

Moving Account of Palestine Issues

Reviewed by Lee Lawson

FRANK GERVASI, well known magazine correspondent, has written an interesting and valuable book on a subject which occupies the headlines at this very moment.

Emotionally moved by what is happening in Palestine, Gervasi has compiled fact upon fact in the search to find the right answer to the title of his book. In his introduction he informs the reader that when he first went to Palestine in 1939 he was a pro-Arab. Today, after several additional trips and considerable observation and study he is still pro-Arab, as far as the peasants are concerned, but feels it is to their benefit that Palestine be a Jewish Palestine, with full democracy for Arab and Jew alike.

Within the confines of little over 200 pages, Gervasi gives the background of the current issues involved in Palestine. The origin of the Zionist movement, its col-Palestine be the Jewish Homeland fore World War I, the Balfour Declaration in 1917, the role of the Jews in World War II, the tremendous pioneering job done by the Jewish settlers in the face of terrific odds; these are a few of the subjects covered.

PULLS NO PUNCHES

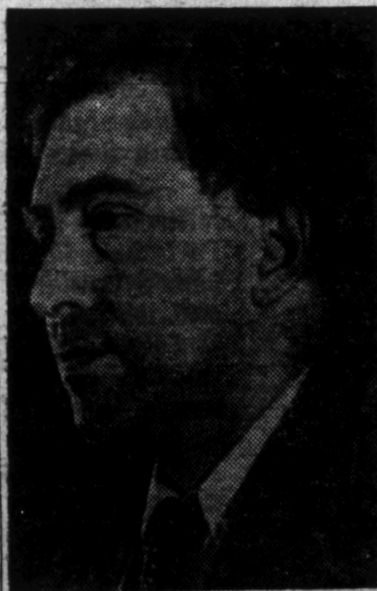
The role of British imperialism is no secret to Mr. Gervasi. He pulls no punches in analyzing the part the British have played in keeping Arab and Jew pitted against one another, while colonial profits were protected. In one entire chapter titled "Brittania" Gervasi rips to shreds the phoney "red scare" used in an attempt to justify British policy not only in Palestine, but throughout the Mediterranean. Despite several misconceptions on the part of Mr. Gervasi concerning the role of the Soviet Union this chapter answers the questions of those who fear the spread of "Bolshevism" and are willing to condone British subjugation of Palestine, and other colonies countries.

Among the important factors which lead Mr. Gervasi to feel the day of Palestinian freedom is not far off, is the fighting spirit of the Jewish people who have given of their life blood to build a flourishing country out of the wilder-

TO WHOM PALESTINE? By Frank Gervasi. D. Appleton-Century. \$2.50.

ness. He tells of the Underground now well organized, and of the thousands of Jews who enlisted in the British Army to fight for freedom and are planning to make use of the military training they received to really win that freedom.

Although he provides much information about life within Palestine, Mr. Gervasi omits the role that organized labor has played, and there is no mention of the Communists, despite the fact that the latter won 3 seats in the 1944 elections to the Assefath Hanivharim, the Jewish Representative Assembly. Despite these important omissions, "To Whom Palestine?" is a well-written account of what the important issues in Palestine are.



This Thursday night the people of New York will gather at Madison Square Garden to welcome the visiting Soviet writers Ilya Ehrenburg (above) Konstantine Simonov and Major-General Mikhail Galaktionov. Speakers include Andre, Gromyko, Joseph E. Davies, Sen. Elbert D. Thomas.