, Dr. R. A. Brotemarkle, professor of psychology and personnel officer of the University of Pennsylvania, has reported to the American Academy of Political and Social Science through its current *Annals*. (Reviewed, *SNL*, this week.)

Here is how the U. S. A. and other democracies can surpass the dictatorships in using all the resources of the "whole man" in all-out defense:

Democracies can afford frank discussion of uncensored facts with any soldier, giving him an understanding that permits him to follow his orders intelligently. Blind obedience can never produce the effective action that is obtained by understanding, willing cooperation in a united effort.

Democracies can help each individual soldier to adapt himself to the ever-changing conditions of modern warfare by making available to him frank counseling on personal problems by special officers.

Democracies can build up the individual's self-respect by making him feel that he is an important part of his nation's defense as an intelligently cooperating and willingly participating free citizen.

In addition, Dr. Brotemarkle emphasizes, we can also use all the devices of the dictators:

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can give men a feeling of security and safety by providing them with efficient equipment—adequate clothing, housing, arms and good food.

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can instill into soldiers the fine traditions of manliness and courage in

a well-respected fighting organization.

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can make soldiers feel that they "belong" among their fellows in the Army and permit them to take part in exclusive ceremonies and rituals.

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can teach their soldiers team work through games and sports and can get them used to their duties through extensive drills and war games.

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can use words to build morale — by teaching legends of military life and military heroes, by emotional appeals and exhortations, by propaganda and by military regulations.

Hitler dares not go beyond these tricks.

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Develops Instrument for Measuring National Morale

GUESSING about national morale, vital defense against the thrusts of modern psychological warfare, is no longer necessary. An instrument has been invented for measuring it.

This thermometer for measuring the rising and falling spirits of the people of America consists of a group of questions which might be asked of a carefully selected sample of the whole population just as successful pre-election polls are conducted. Here are some of the questions as reported by Dr. Delbert C. Miller, of the State College of Washington. (*American Sociological Review*, August.)

1. No matter what happens in this war, democracy will collapse sooner or later.

2. Every able-bodied single man who calls himself an American should volunteer now for military service.

3. The military strength of the United States could be assembled in time to give Britain enough aid to defeat Hitler.

4. There are too many old men trying to run the Army and Navy.

5. No matter how much damage Germany does, sooner or later Britain will defeat Hitler.

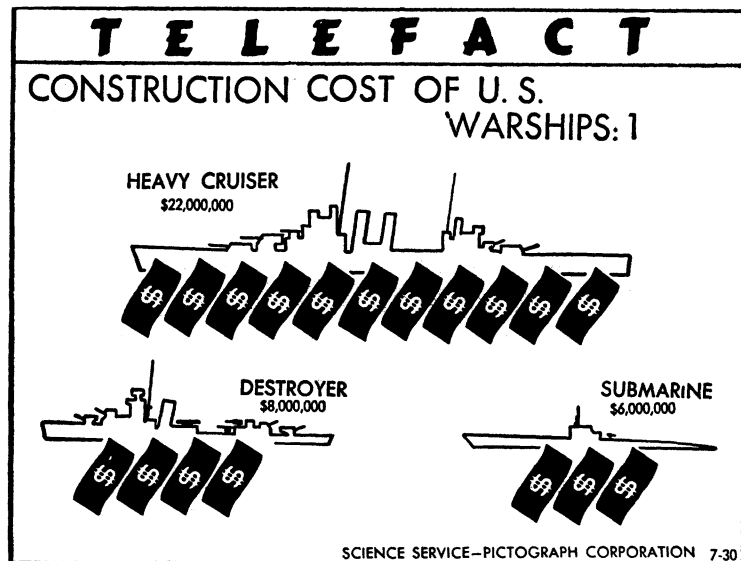
6. Whites treat the Negro in the United States worse than Germany treats the conquered peoples of Europe.

If your own morale is high, you should have answered yes to statements 2, 3, and 5. You should have said no to 1, 4, and 6.

The morale measure has already been tried out in a longer preliminary form on 200 students at the State College of Washington.

These young people, it was revealed, are optimistic. They have a belief in democracy both as an ideal and as a practical working form of government.

However, peace propaganda of the



twenties, the way history has been taught, and the scars of the depression are blamed by Dr. Miller for lowering morale of some by emphasis on the horrors of war, by suspicion of England's intentions, and by lack of confidence in the social structure.

Dr. Miller's morale measure is built on the theory that morale has five roots. For good morale, you must:

1. Believe in the superiority of our nation and those associated with us. There is some confusion at present, Dr. Miller indicates, because Americans are not agreed as to what nations to include in this group. For some, it may be just the United States—for others, England,

China, South America and the defeated countries.

2. Regard national goals and your own personal goals as identical. The highest morale is founded on a sincere belief that national efforts are of the utmost importance, not just on the belief that you can make money or escape home responsibilities through aiding defense.

3. Have faith in the competence of the nation's leaders—military, political, industrial and scientific.

4. Believe that our resources are sufficient to hurl back any threat to us.

5. Have confidence that America's national goals and ideals will survive permanently.

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the neurotic tendencies it bred handicap him. He can improve the social structure if he understands what social conditions are necessary for the development of mentally healthy individuals. And he can prevent destructive impulses from wrecking his own and others' lives if he knows what causes them and how they are exhibited in everyday incidents as well as in such organized ways as war.

"The menace to all humanity of the warped and distorted personalities of a few are evident in the present war," Dr. Silverberg continued. "But it is not the individual's aberrations alone which are responsible. If the society in which people live and work together were not so full of contradictions and conditions which make people resentful and suspicious of each other, a few individuals would not find such fertile soil for organizing destructive impulses."

By supplementing psychoanalytic knowledge of human behavior with that of the social sciences, the courses of the American Institute for Psychoanalysis hope to make clearer to scientists and interested laymen how emotional difficulties handicap a person's constructive efforts, lead to predominantly destructive attitudes and are reflected in the home, school, office, factory, nation and world.

Among the social scientists who are collaborating in this program—the first comprehensive one of its kind are Dr. Erich Fromm, sociologist, author and lecturer at Columbia University; Dr. Ralph Linton, head of the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University; Dr. Margaret Mead, author and assistant curator in anthropology, American Museum of Natural History, who applied psychoanalytic knowledge to her study of the South Sea islanders; Dr. Harold

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Psychoanalysts To Diagnose World's Destructive Urge

Specialists in Sociology, Ethnology and Political Science Also Join in Discussing Cause of Violence

WHY MAN in the twentieth century has directed his great talents toward the most widespread destruction of his fellowman that the world has ever witnessed is due for detailed diagnosis this fall.

Specialists in sociology, ethnology and political science are joining with psychiatrists and psychoanalysts to discuss in seminars and lectures why we behave as we do, and why at this stage in civilization we resort to such organized cruelty and violence as the present war, the American Institute for Psychoanalysis, New York City, has announced.

Ever since Sigmund Freud demonstrated over half a century ago that there are unconscious as well as conscious motives for human behavior, progress has been made in understanding why some persons fail to get along well with themselves, their families and their co-workers, and others become so unsocial that they are classed as insane. Freud, however, believed that man is inherently destructive and that nothing can be done about it. Despite his great contributions, he viewed human nature with a hopeless and pessimistic outlook, and believed that destructiveness would never be eliminated from human life.

The Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, under whose auspices the American Institute for Psycho-

analysis is conducted, holds a more hopeful view. This was explained by Dr. William V. Silverberg, of New York City, who is president of the Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, chief of the Mental Hygiene Clinic, Lebanon Hospital, New York City, and member of the Council on Professional Training, American Psychoanalytic Association.

"We know now that a human being's character—and therefore his behavior—is molded by the society in which he lives, as well as by his instincts and his early family life," Dr. Silverberg said. "Man is a social animal. His slow advance in intelligence and skills through his long history has been accomplished through cooperation with his fellow man, and indicates his urge to turn the mind to constructive efforts. He has shown such incredible ingenuity in mastering nature that he surely should be able to prevent destructive impulses from wrecking his society."

The unsocial, destructive or hateful behavior that usually is called neurotic is the only way a given individual has found to cope with the circumstances which have befallen him, particularly in early life, Dr. Silverberg pointed out. But he can deal with the problems created by his early environment if he understands how it affected him and how

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