

Sociological Foment

In this period society is marked by a number of actions that may be quickly surveyed.

Colonialism Collapse:

The making of colonies is as old as society, itself, I suppose but the 18th and 19th centuries saw it developed into a fine art. Any land or people not contained in a defensive posture was subject to colonization as a matter of fact. We can understand it as it followed the opening of the new world and made new homes and revenue areas available to the more militaristic societies. Therefore all of Africa, most of South America and Central America, much of Asia, etc., became possessed territories of European powers by virtue of either military conquest or economic convenience. Nations fought with one another for territorial control and the culture of the colonizing nation was usually imported into the colonized country...including religious practice.

Following World War II the concept grew rapidly that lands should be self governing and self-developing and this has led to a great decolonizing effort with many new nations and arrangements. It has produced a flurry of new church movements as ethnic bodies seek to show in their own setting the religious life to which they are best committed.

"Third World" Nations

This goes hand in hand with the decolonization note. This development has come hard and a lot of it with great bloodshed. The fallout and reaction will not be settled for at least fifty years. In many areas it has ill-affected missions but there are other areas where missions has been benefitted by it. It is a great change in the societal pattern and many of the new nations promise to be the mission sending nations of the future.

The Great Wars

Of these we may say but