



What is the stand of America's largest minority group in today's warswept world? We asked Richard Wright—and here is his thoughtful answer:

IN THE present world struggle the American Negro is allied with the anti-Axis powers. To put it bluntly, while there are many things wrong with American democracy as far as the Negro is concerned, his wrongs *will not and cannot* be righted by Hitler, Mussolini or Hirohito.

We are fighting to defeat those enemies. But we must also fight to preserve the kind of America where the struggle for the extension of democracy can be taken up with renewed vigor when our enemies are crushed.

Still there lurks a danger to our war effort: we may accept too readily a unity built upon the suppression of those who petition for a redress of authentic grievances. We forget that it is not the oppressed who produce the best warriors for freedom.

Japanese agents have been active among Negroes in many of the Black Belts of our large cities; they *should be and are* being driven out. But the best way for America to insure against any Negro listening to the pipe-dreams of treacherous Japanese agents is to see that the Black Belts are eliminated. To end the evils depicted in these pages is a measure of national defense. Let us be done with evasions and go forward to win the war, doing those things that will make our nation strong, unafraid and whole-hearted in its dedication to victory.

Richard Wright

Coronet

APRIL, 1942

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