GLIMPSES
OF
WORLD
HISTORY
★
By the same Author

RECENT ESSAYS AND WRITINGS
LETTERS FROM A FATHER TO HIS DAUGHTER
WHITHER INDIA?
A WINDOW IN PRISON AND PRISON-LAND
INDIA AND THE WORLD
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
THE UNITY OF INDIA
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

GLIMPSES OF WORLD HISTORY

BEING FURTHER LETTERS TO HIS DAUGHTER, WRITTEN IN PRISON, AND CONTAINING A RAMBLING ACCOUNT OF HISTORY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

WITH 50 MAPS BY
J. F. HORRABIN

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FOREWORD

Glimpses of World History was written in different prisons in India during the three years between October 1930 and August 1933. The author was serving sentences of imprisonment inflicted on him for his part in the struggle for Indian freedom and his opposition to British domination of his country.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took advantage of his enforced rest, his "leisure and detachment", as he calls it, to write on world history. He wrote it in the form of letters to his young daughter, whose education he had little opportunity of supervising owing to his periodic absences in prison.

These letters were gathered together when Pandit Nehru had a brief respite, prior to his last period of two years in gaol after being arrested once again on the 12th February 1934 and sentenced for "sedition". His sister, the Hon. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, now Minister for Local Self-Government and Public Health in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, arranged for their publication in book form as "Glimpses of World History" in 1934.

An apt title. It says very much what the book is. The first Indian edition has been sold out and the book has been out of print for some time. However, it has not circulated much outside India.

Pandit Nehru resumed his active life in public affairs after his release in 1936. The period since then has been one full of activity and responsibility and, unfortunately, of domestic bereavement. In India events have developed with speed and intensity. Europe and the World have witnessed cataclysms and vast changes. The author has been both a spectator and participant in these great developments full of meaning for the future of civilization; for Pandit Nehru is one of those rare personalities in public life who combines intense activity with vision and detachment. During his European travels he saw some of the recent events of the Western world at first hand. He has been in intimate contact with the struggles in China and Spain.

The present volume is in many respects a new book. It has been revised, to a considerable extent re-written, and brought up to date to the end of 1938 by the author himself. Though this work has been done out of prison, it lacks none of the objectivity of the original work. It is enriched by greater experience and knowledge.