

# A Word With You

**PSYCHOLOGY** tells us that there are certain fairly well defined psychological types, and all individuals fall under one or another category. If individuals, why not nations? Blithely ignoring the pitfalls of generalization and the screams of protest from every school of thought, I present herewith my catalog of various nations and their psychological types.

England: *Compulsive-obsessive*. This type lives by the book. Tries to meet the world in terms of rules of order and expects the world to respond accordingly. Becomes very upset when it doesn't. Habits, once formed, are never broken. Has managed to change from feudalism to socialism without breaking any one of thousand-year old habits.

France: *Hysteroid*. The prima donna type. Must have its own way or it won't play. Suffers from frequent inflammations of the Assembly, eruptions of the Algeria and De Gaulle bladder. Mostly psychosomatic. Can be extremely charming in its less hysterical moods.

Germany: *Schizoid*. The case of the split personality. Lives partly in real world, partly in dream world. Beethoven and Goethe vs. Bismarck and Kaiser. More recently, Einstein vs. Hitler. Split personality now takes the form of East-West division. Each side of its personality thinks it's the other side that's living in the dream world.

India: *Neurasthenic*. Wants to be alone. Suffers from an incredible variety of ailments but insists on being its own doctor. The last doctor it had was too expensive, so services were discontinued; before leaving, this doctor (a compulsive-obsessive) performed surgery on its Pakistan, which is still very painful.

Egypt: *Epileptoid*. Goes for a long time without a ripple, then suddenly breaks out into convulsions. During its seizures, is apt to do some seizing. Throws a fit every 2000 years. Has been trying to annihilate Israel for 4000 years. Has delusions of grandeur. Gets along well with the phoboid type.

Russia: *Phoboid*. Full of fears and suspicions. Imagines that planes are flying over its polar regions. Also suffers from Beria-Beria and Yugoslavitis. Persecution complex coupled with desire to conquer the world. Owns or controls one-fourth of the land surface of the earth but feels hemmed in. Takes sputnik exercises to relieve itself of this feeling, but much more basic treatment is needed.

America: *Cycloid*. The extrovert type—wants to be liked by the world and is pained when the world spits in its face. Wide cyclical swings—the boom and bust temperament. Goes from dizzy heights of activity and excitement to profound depths of depression and apathy. Takes up fads, fashions and faiths with frenetic zeal and drops them just as emphatically. In 1942, loved Russia, hated Japan. In 1958, loves Japan, hates Russia. With proper treatment, could possibly settle down to a rocking and rolling motion. Otherwise, in the next cyclical swing, may go up too far, and then down and out of sight.

—Robert Clancy

Vol. 21, No. 6

June, 1958

The Henry George News is published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science 50 E. 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y. Publication Committee: Lancaster M. Greene, Chairman; Otto K. Dorn, William S. O'Connor; Alice Elizabeth Davis, Editor. Entered as Second Class Matter, November 15, 1943; at the post office of New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions, \$2 a year; single copies, 20c.

HENRY GEORGE NEWS