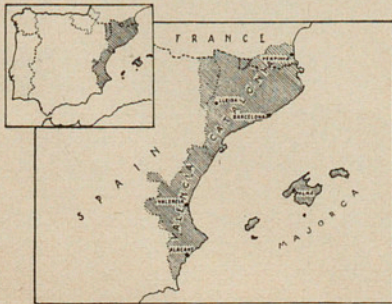




FREE CATALONIA

No. 7

January, 1943



CATALONIA is situated on the northeastern side of the Iberian Peninsula, as shown in the above map. Catalan territories include all the shaded areas, which together form Greater Catalonia, with a population of over 6,000,000 people.

CATALONIA existed as a free Nation until 1714, when she was incorporated by force into the Spanish unitarian State.

CATALONIA has a language of its own—Catalan—belonging to the Romance group or neo-Latin languages and as independent from Spanish as French is from Portuguese or Italian.

CATALONIA aims to be again a Free Nation and to freely govern herself. After regaining her national independence, she will be in a position to consider a Confederacy of Iberian Free States, on the basis of a voluntary association of free peoples of the Iberian Peninsula, which would include Catalans, Basques, Galicians, Spaniards, and Portuguese, if they so desire. Catalonia identifies herself with the cause of the United Nations.



PEACE PLANS

THE improvement in the military situation has produced a flood of peace plans which have increased pessimism about the post-war solution. Ready to indicate our optimism to such a paradoxical reaction, we meant to devote this editorial to the subject. We felt that many of the points confusedly raised in some of the plans could be easily clarified. On the other hand, we intended to refute some obviously misguided statements such as the one asserting that the failure of the League of Nations was chiefly to be attributed to "its deference to national sovereignty of small nations".

But The New York Times, in its issue of January 17, publishes a very timely and applicable editorial on the matter, and we, instead, decide to reproduce its more substantial paragraphs. We quote:

The trouble with many peace plans is that they are projected in a vacuum without taking into account the realities of the world we live in. They assume a uniformity of thinking and ways of living throughout the world which does not and never will exist. They are a credit to the idealism rather than the wisdom or experience of their authors. They begin with the end instead of with the beginning; they build superstructures without testing the foundations.

Yet the foundations on which the peace will have to be built are already emerging in unmistakable outlines. They are:

1. An intensified nationalism in all parts of the world, including Russia, which is the inevitable consequence of the war and in which the ideological quarrels among the French leaders are merely the exception that proves the rule.
2. The might of the United States, which makes the voice of the United States so important a voice in the world today. During the last World War America got into the fight too late to throw the bulk of its armies into action. The American performance in this war is already demonstrating that victory can be won only with, never against, the United States.
3. The Atlantic Charter, which, on the one hand, pledges to all nations, large and small, the restoration of their sovereignty and a form of self-government that disposes of all compulsory annexation, and, on the other hand, assures them a peace permitting all of them to dwell in safety within their own boundaries.

Any peace built on these foundations will therefore involve first of all the crushing of the aggressors and the prevention of the rise of new ones. But it will also involve the organization of a peace which will attain the desired ends through the voluntary cooperation of sovereign and independent nations.