

To Our New Prophets

-Harper's Dec. 1940

Harper's Magazine always carries a section in the back of each issue called The Easy Chair. Ever since I can remember, this section has been conducted by Bernard DeVoto, a man of prominence as a writer of books, especially books of description, (he loves Vermont).

In the December, 1940 issue, his article, comprising the entire space of The Easy Chair is called To Our New Prophets. It is an article four pages long and should be read by every American before the more prominently placed articles of the magazine are touched. It is the entree for the entire issue.

Mr. DeVoto, herein, proves himself to be an unadulterated American. His ideas of Americanism are so clear. He is not confused within himself by ideologies--ideologies which he thinks confused Roy Hilton, when writing The Inner Threat and Our Own Softness, which I reviewed for this course from Sept. 1940 Harpers.

Mr. DeVoto, is at variance with Roy Hilton on the idea of that comfort and security are feminine ideals, and that our "debilitated manhood" has gone sissy. He says that is exactly what the Fuhrer is telling a despairing people: "that only hardness is left them, that beyond the channel lies England, and that they will feed fat if they get Masculine enough to cross the water."

Mr. DeVoto believes that the desire to make one's life as easy as possible for oneself and one's children was the American dream from the beginning and that the pioneers yoked up their oxen and cleared forests to make this dream come true.