PREFACE

THE SERIES OF LECTURES included in this volume were delivered before audiences in Wheeler Auditorium on the University of California campus, Berkeley, in the autumn of 1941. Traditionally the United States has tended to regard the Western Hemisphere as a region for the cultivation of an American civilization which, though enriched by the general stream of Western culture, and made up of diverse racial elements from all parts of the earth, would nevertheless develop a distinctively American legal, political, and economic system. The present political and economic war is putting the validity of this theory to a searching test. In view of the danger to the Western Hemisphere arising out of this struggle, the United States, Canada, and the Latin-American republics are exploring the many and difficult problems of coöperation and defense. It is hoped that the present series of lectures will make some contribution toward our understanding of these problems.

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