IRVING BABBIT (1865-1933)



A democracy, the realistic observer is forced to conclude, is likely to be idealistic in its feelings about itself, but imperialistic about its practice.

- ◆Um dos expoentes do neoconservadorismo norte-americano. Professor em Harvard, destaca-se, nos anos vinte, como representante do chamado *new humanism*.
- ◆The humanist, then, as opposed to the humanitarian, is interested in the perfecting of the individual rather than in schemes for the elevation of mankind as a whole; and although he allows largely for sympathy, he insists that it be disciplined and tempered by judgment.
- •Porque if democracy means simply the attempt to eliminate the qualitative and selective principle in favor of some general will, based in turn on a theory of natural rights, it may prove to be only a form of the vertigo of the abyss.

Rousseau and Romanticism, Boston, 1919. Democracy and Leadership, Boston, 1924. On Being Creative, Boston, 1932.

Example Kirk (1956), pp. 431 segs.; - The Conservative Reader, pp. 451 segs..