

# **THE QUESTION OF ALSACE-LORRAINE**

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The question of Alsace-Lorraine by Jules Duhem & R. Stawell

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**JULES DUHEM & R. STAWELL**

**THE QUESTION OF  
ALSACE-LORRAINE**



**THE  
QUESTION OF ALSACE-LORRAINE  
1871-1914**

# THE QUESTION OF ALSACE-LORRAINE

BY

JULES DUHEM

TRANSLATED BY

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PREFACE<sup>1</sup>

A VITAL part of the French nation, comprising the departments of the Haut-Rhin and the Bas-Rhin, and the *arrondissements* of Metz, Thionville, Sarreguemines, Château-Salins, and Sarrebourg, with more than a million and a half of inhabitants, was organised as a Prussian dependency and placed in the hands of Count von Bismarck-Bohlen on the 21st August 1870. The Prussian General Staff carefully defined its limits, geographically and statistically, in September, 1870, and it was surrendered to the German Empire, after some modifications of the frontier, relating to Belfort and certain compensations, by Article I. of the Preliminary Clauses signed at Versailles on the 26th February 1871, and by Article I. of the Treaty of Peace signed at Frankfort on the 10th May 1871. This annexation was forced upon France. It was carried out against the express wish of the people of Alsace-Lorraine.

The history of the Question of Alsace-Lorraine, from 1871 to 1914, is full of instruction. The national spirit of France is subject to strange

<sup>1</sup>This review was published in French by the *Revue de Paris* (August-September), 1916, and by M. Felix Alcan, publisher (Paris, 1917).

fluctuations, but it grows stronger in hours of menace, such as the years 1875, 1887, 1905, 1908, 1911 and 1913. The people of Alsace-Lorraine resist discouragement better: the year 1900 marks the lowest point of their irreconcilable spirit. As for the Berlin Government, it has made a prodigious expenditure of persuasive and forcible means for their effectual absorption—notably from 1874 to 1891, and from 1911 to 1914.

What are the results of these efforts? Fifteen thousand natives of Alsace-Lorraine, deserters from the German Army, are fighting to-day in the French ranks. Hundreds of thousands have been imprisoned to prevent them from doing so. Several deputies in the Parlement of Strasburg have had to choose between imprisonment and the relinquishment of their seats. The military courts at Strasburg, Zabern, and Mulhouse are perpetually passing sentences. The French language is spoken in a provocative manner, according to the testimony of Colonel von Wrisberg himself. And the Imperial Parliament heard these unpalatable truths on the 28th October 1916, from the lips of the deputy Hauss, the representative of Haguenau. The annexation of Alsace-Lorraine brought with it its own punishment.

J. D.



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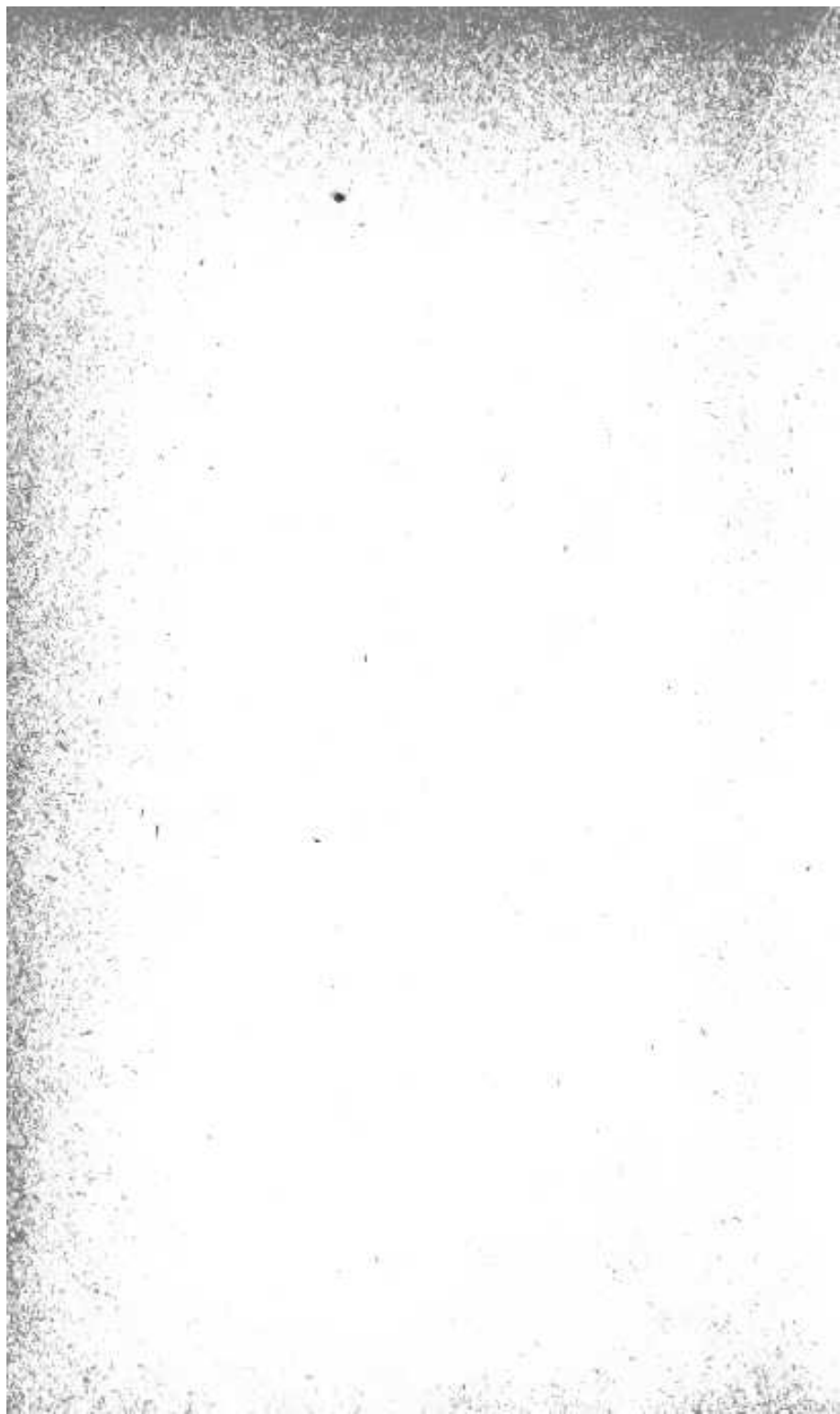
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**PART I**