Emily Greene Balch: Crusader For Peace and Justice

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Abstract
Emily Greene Balch was the second American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize and worked throughout her lifetime to better the world for her fellow humans. As one who was shaped by the Progressive Movement in both character and action, she has nonetheless never received the historical spotlight given to other workers of her time such as Jane Addams. A survivor of protest against war, she has been virtually ignored despite her many activities and writings on behalf of peace, suffrage, and social reform. Even Mercedes M. Randall, who wrote the only biography of Balch, fails to fully examine her impact upon the peace movements of the 20th century. It is for this reason that this author proposes an examination of Emily Greene Balch's work and influence that she had upon the national and international peace movements during her lifetime. Balch had great interest in the areas of social justice and suffrage but peace ultimately became the major focus of her attention. Putting Balch into perspective in the area of peace requires an intensive look at her life and work.

Subject(s)
Balch, Emily Greene, 1867-1961.

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Emily Greene Balch (January 8, 1867-January 9, 1961) was born in Boston, the daughter of Francis V. and Ellen (Noyes) Balch. Hers was a prosperous family, her father being a successful lawyer, at one time secretary to United States Senator Charles Sumner. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, with headquarters in Geneva. This post she relinquished in 1922, but when the League was hard pressed financially in 1934, she again acted, without salary, as international secretary for a year and a half. It was to this League that Miss Balch donated her share of the Nobel Peace Prize money. During the period between the wars, Miss Balch put her talents at the disposal of governments, international organizations, and commissions of various types. Balch, Emily Greene (1867–1961)Second American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, whose name is synonymous with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, an organization she helped direct in its formative years. This post she held from 1913 until 1922, when she relinquished it temporarily. After the First World War, she served as the League's executive secretary.
Gwinn illuminates Balch's ideas on negotiated peace, internationalism, global citizenship, and diversity while providing pointed insight into her multifaceted career, philosophy, and temperament. Detailing Balch's academic research on Slavic immigration and her arguments for greater cultural and monetary cohesion in Europe, Gwinn shows how Balch's scholarship and teaching reflected her philosophical development. As a Nobel Peace Prize laureate for her work with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Balch is an important figure in our nation's history.