

**THE MAZE OF THE  
NATIONS AND  
THE WAY OUT**

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The Maze of the Nations and the Way Out by Gaius Glenn Atkins

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By  
**Gaius Glenn Atkins, D.D.**

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# The Maze of the Nations

*AND THE WAY OUT*

By

GAIUS GLENN ATKINS

*Minister of the Central Congregational  
Church, Providence*



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## Introduction

**S**INCE the Church Peace Union first asked that monographs on some aspect or other of world peace be submitted by the clergy of American churches the whole question of international peace has been called upon to adjust itself to the interposition of an immense fact—such an engagement of major European nations as has not been known since the time of Napoleon, and such a kind of war as the world has never known. The war of 1914 is a flaming bar of judgment before which, whether we will or no, we are all being summoned.

Our dominant forces and tendencies, the quality and power of our ideals, our social and governmental institutions, the very bases of society itself are all called to answer under a very ancient statute,—“By their fruits ye shall know them.”

There is no great region of human interest where we can go on without taking into account what the war is teaching us. Least of all can we go on in our peace propaganda

without readjusting many of our conclusions, estimating anew the value of much upon which we have heretofore depended, and taking a new account of the potentiality of forces which only yesterday we fondly dreamed had well-nigh burned themselves out.

The first question which the advocates of peace as a world policy must ask themselves is, What is this present war teaching us, and what effect must it have upon our propaganda?

It is too soon to hope for any final answer to such questions as these, but some things are already beyond debate. Many of the arguments upon which the militarist has depended as he sought to secure popular approval for his programme have been shot to pieces.

This war is teaching us first of all that humanity has not lost its fighting edge. The hopes and fears of those who believed that our old fighting instincts were dead or so blunted as to have lost their primitive and terrible power are alike disappointed: we are offered from day to day proofs that men generally are capable of displaying a finer and more desperate kind of courage than ever before. If we are depending upon the decadence of the fighting spirit to secure international peace,