

Manion, Clarence
— Our America
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Our America

A SHORT STORY
FROM THE MOST TALKED ABOUT
BOOK OF A GENERATION

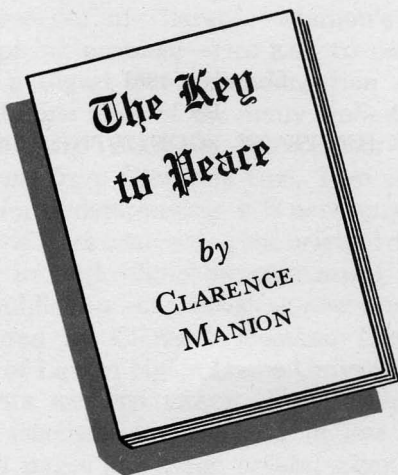
The Key to Peace

by CLARENCE MANION

Printed in U. S. A.

Our America

A short story—from the most talked
about book of a generation



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Our America

Purpose

This booklet is a complete narrative gleaned from passages in Clarence Manion's dynamic and inspiring message—**THE KEY TO PEACE**. It is neither a digest nor a condensation and deals with only one facet of the many embodied in the complete text. However, it consists of actual quotations from Chapters One, Two and Eight. Hence, for understanding, it is necessary to introduce some facts concerning the original document.

Early in 1951 official announcement was made of the publication of a book—a new kind of book—authored by Clarence Manion, Dean of the College of Law of Notre Dame University. It was titled **THE KEY TO PEACE**. Dean Manion with simple, fascinating prose and in less than one hundred pages has made crystal clear the principles which resulted in—the United States of America. With directness and clarity it explains the source of our prosperity, progress and present strength. It closes with a convincing argument for preserving our unique, mystical and Priceless Heritage.

THE KEY TO PEACE officially has been adopted by the American Legion as a vital part of its Americanism Program. Of it the Legion says:

“Dean Manion’s historic document THE KEY TO PEACE in its directness and its simplicity ranks with the Gettysburg Address and the Declaration of Independence. It is easy to read—easy to understand.”

It is believed that the approval given and the almost unanimous acclaim accorded this unique, short and incisive statement is without modern precedent.

In no sense can this booklet be considered a substitute for the book—THE KEY TO PEACE. However, it is hoped that this complete story may provide for many people for the first time an understanding of the causes responsible for the United States of America. It will inspire some to become active in the efforts to resell America to Americans. JMP

Appraisals of THE KEY TO PEACE will be found on page 32 and on the back cover.

Our America



THE UNITED STATES is searching for the wealth of peace and prosperity that lies in a solution of extremely practical problems. As we march into the depressing maze of controversy over strikes, wages, profits, prices, production and the threat of war we feel the white heat of atomic energy on our heels. Will all our accumulations be reduced to rubble in a forthcoming atomic conflict? We know that unless we can simultaneously find a solution called permanent international peace, all the rest of our discoveries will go for naught.

AS IT WAS The men of George Washington's generation had no opportunity to view the sweeping landscapes of America from a speeding airplane or to

make a half dozen routine trips from coast to coast within the span of a single calendar year. They missed the majestic perspective of peak and prairie that comprise "America the Beautiful," but in the faces of their fellow countrymen they saw something far more important, something which our contemporaries have missed entirely. The widely diversified population of Revolutionary America reflected a fleeting vision of Eternal truth-in-action which our alert and far-sighted forefathers caught on the wing.

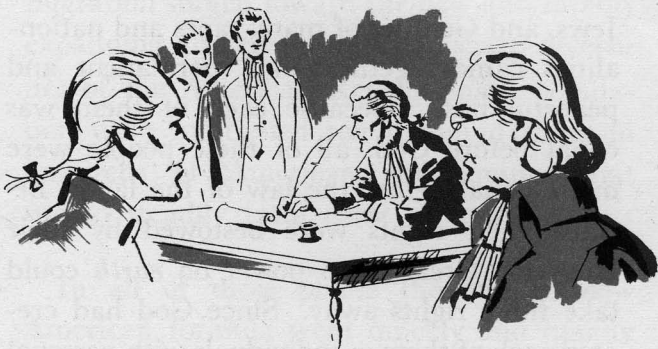
MAGIC Gradually it became evident
INGREDIENT that in and by the American
 Revolution the United States
had achieved something far more important than mere independence. The Revolution had brought forth and moved into action on this continent, and for the first time in human history, a genuine cure for the social cancer of class-consciousness and group antagonism.

The American Revolution had produced a workable common denominator for people of many races, many creeds and widely sep-

arated economic circumstances. Through this magical and mysterious force the American Union slowly but surely became “more perfect.”

DEATHLESS DECLARATION

So that there could be no possible mistake about its object and purpose, our Founding Fathers caused the American Republic officially and with the first breath of its new life to declare:



“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed—”

REVOLUTION STILL WORKING

Here is the distilled essence of Americanism as stated in the first official document of the new United States of America, the Declaration of Independence. These are the Eternal principles upon which our Puritans, Cavaliers, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, and Gentiles of many races and nationalities came together on a permanent and peaceful basis. Because each of them was equal before God, all of these people were made equal before the law of the land. Because their rights were bestowed by their Heavenly Creator, no power on *earth* could take those rights away. Since God had created each of them as individuals with personal and immortal destinies, no man, majority or government could hereafter treat or regard any of them as an indistinguishable part of a class, collective or group. These are the basic articles of our American Faith. They consti-

tute the axes upon which the wheels of our dynamic American Revolution go round and round even to this hour.

FORMULA It was soon evident that this
STABLE unique American formula was
no mere temporary makeshift.

On the contrary it quickly developed dynamic qualities and magnetic influences that spread abroad and tugged at the hearts of men all over the world. Great waves of immigration surged toward the new and rapidly expanding United States. The sharp diversities of the American Revolutionary population were multiplied ten thousand times in hundreds of American communities that spread steadily from coast to coast.

In all of these places the strange new American formula went quickly and quietly to work. Group solidarities were disintegrated and murderous class-consciousness, then as now the scourge of the Old World, was quickly dissolved. At the same time the downtrodden failures of other countries

found new and successful personal lives in the United States.

VAST

IMMIGRATION

In the year 1921 Congress placed drastic restrictions upon all immigration to the United States. Then, and not until then, the great torrential influx of foreigners slowed down to a mere trickle. In one hundred and thirty years approximately forty million immigrants entered the United States and were chiefly responsible for increasing our population from four million in 1790 to one hundred and eight million in 1921. This was the most remarkable peaceful mass movement of population in all history.

It is, to say the least, "remarkable" that continuously for more than one hundred and thirty years, millions of people were leaving each and all of the countries of Europe to find a common home in a place called the United States of America.

Throughout this entire period there were countries other than the United States where

the climate was as good or better, where fertile land was even more plentiful and where there were (and still are) fewer people per square mile of territory. Nevertheless, the immigrants insisted upon coming here and come they did in ever-increasing numbers until Congress closed the gate.



**SOMETHING
REALLY NEW**

Few of these grateful immigrants ever probed the mystery of their transformation but they never ceased to wonder at it. True

enough, the lands, lakes, mountains and rivers of the New World were not unlike those of the Old, yet the whole atmosphere of the United States seemed charged with a kind of electricity that sparked the human spirit in a manner that was beyond all earthly precedent. Feuds that had tortured the long history of the European homelands failed to take permanent roots in the soil of America. Thus in the new American spirit of concert and concord, all the people of the earth contributed to a miraculously quick and magnificent development of the greatest civilization that the world has ever seen.

Through many successive generations the advantages and achievements of our country were abundantly multiplied. Then, as its benefits developed into routine, the enticing mystery of American life ceased to challenge the interest of its beneficiaries. The American system came to be taken for granted. All were satisfied in the conviction that here was the promised land; that here, as in no other country on earth, the human spirit inevitably found satisfying refuge. Few really knew

what it was that made America “tick”—but until our very own time all were agreed that the genuine and really precious diamonds of human civilization were to be found only in—the United States of America.

TRAGEDY OF ACHIEVEMENT Today, this traditional American confidence has disappeared. America and Americans have suddenly ceased to be different from other countries and other peoples. We have caught the world-wide contagion of doubt and with doubt has come discord. The good earth of American unity now quakes repeatedly. Wide chasms appear to separate the “classes,” the “races” and other “self-conscious groups” of people who now make up the present population of the United States and there is underway a concerted drive to discredit the American heritage.

In our confusion we give these traitors an initial and partial success by fighting back with their own choice of weapons, namely, “class consciousness.” We let them skillfully

trap us into a defense of or an attack upon these "classes" as such, instead of striking at the subversive forces themselves with the sharp and devastating weapon forged in our own Revolution and unsheathed before the world in the American Declaration of Independence. That weapon is

the personal God-given integrity of each free man in the American classless society.

Not because he is a Jew, gentile, white, black, consumer, producer, farmer, merchant, laborer or capitalist, but because he is a *man* with a personal immortal destiny, each of our citizens is entitled to the equal protection of American government and to the equal respect of his fellow Americans.

The historical fact remains that the matchless American formula for unity-in-freedom carries the best of all obtainable recommendations, namely, that *it has worked*. It has worked because it is right. The basis of this formula is the indestructible God-given human personality which is the one thing that every

American definitely and officially holds in common with each human being on earth. This formula challenges every BIG AND ALL-POWERFUL GOVERNMENT which does not recognize and consequently need not respect any such thing as an unalienable right in the individual citizen.

**TYRANNY
IMPERSONAL**

State Absolutism is no respecter of persons or places. It can and does raise its ugly, ungodly standard over the traditionally free soil of England with the same brash assurance that characterizes its sway in the land of the Czars. Always and everywhere it is at war with the free, God-given nature of man. For that reason alone, none of the real, pretended or promised benefits of State Absolutism can possibly justify its existence. It is out to destroy man and consequently man must destroy it in self defense.

**VARIATIONS
IN FORM**

Despotism never advertises itself as such. Invariably it is a wolf in sheep's clothing. By



its own definition it will be “democratic,” “progressive,” “liberal,” “humanitarian” and “fraternal.” Those who oppose it will be called reactionaries, Fascists and other currently bad

names. It is not by its name, therefore, that you shall know Absolutism, but by what it proposes to do. Whenever relaxation of existing limitations upon the power of government is suggested, you are upon notice that your liberty is threatened. Unless you counterattack swiftly and sharply you are likely to be denatured.

MODERN LIBERALISM

Proper vigilance against Despotism is particularly difficult when the proponents of the all-powerful State deliberately appropriate the language of liberalism. Traditionally a liberal was a person who believed in the rights of man against government. Recently, however, the professed liberal is one who wishes

in one way or another to liberate government from its natural and Constitutional limitations. This process of governmental liberation takes different forms at different times. In recent years the process has taken the form of taxing and spending by the Federal Government. The successful use of this form of governmental liberation constitutes the most serious threat ever made against the maintenance of Constitutional limitations in the United States.

UNLIMITED POWER

Unless Constitutional limitations upon the spending powers of Congress are effectively and speedily established, all other Constitutional limitations will soon be swept aside in our constantly accelerated drive toward centralized Socialism. Money is power and, when the materialistic concept controls, unlimited money is unlimited power.

Today, big and complicated government has a hand in everybody's business and another in every person's pocket. These hands

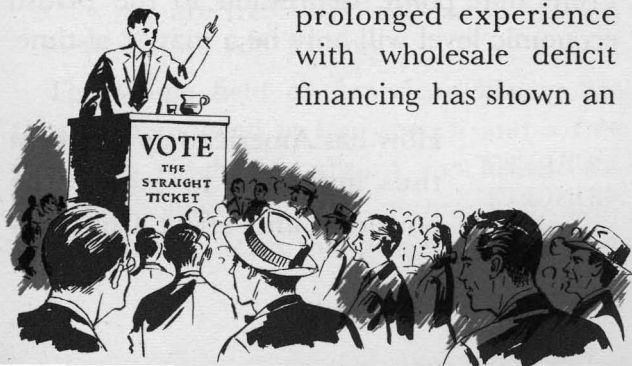
are moved by relatively obscure people tucked away here and there throughout the fathomless mazes of government's bulging bureaucracy. The brooding government omnipresence is an open invitation to those who wish to use one or more of government's complicated processes for unfair advantage over their neighbors. Strings are pulled, leaks of information are accomplished, investigations are launched, all to the irreparable damage of many people—but all according to law.

**POWER BY
SUBSIDY**

It is useless to claim personal rights or "state's rights" against a Federal Government that is able to subsidize with unlimited money any form of local activity that it favors while it withholds such rewards from similar activities that fail to meet the required Federal Specifications. In the unchallenged exercise of its limitless power to spend and lend, Congress can buy its way into complete centralized control of such matters as health, education, insurance, agriculture, banking

and manufacturing. It may subsidize newspapers and magazines with an obvious effect upon freedom of the press. By an extension of the established practice of "grants-in-aid" to the States, it can and does reduce the time-honored exercise of State Sovereignty to the role of local agent for the big Federal boss.

POLITICAL INCENTIVE Such procedures are good politics with candidates who are more interested in attaining office than they are in preserving the essentials of Americanism. To such candidates every election is an auction where Federal appropriations are promised to the group with the greatest number of votes. "Ability to pay" is no longer a practical restraint upon Congressional spending. Our recent prolonged experience with wholesale deficit financing has shown an



effective way for the Federal Government to spend what it does not have and that which *it never seriously expects to have*. The purpose of Federal taxes now is only incidentally to raise necessary revenue. The principal purpose behind most forms of the many Federal excises is to rearrange and control accumulations of private wealth and to level the peaks and valleys of the social and economic terrain. This is not American freedom.

It is Socialistic regimentation by a government that has shaken loose from its Constitutional limitations.

In the face of such Congressional omnipotence, the citizen of the United States may soon be reduced to the helpless political level of a British subject in Socialistic England. From that point, depression to the British economic level will only be a matter of time.

**CURRENT
CONCEPT**

How has American government thus managed to escape the powerful and strict Constitu-

tional limitations placed upon it by the Founding Fathers? The answer is found in the changed attitude of the American people. In recent years we have been educated to believe that the general welfare requires a strong centralized government with practically unlimited powers. Of course this attitude violates the logic of our own glorious history and ignores the tragic failures of centralized governments elsewhere in the world. Nevertheless, the present "scholarly" development of American Constitutional Law has reached this conclusion:

Law is what government does. If you don't like what the government does, you may write and talk against it and vote against it at the next election. Your speech, writing and vote must be free from governmental interference, but beyond that you are free to do only what government allows you to do.

The whole field of American liberty has thus been reduced to free speech and a free vote. To reach this absurd conclusion, the "scholars" have found it necessary to ridicule what they term the "pious absolutes" of

the Declaration of Independence while they pay a cheap lip service to the American Constitutional system. The fact that they have managed to give this conclusion an academic respectability demonstrates the dangerous power of Absolutism when it wears a clever false face.

DEFENDERS OF AMERICANISM

It is not that Americanism no longer has defenders—the mails, the magazines, the radio and television waves are all heavily freighted with arguments for the American Way. However, the arguments always boil down to a defense of the American system in terms of Private Enterprise. The approach is that of an exhaustive statistical balance sheet of material assets and liabilities. They tell us that the American system must be preserved because:

“We have more bathtubs here per square inch than Russia has per square mile; that we have practically all the private telephones and automobiles in the world together with the highest material standard of living ever attained by any people at

any time in history.”

Now all this is well and good, true enough and very important. But, the American system will never be saved through the pulling power of such evidence. If—God save the mark—we should ever lose these purely material advantages—then, by the clear implication of all of these arguments, the American system should be scrapped.

**GIVE THEM
THE BATHTUBS**

For the sake of argument we could stipulate away the bathtubs, the telephones, the automobiles, and the standard of living to the Russians or the Chinese and still prove that despite these material losses, the American Constitutional system will continue to be the most sublime pattern for human society that has ever been or can be devised. We did not have any of these material advantages in America in 1776; nevertheless the founders of our country readily risked their lives, fortunes and sacred honor

for the legal establishment of what they knew was a *sound principle of Eternal truth*.

The material things, the bathtubs, automobiles—the standard of living—these things are the *consequences* of the American system. They are conclusive evidence to show the workability and serviceability of the basic American principle which is the source and the cause of our comparative comfort and prosperity. That basic causative American principle is the important consideration in the great debate and the principle is this—



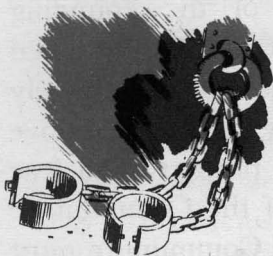
—an uncompromising and uncompromised demand for the freedom and independence of the individual man. If the man is free and independent the material things will accrue to him and flow into his society as a matter of course.

That was the thesis of the Founding Fathers. It is the genius of our Constitutional system. That system is not the best merely because the great majority of our people love the institution of private property and fear and hate Communism. If the Communistic threat is to be liquidated, Communism must be defeated on *principle*. It will never be defeated by making those very social, economic and political concessions to Socialism which Karl Marx advocated as necessary prerequisites to the ultimate establishment of Communism itself.

**TWO SHIRTS
UNNECESSARY**

It isn't necessary for a man to have a job or a second shirt to his back before he can become devoted to and be depended upon to support the American principle of personal liberty, although such a man should and probably would have both. The love of and necessity for personal liberty is a part of each man's God-given nature. It is a birth-right which only the grossly misinformed will sell for a mess of materialistic pottage.

ALL PRECEDENTS DEFIED



In instituting the system of firmly and expressly limited government, the Founding Fathers defied all the precedents of history and committed a positive affront to the persistent and perennial ruler of men—*Despotism*. They knew that every government is by its nature an incipient tyranny and that no number of Constitutional chains can effectively restrain it where the people are not continuously alert to the all important necessity for its continued restraint.

AMERICA THREATENED

The All-powerful State has definite designs upon the one place on earth where the formula for effective resistance to it was conceived, established and justified in practice. That one place is America. We have examined this American formula in specification and detail. At this point we need only to recall that the substance of the formula is continuous, strict and closely guarded limitations upon the power of government.

In threatening America, Despotism threatens all humanity everywhere in the world. Today the fate of civilization depends upon the sustained strengthened solvency of all that is implied in the expression "The United States of America." If our power should suddenly disintegrate the whole human race soon would be enveloped in a fog of terror so demoralizing and so devastating that those who momentarily survived it would envy those who did not.

While we stand firm all human nature hopes and prays for ultimate deliverance.

Our firmness is in our God-given freedom and our freedom is in our successful resistance to all-powerful government.

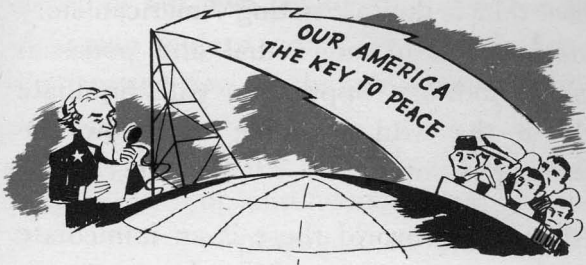
**IMPERATIVE
NEED**

Ours is the task of re-educating the public in the essentiality and desirability of maintaining and strengthening limitations upon government in the interest of preserving necessary human freedom. Remember that where government is unlimited no citi-

zen is free. All-powerful government is a working synonym for tyranny. Our forefathers knew this and consequently they made *the limitation of government* the controlling feature of the American Constitutional system. Each section and each branch of government was made into a limitation upon the other. This was certainly not done in the interest of streamlined efficiency—quite the contrary. It was done deliberately to slow down governmental action in the interest of the freedom and security of the individual citizen. All human governments are constantly and naturally striving for an increase of their powers. American government has been no exception. Constitutional limitations are consequently subject to an ever-increasing strain upon their effectiveness.

**STORY MUST
BE TOLD**

This is the story that needs to be amplified around the world—into the ears of hungry, depressed and oppressed Poles, Yugoslavs, Italians, Czechs, Rumanians, Greeks, Frenchmen, Britains, Bulgarians, Chinese and par-



ticularly the Russians. This is the saga of man's spirit released from the satanic bondage of political materialism. This is the *substance* of Americanism. A bloody Revolution was necessary to establish it. A desperate Civil War was necessary to maintain it. May God grant that the time never comes but, if it becomes essential, other wars must be fought to preserve and perpetuate this exclusive and Priceless Heritage for it is—the Key to Peace.

**ONE
WORLD**

Our One World planners must be made to remember that the famine-stricken populations of the Old World cannot live now or hereafter by bread alone, nor indeed can we. Those in charge of our national defense must be made to

realize that if the fascinating American story is made plain to our actual and potential enemies military opposition will liquidate itself in the wild scramble to follow the American example.

All over the world there is an immediate need for enormous quantities of pure Americanism, but unfortunately the demand comes at a time when we are experiencing a critical shortage right here in the United States. In order to have an exportable surplus of this priceless product, we must intensify and multiply its production in America. Like charity, which it so much resembles, Americanism begins at home. You and I must know and understand these vital principles before we can explain and export them to others.

The need now is not for "new concepts," "fresh approaches" and "ingenious improvisations" in the cause of peace and unity. The need now is for rediscovery and renewed understanding of the true and tried principle of Americanism. In the strange and striking

record of our own country this precious gem of human understanding lies buried. Let us dig here and now for the subtle secret of 1776.

**ESSENTIAL
TASK**

In the presently prevailing fog of misunderstanding, the task of propagating American principles will not be an easy one. We shall meet militant resistance at every stage of the struggle. To win, we must remember that our battle is not against any people or any system. Primarily it is neither military nor economic. The battle is spiritual, and it is waged against Despotism. Our ramparts are behind the deathless and self-evident truths of The Declaration of Independence.

“Remove not the ancient Landmark which thy fathers have set.”



WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT

The Key to Peace

"The book should certainly be read by those who in our day are attempting to find a new approach or a new formula for peace."

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

★ ★ ★

"Dean Manion's book gives the one certain method for making freedom strong in our time. It is one of the greatest books of all my reading experience and I commend it to every patriotic man and woman."

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Pastor
Marble Collegiate Church, N. Y.

★ ★ ★

"This is not just another book. It will become an American classic. It should become the intellectual foundation for the rebuilding of our now—almost—lost heritage."

Rev. Edward A. Keller, C.S.C., Director,
Bureau of Economic Research, Notre
Dame University

★ ★ ★

"THE KEY TO PEACE is a brilliant, fascinating exposition of what constitutes the true greatness of American democracy. This should be read not only by every American, but also by the people of the world."

Rabbi Hyman Judah Schachtel,
Temple Beth Israel, Houston, Texas

★ ★ ★

"THE KEY TO PEACE is a great book . . ." . . . * * *
This is a plain and simply written book, as plain and simple as the fundamental things set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

—Rotarian Magazine

★ ★ ★

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The Key to Peace

The burden of this book is not new. But the manner in which its precious cargo is carried into our consciousness is strangely new.

Our country, its origin, constitution, form and purpose of its government, the work of the Founding Fathers, our heritage, freedoms, private enterprise, the threat of Communism and atomic war, all these are among the contents of this book. And on these subjects so much has been hitherto mouthed and mealy mouthed, in lip service and in disservice, that most of the terms have lost their meaning.

Yet here is a man, Clarence Manion, dean of the College of Law at Notre Dame, who takes the same subject matter and makes it wondrously fresh. Fact and truth and logic is set forth, lean and lithe, as it might be in a good court of law. In a clean and pure atmosphere produced by this author's words we are enabled to see America as clearly and sharply as did the men who started it on its way. We see how very much of it to this day remains exactly right.

This book is not starry-eyed. It is so down-to-earth that it is like a seed to be planted in the hearts of men to bring forth peace here and everywhere.

*John P. Cumiskey,
in The Courant—Hartford, Conn.*