

State of the union

[M]en have to substitute purpose for tradition: and that is, I believe the profoundest change that has ever taken place in human history. We can no longer treat life as something that has trickled down to us. We have to deal with it deliberately, devise its social organization, alter its tools, formulate its method, educate and control it. In endless ways we put intention where custom has reigned. We break up routines, make decisions, choose our ends, select our means.

Walter Lippmann, Drift and Mastery [1914]