

# Fellman Lauds Profound Study of Fascism

## Author Borgese Delves Deeply In Old Italy for Origin of Creed

Book 'Goliath' Declares Fascism Challenge to Democratic World.

BY DR. DAVID FELLMAN.

G. A. Borgese, "Goliath: The March of Fascism" (Viking, 1937), pp. 483. Book review by Dr. David Fellman of the political science faculty at the University of Nebraska.

All will agree that in this troubled and confused world of ours, the thoughtful person has an obligation to acquire an understanding of that astounding modern development labelled fascism. Fascism is the great modern challenge to the democratic system and to the peace of the world, and one who is interested in liberty and peace must seek to understand their contemporary alternatives. Such an understanding will be found in this extraordinary book by G. A. Borgese.

Professor Borgese is a polished and distinguished man of letters, writing now at the height of his literary powers. Formerly professor of aesthetics at the University of Milan, and literary editor of Italy's greatest newspaper, the Corriere della Sera, he is now professor at the University of Chicago. He is self-exiled from Italy, belonging to a small group of free spirits who find it degrading to live under the heel of a dictatorship, where one must conform to the dictatorial pattern to live at all.

Indeed, from our point of view, it is one of the happy results of European tyranny that men like Borgese have come here, to enrich our culture with the maturity and spiritual richness of their own.

"Goliath" is not just another book on the much-discussed subject of fascism. It is not merely another collection of facts and re-creations. It is, rather, a profound study of the inner forces of Italian history. And it is written with wit and charm and eloquence, by one who has added to a well-recognized mastery of the Italian language an extraordinary English prose style. In short, "Goliath" is a true literary event, and will be appreciated as literature, as well as for its political and historical acumen.

Professor Borgese delves deeply into the innermost recesses of Italian history and culture to trace the origins of fascism. One source he the old universal Roman empire, a dream formulated at an early time by such men as Dante and Rienzi, and nourished ever since by leading Italian writers and intellectuals. Too many of the Italian upper classes have had the habit of looking backward at the ancient domination of Rome, rather than forward to a civilized adjustment in a modern world. Another root of fascism Borgese finds in the worship of political power, as exemplified in the practices of the medieval Italian tyrants, and as given immortal literary expression by Machiavelli.

Still another source he finds in the anarchistic spirit of individual self-realization at all costs, as expounded in the works of such men as Max Stirner and Sorel, and as exemplified in such egoistic lives as that of D'Annunzio. Finally, Borgese has a great deal to say about the Italian habit of national self-abasement, a sort of national inferiority complex, for which fascism is both a compensation and an atonement. Upon these fundamental forces does the superstructure of the fascist political system rest.

Borgese shows very clearly that modern Italy has another tradition, the tradition of the Risorgimento of Mazzini and Garibaldi. This is the tradition of popular government and peace, of liberalism and progress, born out of a respect for the integrity of the individual personality. These noble ideals of tolerance and patriotism, which are so well adapted to the needs of our modern world, have been put to rout by the storm and stress, the intolerance and brutality, the intrinsigant nationalism, of Mussolini's tyranny.

What, in brief, is Fascism? It is not a simple thing, capable of exact and succinct definition. It comprehends a suppression of freedom of inquiry after the truth, the regimentation of labor, the abolition of the normal democratic guarantees of individual liberty.



Courtesy Lincoln Journal. DR. DAVID A. FELLMAN.

### Summary

1. Arthur Borgese, professor exiled from Italy, "found it degrading to live under heel of fascism," writes brilliantly.
2. Origin of fascism.
3. Italy has a tradition of liberty and peace, now check-mated by Mussolini.
4. Answers: "What is fascism?"
5. Denounces fascist belief in war.

Fascism is dictatorship, the tyranny of a party, the unchallenged leadership of an individual leader. The freedom of a whole nation is destroyed that one single man, Mussolini, may exercise a complete and anarchical freedom of this supreme anarchist. Finally, and above all, Borgese shows that fas-

### Exiled Editor Explains Great Influence of Old Rome On Present Thought.

cism is a war system, glorifying war not as a regrettable but unavoidable necessity, but as a good thing in itself, and converting a whole country into a military barracks.

Borgese has some interesting things to say about Mussolini's famous allegation that war is a good thing because it brings up to their highest tension the noblest qualities of man. He writes: "No imperative reason deprives of alternatives the doctrine contending that the game of killing fellow men is the exclusive test of human gallantry; even supposing that there is real gallantry in the wretched lad who, enlisted under compulsory conscription, leaps on the foe, with the real purpose of fleeing forward to grasp in the enemy trench the spare chance of life which he would miss altogether if he turned his back to the 'enemy,' thereupon to face a firing squad of his own brothers."

And he goes on to say: "The only lesson of history is that even if nature made us wicked and foolish, it is the calling of man and his obstinate purpose thru the ages to master nature, not to fawn upon it, to fight against death, not to reap its harvest." The highest expression of human power, Borgese contends, is not military power and empire, but rather "perfection in human love."

Borgese's "Goliath" is not merely a treatise in history and sociology. It is a moving manifesto, in brilliant and stirring language, proclaiming the proper concern of man, which is man. It pitilessly attacks the mysticism and obscurantism, the romantic nonsense and

IN THE INFIRMARY  
Dunne Harman, Weeping Water.  
Dismissed.  
John Hutchinson, Humboldt.

balderdash, that comprises fascist ideology. It carries the war to the enemy. And in doing so, Borgese carries on not merely for the Italian exile, but for us as well. His struggle is as old as the hills, the struggle for human freedom, for decency and toleration, for civilization itself.

### VARSAITY TO PRESENT MOVIE OF 'PASTEUR'

Language Students View French Film Version Saturday, Dec. 11.

"Pasteur," the French movie version of the American picture, "The Life of Louis Pasteur," will be presented to French language students at the Varsity theater, Saturday morning, Dec. 11, at 10 o'clock.

The picture was directed by Sacha Guitry, foremost French stage character, who also portrays the part of Pasteur in the film. Action in the picture is almost exactly the same as the run of the American version.

Any student selling 20 tickets to the movie will receive a free ticket.

Good coffee at the White House, N. E. on 77. Made with Coleman's equipment. Rich cream. Open all winter—warm inside.

### REGENTS ACCEPT MAJOR CHANGES IN FACULTY ROLL

#### Coach Browne Takes Position Assistant Director Of Athletics.

Changes in the university faculty were approved by the board of regents Friday morning. They accepted the resignation, effective at the end of this semester, of Dr. T. Bruce Robb, chairman of the department of business research. Dr. Robb has been on leave since Feb. 1 to do work with the federal reserve bank of Kansas City.

The board approved the retirement at the end of the school year of A. E. Bunting, assistant professor of practical mechanics. Professor Bunting has been on the faculty of the college of engineering for 30 years, attaining his present rank in 1914.

W. H. Browne, head basketball coach, was named assistant director of athletics. Coach Browne also holds the academic rank of associate professor.

Miss Martha Park, assistant professor of institution management, was named to represent the college of agriculture on the student union board in place of Miss Ruth Odell who is now teaching on the city campus. Student representatives named to replace those who graduated were Morris Lipp of North Platte, Ruth Green of Fairbury and Mary Jane Hendricks of Julesburg, Colo.

### AROUND AND ABOUT

(Continued from Page 1.)

Few boys refuse what's pushed out at them—to use the incisive terms of vulgarity.

One of the fundamental factors in a boy's actions toward his feminine companion is his ego. This may and does manifest itself in everything from polished manners to very crude advances. It is this ego that leads some gents to press matters even when they have no very burning desires. As one lad puts it, "If they don't rate a certain amount of responsiveness, they think they're slipping."

The men, as you know, have many weapons in their little game. One of the hardest for most inexperienced girls to defend themselves against is the term "good sport." Everyone wants to appear a good sport, yet for the sake of appearances many a coed has blotted her good name. If she commits herself all the way she falls into a rut where she is sought out for nothing but more commitment. If she has nothing whatever to say, as it were, her public may markedly dwindle.

But if she, as do most gals, wants to be cool yet not cold, her situation is not much simpler. Just as the problem of icebergishness is peculiar to each girl, so is her eventual answer. Her temperature will undoubtedly vary from escort to escort. About the only thing to combat either over thawing or over chilling with is realism.

The iceberg situation can't be argued realistically in such terminology as "double standard," "womanhood is sacred" and all that other rubbish. Realism is seeing things just as they are—no rosy optimism or halos, no murky pessimism or forked tails.

So you, Quandaried Coed, measure for yourself, by facts, the score, the status quo, face your findings squarely, and then do as you damn well please. But don't set out for either the north pole or the equator without honestly charting the seas. You're the captain, after all.

This is an old answer, you think. There is no new one. It sometimes happens, strangely enough, that old things are best.

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## Ben Simon & Sons

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