

WE MUST HELP WIN THE WAR

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The main task and responsibility of every American, of every progressive human being everywhere, is to help win this people's war. To that we must give all our energies, skills, experience, and when necessary, our lives.

We who believe in and practice the teachings of Dr. Alfred Adler, whose life work is to teach and lead people in the great task of social awareness and cooperation must help win this war and must help win the peace that will follow: a peace based upon the fullest cooperation of individuals and states throughout the world, building a world brotherhood of free peoples and nations. If we don't help win this war our everyday work of helping individuals and groups towards a healthful cooperation with their fellow man will be totally destroyed.

We are primarily teachers and leaders. We are using our understanding of human nature and our knowledge of Individual Psychology to lead and to teach, to guide and to advise people in understanding, developing, and cultivating social interest. The most vital interest of all men who want mutual understanding and cooperation is to destroy Hitlerism. Our task, therefore, as teachers of social interest is to help the people in this task. In that work we must actively participate.

The world is suffering from a "nervous breakdown" caused by a lack of responsibility, by selfishness, greed, and unwillingness to cooperate. It is suffering from all the elements we find in neurotic individuals. The outcome of this struggle which is costing humanity great streams of blood, sweat, and tears must be complete recovery followed by speedy growth of a new world of happiness for all. We can and must assist the sick world in getting well; we must help it to mature. More, we are in a strategic position to do that.

What can we Adlerian psychologists, psychiatrists, teachers, social-workers, and laymen do to help win the war?

We know that Hitler is conducting a psychological war as well as a military one. We know that he is using the knowledge of human nature to confuse the people of the world and to ensnare them into a trap where they can be easily destroyed. We must use our knowledge of human beings and our belief in their fundamental goodness to help them to be courageous and persistent to destroy the forces of evil and darkness.

As in individuals so in nations the greatest danger lies in fear born out of ignorance. Great numbers of people do not know what is at stake in this war and why this war is fought. They are fearful, apprehensive, tense, and restless. They are depressed, confused, and often demoralized. They are easy prey for our enemies, without and within our country. Our main fight is on the psychological front. We must help build national morale. To that end we must offer our services to all the agencies of our government as experts in morale work. After all, when we try to help an individual our main job is to build up his morale. We must do the same thing in our effort to help our nation.

We must participate actively in the life of our community. We can help organize community councils where diverse groups meet and where national unity is built, a work of major importance. We must help build an understanding and friendship for our allies. We should give freely of our time to Civilian Defense work. We should offer our services as speakers. We should write and publish articles about democracy, morale, national unity. We can and must help win the war.