



## The Mouse That Roared

*Leonard Wibberley*

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## **The Mouse That Roared** Leonard Wibberley

The tiny Duchy of Grand Fenwick decides the only way to survive an economic downturn is to declare war on the United States and lose to get foreign aid - but things don't go according to plan.

The Mouse That Roared was originally published as a six-part serial in the Saturday Evening Post, and was made into a successful feature film starring Peter Sellers.

## **The Mouse That Roared Details**

Date : Published January 10th 2003 by Da Capo Press (first published 1954)

ISBN : 9781568582498

Author : Leonard Wibberley

Format : Paperback 280 pages

Genre : Fiction, Humor, Classics, Comedy



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## From Reader Review The Mouse That Roared for online ebook

### Sierra Abrams says

<http://yearningtoread.blogspot.com/>

Grand Fenwick is a little known country near France, a small duchy that has flourished for centuries because of their popular wine company. Recently, however, the wine business has failed to bring in enough money to live on. ? There are those who wish to dilute the wine, and others who are against this notion. Both parties continue to argue over the outcome until a grand scheme is devised: small, itty bitty Grand Fenwick will declare war on the U.S. - attack, lose, and then receive all sorts of benefits for their trouble, as they had seen happen to every nation who lost a war to the U.S.

But of course, this isn't at all what happens. In fact, Grand Fenwick, the smallest nation in the world, wins this war. And becomes the most powerful nation in the world.

?\_\_\_\_\_

#### My thoughts -

?I looked forward to reading this book for nearly 9 months before I finally got to read it for school. It most definitely did not disappoint and I want to say right off the bat that everyone should give this a try! :)

For one, this book is hilarious. Everything about it - the characters, story line, and dialogue - has some sort of humorous tinge to it. I laughed and giggled through the whole thing.

Yet, at the same time, there is a strong sense of seriousness and peril, as well as great honor, throughout the entire story. I couldn't help but follow along to discover what would happen, knowing I wouldn't be disappointed.

#### ?Character notes -

?I loved all the characters in this book. From the Duchess of Grand Fenwick to Tully Bascomb; from the President of the U.S. to the Russian Commissar. Even if they weren't the most in-depth characters in literature (because this story wasn't exactly meant to focus on character), they were fascinating and realistic all the same. I actually think the U.S. President is my favorite, with Gloriana (the Duchess) coming in at a close second. I respected them both and loved the way they handled the sticky situations they were put in.

#### Story notes -

This story really focuses a lot on politics - with a mixture of action, silliness, romance, and character history on the side. I was quite taken with the story line from the start of the book. I cared about Grand Fenwick and their financial struggles and wanted them to find the solution. Then, when they proposed war, the action started. Then more politics...then suspense...and so on. I loved the perfect trap the U.S. walked into, and the perfect set-up to win the war that the warriors of Grand Fenwick had. And neither side knew it. Quite a way to set up an unexpected ending to an already hilarious (and intriguing) story!

One word/phrase to sum it up (final thoughts) -?

?Uproarious! I loved it all, even if it wasn't super deep or life-altering. A bit of silliness, romance, and war mixed in with political disagreements of all different kinds makes for a lovely story and enjoyable read!

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### **Nick Hannon says**

The Mouse that Roared by Leonard Wibberley is a satirical book that is set during the Cold War or during the time of massive nuclear arms build up. The story begins in the small nation of the Grand Duchy of Fenwick which has detached itself from the world for nearly six centuries. The country is in need of money and they come up with a plan to get the money by going to war with the United States. Even though they plan to lose the Grand Duchy of Fenwick becomes the most powerful country in the world by the end of the book. I find it scary that the USA will take a declaration of war from another country as a joke even if the country is very small. I also find it scary how guys dressed as medieval knights are able to invade the USA and get away with only one casualty I mean they brought bow and arrows to a gunfight (i would have thought that trained people with guns would be able to handle a very very small army) I find it strange that a bomb that has the power to destroy mankind was just being left alone on a table in an unguarded office building. I think its funny how a small country was able to beat the US and destroy their reputation as the most powerful nation in the world in just a matter of hours. This story raises many themes and messages. Like Freedom and how freedom is never free and when you win freedom you get more responsibilities than you would if you had lost freedom, Victory and how when you win something you gain more responsibilities- like caring for the loser or “with great power comes great responsibility” and stuff like that- than you would if you had lost. Also with Patriotism vs. Humanitarianism and how people like nuclear scientist or even soldiers have to choose between fighting/helping their country by killing people in order to save people. Also how Dr. Kokintz has to decide whether or not he should betray the United States for the greater good of the world. I think that Wibberley sees mankind as being naturally good because of what he has the character Pierce say, “But the deepest force in any man is toward good” (205) Whereas Golding sees mankind as naturally bad as he shows his views in the book Lord of the Flies. And since these books were published 1 year apart I think that this would've been a big debate back in the day. One last message that I think this book shows is that sometimes the biggest problems comes from the smallest of places. But besides messages and themes I felt like the plot was very well thought out except for the end. I felt like Wibberley just got tired of the book in the last 60 pages and just decided to have Gloriana marry Tully to give the reader that happy ending. In conclusion I think that The Mouse that Roared is a funny and deep book and that anyone would be able to enjoy it.

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### **Alice says**

#### **Hysterically funny**

The minuscule Duchy of Grand Fenwick is suffering from a population explosion (4000 to 6000 people), financial woes (Their Pinot is being copied and undersold by a California Winery), and is no longer self sufficient after 600 years of existence. What to do? Declaring war on America is the only honorable decision.

Thus begins one of the funniest book series of the Cold War period. Made into a movie with Peter Sellers which is definitely worth viewing, the book still contains a lot more and gives a strong message. You will be laughing out loud, so reading in a private area is advised.

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### **Charles says**

I should give it 2 and a half stars. I didn't find it all that funny but it was well written. I'm just a very hard sell for humor.

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### **Van says**

The Mouse that Roared by Leonard Wibberley is a satirical novel about the Cold War. The plot centers on the fictional country of Grand Fenwick and the exploits of its inhabitants. In the story, Grand Fenwick is the world's smallest country. Yet, through the actions of a few devoted citizens it wins a war against the United States, captures the world's most powerful weapon, and eventually brings an end to the Cold War.

This book has several important attributes that make it enjoyable. First, is the surprising believability of the story. Though the places, characters, and even their actions are not realistic, the logic behind them is always solid and understandable within the context. In other words, despite the fact that the events themselves are generally preposterous it makes sense that one event would follow the next. There are not random left turns in this story like one might expect from a satire. Another great part of this book is that it is surprisingly thought provoking. It makes one think about where the power in the world is and where it should be. It also points out that there are many different, albeit less realistic, ways to solve conflicts. Arguably the best part of this book is that it is funny and does not feel like work to read.

Though overall a great story, the book does have several drawbacks. First, at some points it does get a little ridiculous and unbelievable. For instance, the idea that the U.S. government would make an air-raid drill for the entire east coast is simply preposterous, not to mention the coincidence that it occurred at the exact same time that the U.S. was "invaded" by Grand Fenwick. Furthermore, there is no chance that the world's most powerful bomb would be built and stored in an unguarded college laboratory. Second, I felt that the author did not do the greatest job of creating a climax in the story. It felt more like a slight ebb and flow than the dramatic build up of tension that tends to make a story more enjoyable. This might also have been caused by the fact that there was not really a main character, so it was a little harder to get absorbed into the story.

Despite having a few drawbacks, The Mouse that Roared is irrefutably a great book.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

I loved everything about this book, from the daring main character to the author's clever use of wit and humor. I'll be seeing the film soon and I hope it can live up to the book! :)

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### **Jasmine says**

this is a really fun book, really good I recommend it. It was written as a serial and you can tell when you read it because it feels like dispatches in a newspaper. But it is also really well thought out, there aren't the type of plot holes you would expect in a book of this kind.

On the other hand it does read as dated which is weird since in theory it is not at all dated. But it is as good as the play.

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### Ron says

A tiny European principality, no bigger than some moderate farms, feels slighted by the marketing strategy of an American vinter, invades New York and defeats the United States at the height of the Cold War.

The story is so absurd that it can't be anything but a brilliant political satire. Written in 1955 it uses the general madness of nuclear deterrent, global fiscal policies and the political uncertainties and moral certainties which haunted the world at that time to deliver a scathing as well as hilarious commentary on contemporary international relations.

Grand Fenwick declares war on an enemy they have no intention to defeat in order to receive financial assistance from a magnanimous victor.

The United States create a weapon which will wipe out global civilization as a deterrent to someone else creating the weapon.

Their loss of said weapon enables serious peace talks.

Some of it seems naive and old-fashioned today, even so the text retains a certain charm.

The first of the Grand Fenwick novels was refreshingly direct and disarmingly absurd. Unfortunately, Wibberley's sequels were never able to achieve the same effect.

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### Mal Warwick says

Maybe it's a mistake to reread books I loved as a kid. Recently, I've done that with several—and found myself disappointed. Just now I've had a similar (if less extreme) experience with a 1955 bestseller about nuclear madness, *The Mouse That Roared*, by the Irish-American writer Leonard Wibberley. The book was the first in a series of five comic novels, but it made a bigger splash four years later when Peter Sellers starred in a popular film adaptation of the same name. And that may be the problem I had in reading the book: I kept seeing Sellers' face on several of the key characters in the story. (He played multiple characters in the film. More famously, Sellers was Chief Inspector Clouseau in the *Pink Panther* films.) I remember having laughed hysterically when I read the book at the age of 14 or so. But Sellers overacted as usual, and the film was less satisfying.

Here's the story . . . Nestled in the Alps is a diminutive principality known as the Duchy of Grand Fenwick. Its 6,000 people live in portions of three valleys that together are five miles long and three miles wide.

Founded in 1370 by a small group of English knights who broke away from the army they were serving, the Duchy has been independent ever since. Its sole source of income is the sale of Pinot Grand Fenwick, a wine that is prized by connoisseurs throughout the world. Unfortunately, a winery in California is now marketing an inferior wine called Pinot Grand Enwick, using a label that is otherwise identical to that of the real thing. So, the livelihood of the people of the Duchy is now threatened—and the only way the 22-year-old Duchess and her advisers can see to put a stop to the ripoff and raise more revenue is . . . get this . . . to declare war on the United States and lose. Since the US is always generous with the nations it vanquishes, the Duchess figures they'll come out ahead.

Unfortunately, the United States doesn't take the Duchy's declaration of war seriously—until the little country's two-dozen-man expeditionary force invades New York City. In fact, it's only several days later, once the Fenwickians have kidnapped the nation's top nuclear scientist, the four-star general who heads US civil defense, and four New York cops, that the US government even figures out it's at war. And to the chagrin of the Duchess and her advisers, the Duchy of Grand Fenwick didn't lose. It won.

So it goes.

If you're interested in a more recent comic novel that's funnier as well as more timely, look to Carl Hiaasen or Christopher Buckley. Hiaasen's *Razor Girl* is reviewed at "Reality TV, African rodents, the roach patrol." My review of *The Relic Master* by Christopher Buckley is "An irreligious take on Catholic history." I found both books hilarious, as I did others that both authors have written.

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### **Vivienne says**

I had read this classic Cold War satire when I was a teenager while the Cold War was still ongoing. At the time it provided light relief to what were real fears of nuclear war. So it was fun to revisit when it was chosen as the February selection for our reading group.

We all enjoyed it and discussed the issues the story highlighted and the historical background. While written sixty years ago it still worked well and provided plenty of comedy though in the time since the United States had certainly abandoned its policy of not invading small countries. It is good to hear that many of the author's works are now being made available in ebook format to be discovered by new readers.

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### **Kyle says**

This book is hilarious. Unfortunately it's also out of print, and so difficult to track down. Luckily I managed to find a copy in a local used book store, and I read it very quickly.

I first heard of the movie version of this book many years ago when I was still in high school, and a friend told me about this movie where a small nation invades America and wins, even though they only had spears and things, because nobody took them seriously. I thought it sounded funny, but she didn't know the name and neither did I, so this slipped from my memory entirely.

Until six months ago, when I was looking for a book to suggest for book club and I turned to my favorite resource, Nancy Pearl and her book, *Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason* (which I have used to find a number of fantastic and enjoyable books to read for myself and for others). One book caught my eye, and reminded me of my friend's story from high school, so I added it to the list. In fact, the only thing that stopped me from recommending it was finding out that it was out of print and people were only willing to sell their copies for quite a bit of money.

That said, this book is hilarious, but it's also an entertaining story about war, international policy, and wine. This was obviously written in the 50's or 60's, and was apparently a satire and commentary on the Cold War, so I wish that I was more informed about those issues. Unfortunately, I'm not, but I was still able to get a lot

out of the book, and though some chapters slowed down, as a whole, the book moved pretty fast. Some of the major characters were underdeveloped, but the central tenant, that we need to take care of the human race before we figure out a way to protect our own country, resonated with me, and can still resonate with lots of people. I would definitely recommend this book to anybody who can find it.

(view spoiler)

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I haven't seen the film or read any of the sequels, but I'd be interested in doing so. It was a lot of fun and a relatively quick read, and I think people should try to read this book at some point, because it's both funny and it has something to say.

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### **Beverly says**

A silly look at what would happen if the smallest country in the world took on the U.S. They want the U.S. to beat them so we could pour money into their economy and help them beef up their country, along the lines of the Marshall Plan.

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### **Benjamin Wallace says**

Just as I suspected. Peter Sellers was not in this book.

Stick to the movie.

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### **Christopher Roth says**

Having only dimly remembered seeing the movie long long ago, and having never read anything by Wibberley other than *Encounter near Venus*, a strange H.G. Wells ripoff-I-mean-tribute, for children (now an out-of-print rarity), which haunted me after I read it in grade school, I was surprised at how genuinely witty it is. I may pick up some of the other "Mouse" novels if I come across them.

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### **Bettie? says**

Film trailer

The story reminds me of the independence of a suburb of London, also a film (black and white) - any clues to the title anyone?

LATER - when walking my long-nosed, hairy thing in the woods, it came to me *Passport to Pimlico*

*Blurb - Mark McDonnell and Steven McNicoll's dramatisation of Leonard Wibberley's famous comic novel. It is 1956, and the Cold War is at its chilliest. But one European country is blissfully detached from the struggles of the Super Powers. The Duchy of Grand Fenwick and is just five miles long and three miles wide. Under the benign rule of Grand Duchess Gloriana it is a rural idyll almost untouched by the twentieth century, and happy to remain so. But its economy is entirely dependent on the export of a famously exquisite wine. So when this vital trade is threatened by an unscrupulous foreign rival, it's time for action. Gloriana - a wise head on young shoulders - proposes a solution long recognised as acceptable to all nations - that is, to declare war on their much richer enemy, lose, then sit back and wait for the inevitable billions in post-war aid to roll in. So, led by the valiant Tully Bascomb, the twenty men-at-arms that make up the army of Grand Fenwick strap on their chain mail, dust off their longbows, and set sail to wage a deliberately hopeless war on... the United States of America. The only problem is that no one has told Tully that he's meant to lose - and as a result of his remarkable escapades, Gloriana bizarrely finds herself the most powerful political leader in Europe...*

Gloriana ..... Julie Austin  
Tully ..... Mark McDonnell  
Mountjoy ..... Crawford Logan  
Sec. of State ..... Lou Hirsch  
Kokintz ..... Simon Tait  
Will ..... Jamie Newall  
Benter ..... Steven McNicoll

ProducerPatrick Rayner

Leonard Wibberley (1915-1983) was a prolific author and journalist. He wrote over fifty books for children, and several historical novels. But he is best remembered for The Mouse That Roared, first serialised in the Saturday Evening Post in 1954

Broadcast on:  
BBC Radio 4, 9:00pm Saturday 22nd May

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### **Henry Avila says**

The tiny English speaking Duchy of Grand Fenwick, located in the Alps, may not seem very important. Just three miles wide and five long. But to the proud inhabitants, all 6,000 of them, it's still paradise on Earth. Founded in 1370 by an English knight Roger Fenwick (Sir Roger if you valued your life in his presence!). Trouble begins when their only export Pinot wine is threatened by a copycat from California (I understand a very inferior product). Grand Duchess Gloriana XII, direct descendant of Roger... Sir Roger, calls a meeting of her Privy Council. At stake, the very existence of the Grand Duchy. The 22 year old ruler and very pretty says her loyal subjects, (and the few visitors to her country), needs help desperately. What to do? This being in the the Cold War, Tully Bascomb the chief forest ranger and son of the wisest man in the realm, proposes war with the United States! After the two political leaders Count Mountjoy and Mr. Benter recover their senses, and all calm returns. Bascomb, (has some explaining to do), says to send a Declaration of War to the U.S. They will be quickly defeated and showered with millions of dollars in foreign aid. But when a State Department clerk sees the document, he has a hearty laugh thinking it's a joke and promptly loses the paper. Waiting many weeks, Grand Fenwick feels insulted by being totally ignored. Assembling a mighty army of 23 men led by Tully, chartering the brig Endeavor and sailing from Marseilles, they land in a deserted New

York City! The Expeditionary force feels uneasy. An air raid drill keeps everyone in the subways and at home. Dr. Kokintz, inventor of the "Q Bomb", the latest and most powerful nuclear weapon, works at Columbia University. Bascomb decides to march there. Wearing shining armor, they meet some men wearing clothes that cover everything, (a decontamination squad), the Americans think the "Knights" are men from Mars, just off flying saucers! Fleeing when ray guns are fired, arrows actually and run for their lives. Soon Tully's men capture Dr. Kokintz, if they can get back to Grand Fenwick with the Dr. and the little bomb, that small nation will be the most important in the world. Imagine that!

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### **Wendy says**

I quite liked it.

I'm not an expert on satire, and to be honest, it generally goes over my head. I did get a few chuckles out of it, though--it's not exactly Wodehouse, but it was still delightfully ridiculous at some points, appealing to my sense of humor. I also appreciated the book's morality. It aligned very much with my own, naïve as it may seem. I wish this would have happened in real life, in fact.

Not for everyone, as with anything, but a good, quick, worthy read.

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### **Colleen says**

Hurray! There's more of these! I admit to myself I was skeptical, hopeful but skeptical. How funny or topical or still relevant today could 1955 Cold War satire be? And it turns out very to all three and I think only shows its age in a few spots. It's a nice merge of fantasy and reality--the possibility I think of a tiny country comprised of English longbowmen mercenaries who claimed that territory in the 14th century because no one else wanted it, where they still use long bows and wear heraldic outfits perhaps is stretching it a bit, but the author merges them pretty nicely with occupied defense administrators and junior ministers, because no one takes them seriously when they declare war on the US.

Why? Their one commodity, wine--and the Grand Fenwickians take wine very seriously since their two political parties are formed over whether they should water it down some--has been ruined by an American winery selling a cheap knockoff with a deceptive label. When outraged protests and letters are either ignored or used by the unscrupulous winery for its benefit, there's only one choice left--war. So they send an archer & mace warparty to the US, and when they embark in New York, they find the streets deserted to a civil defense drill. The scenes of them wandering around the streets, creeped out by the lack of people, I thought were some of the best in the book.

Through a series of lucky coincidences, they find themselves in the possession of a new insanely powerful weapon (basically will wipe out continents and poison the earth for all time), they kidnap a few soldiers and policemen and sail back for home. The smallest country in the world is now the most powerful, and all the world's leaders come toadying up to Duchess Gloriana XII, the 22 year old ruler, who with her advisors, has a plan.

Will definitely read the next four.

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## Toe says

### Objective Summary

The Duchy of Grand Fenwick achieved its independence circa 1402 and remained free ever since. Five miles long by three miles wide, it is nestled near France and Switzerland in the Alps. Its only export is a fine wine, known as Pinot Grand Fenwick. With a population of about 5,000 people, Grand Fenwick's technological progress and economy stagnated over the centuries. To feed its people, a debate emerged as to whether the Grand Fenwickians should dilute their wine with 10% water. The Dilutionists argue that diluting solves their economic woes; the Anti-Dilutionists counter that succumbing to the temptation would delay immediate problems at the cost of the long-term viability of the product and the Duchy. Making matters worse, a California vineyard sold a cheap knockoff called Grand Enwick, further cutting into Grand Fenwick's profits. Grand Fenwick, led by the beautiful but young Duchess Gloriana XII, protested the California vineyard's infringement, but to no avail. The tiny Duchy decided to declare war on the United States in the hope that the U.S. would spend treasure rebuilding Grand Fenwick. But the man in the U.S. Department of State who received the declaration of war took it as a joke.

Tully Bascomb, a daring Grand Fenwickian, led an expeditionary force of about two dozen longbowmen to invade the U.S. The plan was to arrive, be defeated, then let the U.S. rebuild Grand Fenwick after its surrender. Bascomb and company chartered a small ship and sailed to New York City, which was effectively deserted as the entire population hid underground during a nuclear bomb warning drill. Bascomb and company, using 14th century military technology (longbows, chainmail, bucklers, and a makeshift battering ram crafted out of a NYC tree sprouting along a sidewalk), successfully broke into Columbia University where the world's foremost expert on nuclear bombs, Dr. Kokintz, had just completed his quadium bomb. The Q-bomb, much more powerful than an atomic or hydrogen bomb, could destroy 2 million square miles of earth's surface, and would likely cause volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and the release of carbon fourteen, a deadly gas that would annihilate all life it contacted. Bascomb and company capture Dr. Kokintz and the only Q-bomb in the world. They egress successfully, capturing a general and four policemen, but losing one of their own men, on the way out of New York City and back to Grand Fenwick.

Now in possession of the only Q-bomb, Dr. Kokintz, a U.S. General, and four U.S. policemen, Grand Fenwick is suddenly the most powerful country in the world. Gloriana decides to keep the Q-bomb deep in the basement of her castle. No one can risk invading Grand Fenwick because they could detonate the bomb and destroy all of Europe and Russia. Grand Fenwick uses its powerful possession to create a League of Little Nations in which 20 small countries (Grand Fenwick, Norway, Sweden, Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, El Salvador, etc.) force the bigger countries to disarm all nuclear weapons and submit to inspections by Dr. Kokintz and other scientists from the little countries. World peace is attained, the prisoners held by Grand Fenwick are released, and Gloriana marries Tully Bascomb. The book ends with Dr. Kokintz discovering that his Q-bomb is a dud, but he tells no one because he loves the peace it has brought.

### Subjective Thoughts

It's a fun, funny, and short read. The plot holds together well for such absurdity (two dozen men wielding 14th century weapons successfully invade the United States). Wibberley provides plausible reasons for the actions taken by all parties involved. And the message of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament is

laudable, if naïve or impossible. It was interesting to peak at a piece of popular fiction from 1954 casting America in a positive light (Grand Fenwick assumes that the U.S., uniquely, would help rebuild its vanquished foes) even when poking fun at it for treating its wives “cruelly” as “equals.”

### Memorable Quotes

“[H]e learned but three things in two years at Oxford. The first, on which he placed the greatest value, was that “Yea” might be turned into “Nay” and vice versa if a sufficient quantity of wordage was applied to the matter. The second was that in any argument, the victor is always right, and the third that though the pen is mightier than the sword, the sword speaks louder and stronger at any given moment.”

“Because the United States has money and to spare does not make it any less wrong to trick some of that money out of her. To rob the millionaire is as dishonorable a thing as to rob the widow.”

“If it is a choice between honor and want, between spiritual and physical survival, then the material things must come first. Man did not discover he had a soul until he was well fed, with prospects of that condition continuing for some time. Hungry people cannot afford honor and hungry nations cannot indulge in too nice manners.”

“To my way of thinking neither men nor nations can survive without keeping their self-respect.”

“In time of war, conscience is put aside, and it used to be kept aside, at least in so far as the conquered were concerned. It used to be a case of the spoils for the victors and woe for the conquered. War had some sense then. But nowadays we suffer from the mistake of being half civilized. We turn barbarian during war as a matter of patriotism, and civilized when the war is over as a matter of humanitarianism. We first kill off as many of the enemy as we can by as efficient a method as we can devise, and then save as many of them as we are able with all the energy and wealth at our disposal. War, in fact, has become an atrocious waste of time.”

“Do not condemn the scientist, young man. Condemn rather the laymen of all nations who control the scientists; the laymen who cannot agree among themselves and as a result compel us to play the part of destroyer. War existed before science. The crime which is done now is that war has made a tool and slave of science, and man’s knowledge, painfully and laboriously compiled, is made the instrument of man’s destruction.”

“Whoever has the most weight in the world receives the most consideration. That is the one international law which is recognized by all.”

“Americans are all cruel to their wives. They treat them as equals. They refuse to make any decisions without consulting them. They load them up with worries they should keep to themselves. And when there isn’t enough money, they send them out to work instead of earning more by their own efforts. Some of them even make their wives work so they can go to college. They are not men at all. They are men-women. And their wives are women-men. If I am to marry, I want a husband who will be a man and let me be a woman. I’ll be able to handle him better that way.”

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**Melki says**

**"There's only one method of getting money from another nation that is recognized by tradition as honorable," Tully said, solemnly.**

**"What is it?" asked the Duchess . . .**

**"War," he said.**

**"War!" echoed Gloriana, in astonishment.**

**"War," repeated Tully. "We could declare war on the United States."**

The tiny Duchy of Grand Fenwick is hurting for money. Their plan is to start a war with the U.S., lose, and then receive some subsidy from the American government.

So, here they come to sort-of-conquer us, twenty-three warriors, armed with **long bows, spears, and maces**.

And, strange as it may seem, their cockamamie declaration of war may accidentally lead to lasting peace.

This was one of the funniest books I've read in a long time. I've never seen the movie, but Peter Sellers playing three roles? I am SO there!

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