

justified hopes for peace that Russia, Britain and the United States should not have fatally conflicting aims. The necessity and the instruments to deal with it fortunately developed together.

Tribal chiefs have ridden into Yalta with their retinues. Traders and adventurers have rowed in, or drifted in under rude square sails. This was history of a sort. But the history made there this month is the history of the meeting of men from the ends of the world, of an attempt at reconciling ideas in many respects far apart. Perfection could not result. Beginnings never do yield perfection. It is the beginnings, just the same, that are often most vividly remembered, as will be this discussion in which the man with the pipe, the man with the cigar and the man with the cigarette-holder took the leading parts, beside the waters that the Scythians knew and the Phoenicians navigated.

## HISTORY AT YALTA

Yalta, with its mean January temperature of 40 degrees, its average monthly rainfall of one and one-half inches, its backdrop of low mountains clothed in cypress forests, vineyards and groves of mulberries, figs, olives and pomegranates; Yalta, battered by Nazi villainy; Yalta, known anciently to soldiers and traders, to Scythians, Greeks, Huns, Goths and Mongols; balmy Yalta, dreamy Yalta, bloody Yalta, turned out to be a good guess for the site of the Crimean Conference. Yalta is described in every mention as historic. The whole Crimea is historic. Over a period of twenty-six centuries and more it has witnessed the agreements and dissensions of mankind—the agreements hopefully entered into, the dissensions fatally intruding. Human nature at its worst and best has flowered and struggled at Yalta, with the warm breezes coming from the south over a tideless sea and the cold ones descending from the stern fortresses of the north. Ghosts walk in Yalta, both beautiful and foul.

Nevertheless, we must not be carried away by the past. The past has seen nothing like the meeting at Yalta this month. In no previous war, hardly in any previous decade, could there have been such a meeting. Though distinguished characters arrived on battleships the transoceanic plane was essential. But the plane, the radio, all the apparatus of swift motion and communication, were not mere mechanisms making a beginning of world unity possible. We can think of them also as the expressions of the human desire for such unity. Without them it would still have been essential to any