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Races, Nations and Classes, by Herbert Adolphus Miller

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Races, Nations and Classes, by Herbert Adolphus Miller. J. B. Lippincott Co.: Philadelphia. 1924. Pp. xvii, 196. Price \$2.00.

It seems to the reviewer that this is a most timely book. Perhaps this will be no news to the reader since the book has been out several years now and since it has been reviewed in a most favorable way in other periodicals. If the reader, however, has not read the book he has a valuable and pleasurable experience in store for him. It may well be that the book was even more opportune in 1924 when it was published since it came at the height of the Ku, Klux Klan difficulties in America and the ambitions of nationalistic groups in Europe.

Professor Miller's entire presentation seems to be scholarly and impartial. This is high tribute when we consider that he is dealing with imme-

diated social phenomena that involved current passions and prejudices. Professor Miller's impartiality, furthermore, is not the current, detached kind; he seems to be impartial from a familiar knowledge of all the elements involved and a real sympathy with each of the opposing factions within a single nation or among different nations. His outlook seems to be singularly admirable when he is dealing with religion and social factors that are highly delicate and that some have felt could not be presented impartially.

The book contains chapters on the different groups within the several nations considered from religious, political, social and psychological points of view. In general, however, the author discussed the difficult situation that obtains in Central Europe and the problems of the Irish, the Negro, and the Jew as they appear in several countries and under different situations. He also deals with immigration and Americanization in this country in a manner that is altogether refreshing for its sanity and its broad understanding.

The book is impressive to the reviewer, who is peculiarly ignorant of the many factors that it contains, especially because it analyzes many of the political groups that he has hitherto been inclined to think of as unities. For instance, Professor Miller sets forth the different social and economic groups in Poland from which he finds an explanation for their tendency to democracy on the one hand and the tendency to imperialistic conquest on the other. It is submitted that only when general, popular ignorance on broad political questions has been alleviated, so that we can entertain opinions with regard to the different elements in a country rather than indiscriminately for the whole country, can we expect an intelligent basis for avoiding needless conflicts, whether between economic and social classes or between religious, economic and nationalistic groups.