

ANALYSE ET COMMENTAIRE DE TEXTES OU DOCUMENTS EN ANGLAIS

Durée : 6 heures

Analysez et commentez, en anglais, les documents suivants :

Document n° 1

Theodore Roosevelt's Annual Message to Congress, 6 December 1904

(...) It is not merely unwise, it is contemptible, for a nation, as for an individual, to use high-sounding language to proclaim its purposes, or to take positions which are ridiculous if unsupported by potential force, and then to refuse to provide this force. If there is no intention of providing and keeping the force necessary to back up a strong attitude, then it is far better not to assume such an attitude.

The steady aim of this Nation, as of all enlightened nations, should be to strive to bring ever nearer the day when there shall prevail throughout the world the peace of justice. There are kinds of peace which are highly undesirable, which are in the long run as destructive as any war. Tyrants and oppressors have many times made a wilderness and called it peace. (...)

If these self-evident truths are kept before us, and only if they are so kept before us, we shall have a clear idea of what our foreign policy in its larger aspects should be. It is our duty to remember that a nation has no more right to do injustice to another nation, strong or weak, than an individual has to do injustice to another individual; that the same moral law applies in one case as in the other. But we must also remember that it is as much the duty of the Nation to guard its own rights and its own interests as it is the duty of the individual so to do. Within the Nation the individual has now delegated this right to the State, that is, to the representative of all the individuals, and it is a maxim of the law that for every wrong there is a remedy. But in international law we have not advanced by any means as far as we have advanced in municipal law. (...). Until some method is devised by which there shall be a degree of international control over offending nations, it would be a wicked thing for the most civilized powers, for those with most sense of international obligations and with keenest and most generous appreciation of the difference between right and wrong, to disarm. If the great civilized nations of the present day should completely disarm, the result would mean an immediate recrudescence of barbarism in one form or another. (...)

It is not true that the United States feels any land hunger or entertains any projects as regards the other nations of the Western Hemisphere save such as are for their welfare. All that this country desires is to see the neighboring countries stable, orderly, and prosperous. Any country whose people conduct themselves well can count upon our hearty friendship. If a nation shows that it knows how to act with reasonable efficiency and decency in social and political matters, if it keeps order and pays its obligations, it need fear no interference from the United States. Chronic wrongdoing, or an impotence which results in a general loosening of the ties of civilized society, may in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western Hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly, in flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence, to the exercise of an international police power.(...) It is a mere truism to say that every nation, whether in America or anywhere else, which desires to maintain its freedom, its independence, must ultimately realize that the right of such independence can not be separated from the responsibility of making good use of it.

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Document n° 2

Woodrow Wilson, "War Message" (March 5, 1917)

On the third of February... I officially laid before you the extraordinary announcement of the Imperial German Government that on and after the first day of February it was its purpose to put aside all restraints of law and humanity and use its submarines to sink every vessel that sought to approach [any Allied port].... [This reversed its earlier promise] that passenger boats should not be sunk and that due warning would be given to all other vessels... The new policy has swept every restriction aside. Vessels of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom without warning and without thought of help or mercy for those on board, the vessels of friendly neutrals along with those of belligerents....

I am not now thinking of the loss of property involved, immense and serious as that is, but only of the wanton and wholesale destruction of the lives of noncombatants, men, women, and children, engaged in pursuits which have always... been deemed innocent and legitimate. Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent people can not be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind.

It is a war against all nations. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken, in ways which it has stirred us very deeply to learn of, but the ships and people of other neutral and friendly nations have been sunk... in the same way.... The challenge is to all mankind. Each nation must decide for itself how it will meet it.... Our motive will not be revenge or the victorious assertion of the physical might of the nation, but only the vindication of right, of human right, of which we are only a single champion....

With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step I am taking... I advise that [the U.S.] formally accept the status of belligerent that has thus been thrust upon it....

(...)

We are accepting this challenge of hostile purpose because we know that in such a government, following such methods, we can never have a friend; and that in the presence of its organized power... there can be no assured security for the democratic governments of the world. We are now about to accept gauge of battle with its natural foe to liberty and shall, if necessary, spend the whole force of the nation to check and nullify its pretensions and its power. We are glad... to fight thus for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included: for the rights of nations great and small and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their way of life and of obedience. The world must be made safe for democracy....

It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest to our hearts for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other.

“Who Wants War ?” By Dr R.COVE.SMITH.

The writer of this article is the famous sportsman, the well-known Rugby player, who has forsaken the gallant British winter game for the honourable paths of doctoring. But he knows what war is and he tells us of its stupidity and wickedness.

When some people talk of war it seems to call to their minds a picture of brass bands, bright buttons, scarlet tunics and all the glamorous paraphernalia that goes to make up a military tattoo; whereas in reality such a picture is as far removed from truth as all-in wrestling from a Sunday afternoon walk. They forget the hunger, the devastation, the filth, the frightfulness and the maiming of mankind that lies behind the scenes; the exposure to damp and cold and fever that often makes physical wrecks of those who escape being blown to pieces by high explosive; the nervous strain of long days in the trenches surrounded by dead and dying men; the beauty of the countryside seared by shells and shrapnel; and now with the further development of air craft the possibility that civilian populations may easily be bombed as they lie sleeping in their beds. They forget all that!

Is it not strange to think that men who are so reasonable and pleasant when one meets them individually should be so unreasonable and murderous in the mass ?

From my experience in meeting young athletes of various nationalities during the last ten years-and particularly young Germans-the very men whom we were taught to hate during the Great War, I have been struck by their pleasantness, their fitness, and their keenness on physical training. [...] To observe a nation at play gives one a reasonable insight into the characteristics of its people; for the manner in which they spend their spare time is a useful indicator of their outlook, no matter what their statesmen and politicians profess.[...]

We talk a great deal of the benefit of cultivating the team spirit among ourselves, but it would be infinitely better if we could enlarge its scope. Owing to improved methods of communication by wireless telegraphy, quicker travelling and transport by air and the possibility of television in the near future, humanity is rapidly coming closer together; distance is being bridged over, so that as we come closer physically we must make it our business to see that we come closer together morally and spiritually. Only so shall war be outlawed.

The true understanding of the team spirit surely means regarding the whole of mankind as a human brotherhood with the clear vision of their mutual interdependence--in matters of money and trade, in matters of social welfare, in matters of morality and in matters of religion. The world, after all, is one big family, jostled together in one home and it should have the family spirit. That is why the World Conference will fail to preserve peace if it puts purely national policy before international co-operation [...] The cause of the Great War is often said to have been due to the rotten condition of European civilisation. But this is not really true; it was due to rotten condition of men's minds and souls. The condition of civilisation, the progress of science and the improvement of material means ought to help the development of common life rather than hinder it.

The last war settled no argument for any length of time. The French still fear the Germans. The Germans still hate the French- with an even greater hatred than before. Poland was liberated, it is true-but her corridor through German territory causes smouldering fires that may be fanned into flame at any moment. Between 1925 and 1929 France increased her military expenditure by 14 million pounds, Italy by 10 million, United States by 8 million. France and United States increased their air force by nearly 200 per cent. That doesn't indicate confidence about future peace! Isn't it futile? Isn't it a waste? Ought not we young fellows to protest against this senseless machinery of slaughter ?

The victors of the last war are so impoverished fifteen years after it finished that world trade has been paralysed. Too many men, too much money and too much material has been expended to make any victory worth while, and if such things are allowed to happen again we shall all be brought to our knees in beggary.

Cannot we teach the rising generation the essentials of an enduring peace and the elementary principles of wisdom? Cannot we convince the old-fashioned minds who have faith in force that it is the cause of all the fear and suspicion and hatred and rivalry in the world to-day? Cannot we establish the claim of confidence, co-operation and collective responsibility as the keynotes of world policy for the future-a future that will indeed be fit for heroes, for it takes much more heroism when faced by an enemy to put your gun down than to be in such a funk that you fire first ?

The King's Victory Tribute to His Peoples : Faith and Unity in the Cause of World Freedom

The King broadcast the following address to his peoples last night:

To-day we give thanks to God for a great deliverance. Speaking from our Empire's oldest capital-city, war-battered but never for one moment daunted or dismayed - speaking from LONDON, I ask you to join with me in that act of thanksgiving. [...]

First let us remember those who will not come back, their constancy and courage in battle, their sacrifice and endurance in the face of a merciless enemy: let us remember the men in all the Services, the women in all the Services, who have laid down their lives. We have come to the end of our tribulation, and they are not with us at the moment of our rejoicing.

Next let us salute in proud gratitude the great host of the living who have brought us to victory. I cannot praise them to the measure of each one's service, for in a total war the efforts of all rise to the same noble height and all are devoted to the common purpose. Armed or unarmed, men and women, you have fought and striven and endured to your utmost. None knows that better than I do; and as your King I thank with a full heart those who bore arms so valiantly on land and sea, or in the air; and all civilians who, shouldering their many burdens, have carried them unflinchingly and without complaint.

With those memories in our minds, let us think what it was that has upheld us through nearly six years of suffering and peril. The knowledge that everything was at stake: our freedom, our independence, our very existence as a people; but the knowledge also that in defending ourselves we were defending the liberties of the whole world; that our cause was the cause not of this nation only, not of this Empire and Commonwealth only, but of every land where freedom is cherished and law and liberty go hand in hand. In the darkest hours we knew that the enslaved and isolated peoples of Europe looked to us; their hopes were our hopes; their confidence confirmed our faith. We knew that if we failed or faltered the last remaining barrier against a world-wide tyranny would have fallen in ruins. But we did not falter, and we did not fail. We kept our faith with ourselves and with one another; we kept faith and unity with our great Allies. That faith, that unity have carried us to victory through dangers which at times seemed overwhelming.

So let us resolve to bring to the tasks which lie ahead the same high confidence in our mission. Much hard work awaits us both in the restoration of our own country after the ravages of war and in helping to restore peace and sanity to a shattered world.

This comes upon us at a time when we have all given of our best. For five long years and more, heart and brain, nerve and muscle have been directed upon the overthrow of Nazi tyranny. Now we turn, fortified by success, to deal with our last remaining foe. The Queen and I know the ordeals which you have endured stern resolve and prove that our reserves of will-power and vitality are inexhaustible.

There is great comfort in the thought that the years of darkness and danger in which the children of our country have grown up are, please God, over for ever. We shall have failed, and the blood of our dearest will have flowed in vain, if the victory which they died to win does not lead to a lasting peace, founded on justice and established in good will. To that, then, let us turn our thoughts on this day of just triumph and proud sorrow; and then take up our work again, resolved as a people to do nothing unworthy of those who died for us and to make the world such a world as they would have desired, for their children and for ours.

This is the task to which now honour binds us. In the hour of danger we humbly committed our cause into the Hand of God, and He has been our Strength and Shield. Let us thank Him for His mercies, and in this hour of Victory commit ourselves and our new task to the guidance of the same strong Hand.

The Times, 9 May 1945.

A Relative Thing

We are the ones you sent to fight a war
you didn't know a thing about.

It didn't take us long to realize
the only land that we controlled
was covered by the bottoms of our boots.

When the newsmen said that naval ships
had shelled a VC staging point,
we saw a breastless woman
and her stillborn child.

We laughed at old men stumbling
in the dust in frenzied terror
to avoid our three-ton trucks.

We fought outnumbered in Hue City
while the ARVN soldiers looted bodies
in the safety of the rear.
The cookies from the wives of Local 104
did not soften our awareness.

We have seen the pacified supporters
of the Saigon government
sitting in their jampacked cardboard towns,
their wasted hands placed limply in their laps,
their empty bellies waiting for the rice
some district chief has sold
for profit to the Viet Cong.

We have been Democracy on Zippo raids,
burning houses to the ground,
driving eager amtracs through new-sown

fields.

We are the ones who have to live
with the memory that we were the instruments
of your pigeon-breasted fantasies.
We are inextricable accomplices
in this travesty of dreams:
but we are not alone.

We are the ones you sent to fight a war
you did not know a thing about—
those of us that lived
have tried to tell you what went wrong.
Now you think you do not have to listen.

Just because we will not fit
into the uniforms of photographs
of you at twenty-one
does not mean you can disown us.

We are your sons, America,
and you cannot change that.
When you awake,
we will still be here.

W. D. Ehrhard served 11 months in Vietnam as
a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps

A Generation of Peace, New Voices
Publishing Company, 1975

Televised address by president George Bush, January 16, 1991

Just 2 hours ago, allied air forces began an attack on military targets in Iraq and Kuwait. These attacks continue as I speak. Ground forces are not engaged. (...) This military action, taken in accord with United Nations resolutions and with the consent of the United States Congress, follows months of constant and virtually endless diplomatic activity on the part of the United Nations, the United States, and many, many other countries. (...).

Some may ask: Why act now? Why not wait? The answer is clear: the world could wait no longer. Sanctions, though having some effect, showed no signs of accomplishing their objective. Sanctions were tried for well over 5 months, and we and our allies concluded that sanctions alone would not force Saddam from Kuwait.

While the world waited, Saddam Hussein systematically raped, pillaged, and plundered a tiny nation, no threat to his own. He subjected the people of Kuwait to unspeakable atrocities -- and among those maimed and murdered, innocent children. (...) While the world waited, Saddam sought to add to the chemical weapons arsenal he now possesses, an infinitely more dangerous weapon of mass destruction -- a nuclear weapon. (...)

Prior to ordering our forces into battle, I instructed our military commanders to take every necessary step to prevail as quickly as possible, and with the greatest degree of protection possible for American and allied service men and women. I've told the American people before that this will not be another Vietnam, and I repeat this here tonight. (...)

This is an historic moment. We have in this past year made great progress in ending the long era of conflict and cold war. We have before us the opportunity to forge for ourselves and for future generations a new world order -- a world where the rule of law, not the law of the jungle, governs the conduct of nations. When we are successful -- and we will be -- we have a real chance at this new world order, an order in which a credible United Nations can use its peacekeeping role to fulfill the promise and vision of the U.N.'s founders.

We have no argument with the people of Iraq. Indeed, for the innocents caught in this conflict, I pray for their safety. Our goal is not the conquest of Iraq. It is the liberation of Kuwait. It is my hope that somehow the Iraqi people can, even now, convince their dictator that he must lay down his arms, leave Kuwait, and let Iraq itself rejoin the family of peace-loving nations. (...)

No President can easily commit our sons and daughters to war. They are the Nation's finest. Ours is an all-volunteer force, magnificently trained, highly motivated. The troops know why they're there. And listen to what they say, for they've said it better than any President or Prime Minister ever could. (...)

Listen to Master Sergeant J.P. Kendall of the 82nd Airborne: "We're here for more than just the price of a gallon of gas. What we're doing is going to chart the future of the world for the next 100 years. It's better to deal with this guy now than 5 years from now."

And finally, we should all sit up and listen to Jackie Jones, an Army lieutenant, when she says, "If we let him get away with this, who knows what's going to be next?" (...)

Tonight, as our forces fight, they and their families are in our prayers. May God bless each and every one of them, and the coalition forces at our side in the Gulf, and may He continue to bless our nation, the United States of America.