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Experiments in Government and the Essentials of the Constitution

By Elihu Root



Elihu Root was an American lawyer and statesman and the 1912 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He was the prototype for the 20th century "wise man", who shuttled between high-level government positions in Washington, D.C. and private-sector legal practice in New York City. Root served as the U.S. Secretary of War under William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt from 1899-1904, and the U.S. Secretary of State under Theodore Roosevelt from 1905-1909.

This work is comprised of two lectures, given by Root, during the 1912-1913 Stafford Little Lectures Series at Princeton, which was initially known as the Stafford Little Lectureship on Public Affairs. The fund was founded in 1899 by Henry Stafford Little, who suggested that Grover Cleveland, ex-President of the United States, be invited to deliver before the students of the University 'such lectures as he might be disposed to give from year to year.' Mr. Cleveland was the Stafford Little lecturer until his death in 1908. Lecturers have included Theodore Roosevelt on "National Strength and International Duty" (1917-1918); Albert Einstein on "The Meaning of Relativity" (1920-1921); Henry L. Stimson on "Democracy and Nationalism in Europe" (1933-1934); Arnold Shoenberg on "Twelve-tone music composition" and Thurgood Marshall on "The Constitutional Rights of the Negro" (1963-1964).

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