
World War One was in many ways the fulfillment of the progressive spirit of reform. Progressives like Dewey had worked since the turn-of-the-century to envision a new, broader democracy for the American public, which would be facilitated in part through reformed education. For Dewey, World War One was an opportunity to reorganize internationally just as Progressives had done domestically. The libertarian journalist and social critic, Albert Jay Nock, disagreed with Dewey on these issues, but driving the intellectual impasse was a fundamental disagreement about what democracy is and should be.

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