

"gets little of the white man's culture mentally. He accepts much that he can see or touch or taste. He drinks coffee, uses sugar. Gave up his deerskin coat for modern materials. His famous silver-smithing is an industry evolved within a century. There is so little left of the material culture of the Navajo of 1600 A.D. that no one can fairly say the Navajo is reactionary, can't take new ways.

"But—the Navajo Indian still doesn't think the white man's thoughts, and that is because language is such a barrier. His language simply can't cope with straight-away translations from English. After all, don't forget our modern talk of health, nutrition, and conservation is full of terms we ourselves coined within recent decades.

"So, it's no wonder a Navajo sheep owner is bewildered when he tries to understand that he should reduce his stock by so many sheep-units. One horse is as hard on grazing as five sheep. He could get rid of a few horses rather than reduce sheep. But try to translate the idea from English into Navajo! Passing through four or five interpreters, relayed to the Indian—the idea may seem a dangerous and not entirely sensible threat to his economic life."

It's a hard row to hoe, being an isolated minority, unable to get sense out of newspapers, radio, or the talk of white men. Indians are broadcasting radio programs in Navajo now, from Window Rock, on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. With reading and writing Navajo made easy, these Indians will be detouring—if you want to look at it that way—on the road to become modern Americans. But they will be on the road.

Science News Letter, March 9, 1940

Ninety per cent of Finland's dentists are women.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Ruined Evening Brings Anger Toward Far-Away People

Session of Difficult Tests Substituted for Pleasant Time at Movies Makes Men Sore at Innocent

This article is one of a series on the psychology of war and propaganda prepared by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues especially for release through Science Service.

THE frustration of being forced suddenly to abandon plans for a pleasant evening caused a group of young men to exhibit increased hostility toward the people of a far-away nation which had nothing at all to do with their disappointment. Unknown people were made the scapegoat for a personal annoyance.

This was revealed when two psychologists learned that a group of young men at a camp was to be given a series of tests which would be boring to them and which were so difficult that everyone was bound to fail miserably. The time taken to give the tests forced the men to miss what they considered the most interesting event of the week, Bank Night at the local theater. The men, it was anticipated, would be frustrated and made angry by this situation.

Before the men knew the nature of the tests and the fact that they would miss Bank Night, their attitude toward the people of a far-away nation was measured by means of rating-scales.

After they had taken the tests and realized that they could not enjoy the evening at the theater, they were once again asked to rate this nation. It was found that their attitudes after the frustrating tests were reliably more hostile toward the nation than before.

Similar groups who were not frustrated by the tests and who rated the same nation twice revealed no such change. Thus it was shown that the hostility aroused by the unpleasant experience in the camp had caused the first group of men to turn some of their hostility against far-away foreigners who could not possibly have been to blame for the situation.

The psychologists who turned the test evening into an experiment were Drs. Neal E. Miller, of Yale University, and Richard Bugelski, of the University of Toledo. They see in the results an expression of the tendency to blame some-

one else for an individual's own misfortunes known to psychologists as the scapegoat device.

This tendency may be used to arouse hatred toward innocent foreigners.

"In ordinary social living," Dr. Miller points out, "men and women suffer frustrations especially when they are unemployed or are compelled to accept a reduction in pay. Their anger can spread to scapegoats in the same way that the anger of the men in the camp spread to the people of a foreign country. It is one of the functions of propaganda to induce people to use as scapegoats innocent foreigners who, though not necessarily responsible for the frustration, are made to serve as targets for aggression."

Science News Letter, March 9, 1940

Germany is buying up old phonograph records at the rate of 3,000,000 a year, as a source of much-needed shellac.

Distances of only 2,500 stars from the earth can be measured directly by triangulation; distances of 7,500 others have been measured indirectly.



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