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turned to a form of Fourierist messianism and produced a mystical journal entitled the *Divinarian*. He then developed a reputation for interrupting political meetings and for brawling, leading to being arrested on numerous occasions. This led to him being placed in the Colney Hatch asylum, where he died in

May 1854 at the age of only 32. Gregory rather curiously completes his study with a chapter on the relationship between revolutionary radicalism and insanity, with other examples of radicals who went insane. He concludes however that 'the newspaper evidence suggests that Duncan was not a man wrongfully incarcerat-

ed for mere eccentricity or political radicalism'. As a study of the Chartist milieu and the enthusiasms of mid century radicals, Gregory's book is unsurpassable and probably the most detailed study since Goodway's 1982 study of London Chartism. It is a fascinating read.

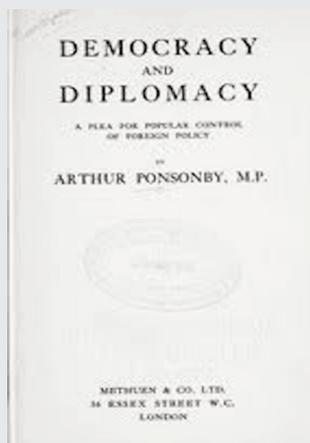
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Arthur Ponsonby – Diplomacy and Democracy (1915)

Arthur Ponsonby was the son of Queen Victoria's private secretary and a radical Liberal MP from 1908. At the time of the outbreak of World War I, he chaired the Liberal party's Foreign Affairs Committee. He was the leader of a small group of radical MPs who spoke out against the British declaration of war against Germany. The failure of the radical backbenchers and the discovery of the secret agreement with France which the Foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey had entered into led to the establishment of the Union of the Democratic Control of Foreign Policy (UDC) initiated by Ponsonby and Charles Trevelyan, the junior Minister who had resigned from Asquith's government. This also involved Ramsay MacDonald and Edmund Morel. He was an active member of the 1917 club, which supported the February 1917 revolution and in 1918 joined the Labour Party, being re-elected as an MP in 1922. As junior foreign minister in MacDonald's 1924 Government Ponsonby introduced the constitutional requirement that no treaty could be brought into effect until parliament had had the opportunity to debate it – a small but critical victory in the fight for parliamentary control over foreign policy. In 1928, he published *Falsehood in Wartime*, which contained 'an assortment of lies circulating throughout the nations during the Great War'. In the 1929-1931 government he held junior ministerial positions in the Dominions and Transport departments before joining the cabinet as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Between 1931 and 1935, he was Labour leader in the House of Lords. He was active in the Peace Pledge Union and the National Peace Council. He opposed Labour joining Churchill's war coalition in 1940, and argued for negotiation rather than bombing to end

the war.

"Democracy in its true sense, that is to say the whole people, must rise to its great responsibility, and must, by knowledge and understanding, by control and guidance, utilise its power to secure a far higher degree of social well-being in our own land, the advancement of international unity and mutual comprehension among nations, and the extension of the best elements of civilization throughout the world.



"Democracy must not be deliberately prevented, as it is now, from participation in one of the most important functions of government. The people must tear the bondage from their mouths, and prepare themselves; so that, seeing and understanding, they may help in the councils of the world with a better chance of success than their Governments, their statesmen and their diplomatists, whom they have allowed too long to exercise, behind closed doors, the sole management of affairs which concern their national existence.

"The stuffy hothouse atmosphere of diplomacy must be cleansed by the fresh air of publicity. The spiders of intrigue which have woven undisturbed their tangled webs in secret must be chased out of darkness into the open light of day. Treaties that now lie forgotten as mouldy parchments on dusty shelves must be converted into living instruments of binding obligation.

"But, first and foremost, there must be a general acceptance of the fact that statesmen, however astute they may be, can never establish a permanent, enlightened and pacific relationship between nations, unless they have at their back the co-operation, the approval and the intense and determined desire of the great mass of the people."

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