

American Journal of Economics and Sociology, Inc.

Alvin Johnson at Eighty

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Source: *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (Apr., 1955), pp. 303-304

Published by: [American Journal of Economics and Sociology, Inc.](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3485041>

Accessed: 24/10/2011 19:22

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- T. A. Bailey, *A Diplomatic History of the American People* (New York, F. S. Crofts, 1946), an extensive study, with bibliographies covering each chapter.
- R. J. Bartlett, *The Record of American Diplomacy* (New York, A. A. Knopf, 1947), documents and readings of American foreign policy from colonial times through the announcement of the Truman Doctrine.
- S. F. Bemis, *The Latin American Policy of the United States* (New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1943), a historical interpretation.
- John Campbell, *The United States in World Affairs, 1948-49* (New York, Harper, 1949), the 3rd volume of the post-war series of annual reviews (resumed in 1947 after a lapse during World War II); a brilliant contemporary interpretation.
- R. H. Fifield and G. E. Percy, *Geopolitics in Principle and Practice* (Boston, Ginn, 1944), ch. 5 is helpful on the U. S. geopolitical backgrounds.
- C. F. Jones and G. G. Darkenwald, *Economic Geography* (New York, Macmillan, 1941), gives a good picture of the economic geography of the U. S.
- Dexter Perkins, *The Evolution of American Foreign Policy* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1948), a good introductory background for the consideration of current problems.
- George T. Renner and associates, *Global Geography* (New York, Thomas Y. Crowell, 1944), chapters cover the political geographical aspects of the U. S.
- E. C. Semple and C. F. Jones, *American History and Its Geographic Conditions* (Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1933), good on the relationship between historical events and the geographic environment.
- N. J. Spykman, *America's Strategy in World Politics* (New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1942), one of the most thought-provoking books on the political geography of the U. S.
- U. S. Senate, Foreign Relations Committee, *A Decade of American Foreign Policy: Basic Documents, 1941-49* (Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office, 1950), a collection of the more important international instruments and official statements.
- S. Van Valkenburg, *America at War* (New York, Prentice-Hall, 1942), a symposium covering several aspects of American geography and its influence in World War II; *Elements of Political Geography* (New York, Prentice-Hall, 1939), a good reference and preliminary reading.
- Derwent Whittlesey, *The Earth and the State* (New York, Henry Holt, 1939), *passim*, a thoughtful regional and topical political geography.

Alvin Johnson at Eighty

A WHOLE LITERATURE of citations, eulogies, testimonials, of addresses, editorials and reviews has grown around the work and record of Alvin Johnson. How can one add anything without being repetitious? When he celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday his friends and admirers seemed to have made the "definitive" appraisal. Then he wrote his *Pioneer's Progress* and confounded those who thought they knew him well.

Readers of his *Clock of History* who assume that it presents the substance of his thinking, had better look at his *Essays in Social Economics*—a republication of earlier articles—for new insights undimmed by the passing of time. And those who believe that at eighty a man is finished, at least

in the sense that he has shown to the world his range and riches with finality, better listen to him discoursing on anything under the sun or beyond it, and they are in for surprises.

Perhaps all that can be said has been said about what Alvin Johnson has done. But the better one feels one knows him the more one suspects that too little has been said about the man himself. What is the common denominator which ties together the work of the farmer, the educator and the gardener, of the politician, the writer and the patron of the arts, not to mention the *pater familias* and the *amicus curiae* in all good causes?

Since it is hopeless to say enough, I might as well use the limitation of space as an excuse for saying too little. It is told of Proteus that he could not be caught because he was able to change into any shape; yet if he could not elude, then he foretold the future. Alvin Johnson seems protean and in every sense ahead of his time.

As a leader he has the rare capacity of leaving people alone and permitting events to shape up until with shrewd timing he appears on the scene and brings off the desired result. As a scholar he balances beautifully his sense for the significant and his patience for all the rest, never letting his vast store of knowledge cripple his imagination. As a teacher he combines humor and seriousness and knows how to be at once exacting and rewarding. His capacity of seeing anew past, present and future he applies to nature and man, to the heart and the mind.

Both as a thinker and a man of action, Alvin Johnson would accept Theodor Mommsen's dictum that history is neither written nor made without love or hate. But he can be in the midst of an issue and yet watch it with the twinkle of a distant star.

Never willing to be fettered by other people's rules and regulations, he has made the New School for Social Research the instrument of his own freedom, and in doing so he has made it an opportunity of freedom for us all. Much more than a catalyst, he keeps changing while changing men and their conditions. He works by persuasion and paradigm, by pressure and political action, servant of no one, but a true servant of liberty. With pen and personal touch here he prunes deadwood and wild runners, there he helps healthy growth, and there yet he leaves a corner of chaos—a man imperturbable, unpredictable in procedures, rich in resources like nature itself.

HANS SIMONS