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# Introduction To Contemporary Civilization In The West

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## **SKYLAR NATHANIEL**

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An Introduction to Contemporary  
Civilization in the West Palala Press  
Excerpt from Introduction to  
Contemporary Civilization: A Syllabus  
The Faculty of Columbia College  
determined at its meeting in January,  
1919, to discontinue the required  
courses in History and Philosophy and,  
beginning in September, 1919, to  
substitute a course on Contemporary  
Civilization which should meet five times  
a week and be required of all Freshmen.  
The purpose of the entire course is to  
raise for consideration the insistent

problems of the present. To give the  
student, early in his college course,  
objective material on which to base his  
own farther studies and his own  
judgments will, it is believed, aid him  
greatly in enabling him to understand  
the civilization of his own day, and to  
participate effectively in it. The early  
part of the course is a preparation for  
the consideration of the problems of the  
present. Nature in its physical features  
and resources and man with his  
equipment of more or less modifiable  
traits are presented as materials to be  
used in rebuilding the present into a  
more desirable future. The intellectual  
tools, or concepts, which have played an  
important part in attempted solutions

are also treated in their context: the application of exact science to the control of nature, the idea of mass production for world distribution, and the belief in the participation of the governed in their own control. The more immediate setting of the problems is next developed through the study (1) of the historic background of contemporary civilization, and (2) of the recent historical development of the great national states. Then, in turn, and in considerable detail, there are presented the chief problems arising in attempts to find satisfactory solutions of the difficulties incident to the major relationships which men sustain. The problems of imperialism and the "backward peoples," of nationalism and internationalism, of our contemporary

industrial life, of conservation, of political control, and of education are treated, with an attempt in every case to state the alternatives at issue, and to relate them to the materials through the use of which change must come, to the dominant concepts of our day, and to their own historical setting. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be

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Palala Press

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VOL I.

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**College, Columbia University**

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