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was inaugurated by blinding promises, and consummated by the creation of an armed force, subject only to the arbitrary and fallible principle which rules it. This policy has at least the merit of being always ready to choose the drug of death, or the opium of dreams, as the most convenient for the time being. It has the double advantage of being at once certain of its effects and capable of being substituted in a moment. It can do no more harm than to divert all eyes from the path on which the future is leading.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Conduct of Life," 1841.