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to prevent the Czar's fleet from getting bottled up by the British in case war broke out.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century and during the first part of the twentieth, relations between the United States and Russia cooled somewhat both because of temporary rivalries in the Far East and because the American public became increasingly aware of the reactionary policies of the czarist regime, particularly its persecution of the Jews. The most serious crisis between republican America and czarist Russia arose over the official anti-Semitism of Nicholas II in the decade preceding the outbreak of the first world war. And the fact that the Soviet government has completely reversed the old czarist policy toward minorities and has established full racial democracy is merely one of many developments since 1917 showing how much closer Soviet Russia is to the fundamental democratic aspirations of the American people than was the Romanov tyranny.

I WISH there were space to discuss Dr. Dulles' excellent chapters on American-Soviet relations in the Far East, on Secretary Seward's purchase of Alaska, on Allied intervention in the USSR during the years following the Communist Revolution, on the great Red scare in the United States, on American recognition of the Soviet Union, on the failure of a united front among the peace-loving peoples to maintain collective security and prevent the second world war, and on the final grand alliance to smash Hitler. While I do not agree with every one of the author's interpretations throughout this large range of topics, I believe that on the whole his conclusions are sound and to be recommended to every American and Russian who wishes to see our two countries working together closely for victory and for peace.

As this book makes plain, the chief factors that have kept the United States and Russia friends throughout the 162 years since the American republic won its freedom have been their possession of common foes, Great Britain in the nineteenth century, Germany and Japan in the twentieth; and the related consideration that global geography has made our two nations each for the other "a potential friend in the rear of potential enemies" in both Europe and Asia. The meaning of Teheran is that henceforth the United States and the Soviet Union will cooperate not simply *against* mutual enemies, but *for* mutual goals such as the preservation of world peace and the furtherance of normal international trade—goals whose fulfillment is as essential for all mankind as for specific national interests.

Another positive aspect of the road beyond Teheran, and a necessary foundation for it, is that the Americans and the Russians will understand each other better than ever before. Despite the traditional friend-

liness of our two countries and the co-operation of our two governments in time of crisis, it cannot be said that our respective peoples as a whole have ever known much about each other. Obviously during the past quarter-century Americans have known less of the truth about the Soviet Union than about any other great power. And toward that mutual peoples' understanding that is so essential for implementing the agreements of statesmen and state departments Foster Rhea Dulles' *The Road to Teheran* makes a notable contribution.

## General of the Underground

HARRIET TUBMAN, by Earl Conrad. Associated Publishers. Washington, D.C. \$3.25.

HARRIET TUBMAN is one of the most remarkable figures in American history, a woman whose thrilling exploits rank her as a first-class heroine. She was one of the giants of the Negro liberation movement. Earl Conrad has performed a genuine service in setting down the rich record of Harriet Tubman's life, the first adequate account in recent years and one which will serve as the basis for a fresh evaluation of her importance. Hitherto Harriet Tubman has been known largely to students of the Underground Railroad, to historical specialists and to progressive Negro people who have named their clubs in her honor. Now, thanks to this biography, the rewarding story of her life may become a part of the living heritage of freedom for which we are fighting.

Harriet Tubman's life began in 1820 on a Maryland plantation; it ended in 1913 in Auburn, N. Y. in a home she herself had founded for aged Negroes. In those ninety-three years she was successively a slave, a conductor on the Underground Railroad, an Abolitionist leader, a recruiter for John Brown's Harper's Ferry army, a Civil War nurse, scout and guerrilla fighter in South Carolina, leader in the women's rights movement with Susan B. Anthony, active in Negro religious movements. Yet withal, she remained a modest, almost self-effacing woman; her greatness never overcame her; she was content to let her deeds speak for her.

Above all Harriet Tubman was a vigorous, courageous, and resourceful organizer. John Brown called her a "general" and to others she was known as "the Moses of her people." Both descriptions fit the woman, who, after emancipating herself from slavery, made nineteen trips into the slave country to free other Negroes. In the eight years she was a conductor on the Underground Railroad, as she later recalled, "I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger." Every one of those nineteen trips, as Mr. Conrad describes them, "was no less than a military campaign, a raid upon an entrenched and an armed enemy."

Harriet Tubman perceived, more than many others of her time, the importance of the Underground. In Mr. Conrad's words, "Harriet knew that each abduction from the South was a recruit to the anti-slavery organization in the North. Every time white sympathizers with the road were brought into activity to help along fugitives, the Negro gained allies or strengthened those he already had. Harriet knew that the Underground was the immediate struggle. Emancipation might be the chief aim of Garrison, of Douglass, and of many others, and this indeed was her chief aim as well, but the Underground was a process that would develop the North, and organize and educate it for the time when it would have to face a belligerent South."

The story of Harriet Tubman's one-woman raids on the South makes spine-tingling reading. They compare, in their way, with some of the exploits of the European underground and the Russian guerrillas. Again as a scout and guerrilla leader with the Union Army in South Carolina in 1863, Harriet Tubman exhibited her genius for energetic leadership in her direction of the successful Combahee expedition. This expedition was essentially a guerrilla foray into South Carolina to lay waste rich plantation lands, arouse the slaves, and bring back recruits for Union Negro detachments stationed at Hilton Head. Mr. Conrad's account of the episode, the brilliant strategy behind it, and Harriet Tubman's own role as a soldier with a musket, is high adventure.

While the heritage of Harriet Tubman has a special significance for the Negro people, it also contains some profound lessons for the whites. That heritage and those lessons lie implicit in her life: The importance of struggle by the Negro people themselves for freedom and democracy; the need for inter-racial unity, black and white cooperation, to attain progressive ends; and the role of women, Negro, and white, in the Negro liberation movement.

Mr. Conrad's *Harriet Tubman* is an invaluable source of information about a truly great and significant American.

STEPHEN PEABODY.

## Aid to Our Allies

LEND-LEASE, Weapon for Victory, by Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. Macmillan. \$3.00.

THE report to the American public on the history and workings of lend-lease provides a revealing discussion of policy and accomplishment of a major war agency up to June 30, 1943. By then, the United States had spent almost \$13,000,000,000 on lend-lease purchases and shipments. But history moves faster than the written records. By the time the book was published, lend-lease figures had swelled to over \$19,000,000,000, while Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., the author and former head of

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