

**GERMAN WORLD  
POLICIES (DER DEUTSCHE  
GEDANKE IN DER WELT)**

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German world policies (Der deutsche gedanke in der welt) by Paul Rohrbach

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# GERMAN WORLD POLICIES

(DER DEUTSCHE GEDANKE IN DER WELT)

BY  
PAUL ROHRBACH

TRANSLATED BY  
DR. EDMUND VON MACH  
AUTHOR OF "WHAT GERMANY WANTS"

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## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

PAUL ROHRBACH has been for several years the most popular author of books on politics and economics in Germany. He is a constructive optimist, but at the same time an incisive critic of those defects of character and political conditions which keep his people, as he thinks, from playing the great part in the world to which they are called.

In an age of materialism Rohrbach is an idealist, albeit a practical one. The military conquests of the world, he claims, count for little, and the moral conquests for everything. To make moral conquests, a nation must clean house, and divest itself of every vestige of a reactionary past. Freedom and democracy are the watchwords of the present, and a nation which claims its share in the shaping of the future of the civilization of mankind, must act according to them, at home as well as abroad.

Germany is the youngest of the world powers and the most thriving, but she has not yet found herself, so to speak. She is, however, capable also of being the most powerful, and of taking her place by the side of the

Anglo-Saxon races, whose breadth of vision she should make her own.

In this book, which was written in 1912, Dr. Rohrbach bids his countrymen stop and think. Germany has grown strong in spite of historical difficulties and geographical obstructions. If the character of her people deserves it, and if the Germans know what they want, and learn how to adapt themselves to the altered conditions, this growth will continue.

The book is very intimate, and even the smallest defects are pointed out without palliation. Disconnected passages, therefore, may easily be made to convey the impression that the author is deeply disappointed with his fellow-citizens; but the book as a whole proves that Paul Rohrbach is proud of being a German, and that he believes that Germany, with all its defects, offers greater promises of service for mankind than any other country.

Rohrbach was no prophet of a future war, for in his heart he did not believe the danger, which was threatening Germany, to be so terrible as his pen at times pictured it. For this very reason a translation of his book is most timely. The reader is taken back two years, and sees how the future of Germany and the individual duties of her people then appeared to a thoughtful German and, through him, to hundreds of thousands of his countrymen. The reader will find no plans of aggression,



no desires for territorial conquests, and no suggestions of unethical dealings with unsuspecting neighbors. From the first page to the last the author expresses his firm belief that morality and fair dealing are the basis on which alone success is built.

And now after two years, Dr. Rohrbach's pamphlets and addresses are again the most widely read literature of Germany, while he himself is as firmly convinced as anybody that a most grievous wrong has been committed, but that Germany is innocent.

If this book is to give the foreign reader a true insight into the character of the German people and their aims, fears, and aspirations, it must be translated just as Dr. Rohrbach wrote it. The translator, therefore, has refused to be an editor and has refrained from amending, excising, or modifying even those passages in which Dr. Rohrbach has carried his criticism too far. Only those few paragraphs have been omitted in which the author illustrated his points with instances which every German recognized as having reference only to local conditions, but which to a foreign reader would have been unintelligible without an extensive commentary.

The title of the German book, *Der Deutsche Gedanke in der Welt*, is literally translated "The German Idea in the World." Since the German word *Gedanke* connotes a greater wealth of practical thoughts than the English

word *idea*, the title of the translation has been changed to "German World Policies."

This book probably inspired more Germans than any other book published since 1871, for everybody felt that it presented a generally true picture of the fatherland and indicated the paths which the Germans had resolved to follow.

EDMUND VON MACH.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.  
*December 10, 1914.*

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