PREFACE

Most of the contributions assembled in this volume were published in the United States during the years 1941-1951. The papers in the section "History and Theodicy" appeared in 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1946 in Phylon: The Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture. The article "Teaching the Future" was published in 1945 in The Journal of Higher Education and reprinted in Forum. The essay "Futurology: The New Science of Probability?" combines two articles published in 1949 in Forum and in The Midwest Journal. These contributions have not been changed in content though some revisions have been made in language and style. The two papers "Forecasting the Future" - written in 1952 - and "Ideology Utopia, and Futurology" - completed in 1965 - are published here for the first time. The three book reviews in the Appendix appeared respectively in The Yale Review (1948), Phylon (1949) and The American Sociological Review (1951). The article entitled "The Future of Political Institutions" was prepared for the Conference of Futuribles held in Paris in April 1965, but could not be read on that occasion because of illness. The author thanks all the above mentioned publishers for their kind permission to reprint essays and reviews originally published by them. Thanks are also due to the author's wife for her editorial assistance and her effort to render the difficult subject matter in idiomatic English.

As early as 1943 the term "Futurology" was used by the author for the first time in characterizing Spengler as one of the precursors of "what we may hope will develop into a real science of Futurology". The concept of the future presented in the first section of the book is derived from a critique of the theodicean approach to the past. The second part of the volume attempts to outline some crucial problems of the future as well as to sketch some investigations into the problems and trends of tomorrow. Since the 1940's, systematic concern with the days to come has made tremendous progress - in the USA as well as in France, in Germany as well as in India, to mention only a few countries. At a time when Futurology is on the point of developing into a well-organized, large-scale field encompassing the efforts of many excellent minds in numerous disciplines, the reader may find it interesting to view in retrospect an earlier period, when the art or science of prediction and prognosis was still hardly more than the hobby of a few daring minds. Perhaps it will help him to assess more comprehensively both the earlier mistakes and successes, as well as the continuing progress of this new branch of knowledge that is destined to forecast probable futures, as distinguished from mapping out a single future.

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