

**THE WAR IN EUROPE,
ITS CAUSES
AND RESULTS**

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The war in Europe, its causes and results by Albert Bushnell Hart

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BY
ALBERT BUSHNELL HART

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TO THE
ASSOCIATION

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PREFACE

No excuse will be offered for the smallness of this book in comparison with the vastness of its subject. The author has felt a personal need of some knowledge of those conditions of Europe which bear upon the origin of the Great War of 1914. Thence it was a short road to the thought that other Americans might be interested in a brief but systematic statement of the resources, aims, and difficulties of the European powers; the manner in which they became involved in the war; and the probable results of the struggle to America and to the rest of the world.

The book is based first of all on personal acquaintance, either through travel or residence, with all the great and small countries at war or threatened with war, except Russia and the Scandinavian countries. Much in these pages results from studies begun thirty years ago in the universities of Freiburg and Berlin, and the *École des Sciences Politiques* in Paris. Additional data have been collected expressly for this volume.

I cannot expect to be free from errors of fact, though I have taken pains to verify statements that seemed likely to be questioned. Doubtless there are also mistakes of inference and deduction. At least it may be claimed that such as may be found in these pages do not arise from prejudice for or against any of the contestants; for I have spent happy days and formed friendships alike in Germany, Austria, France, England, and Servia.

The book is intended to be a study of facts, conditions and probable results, and not to be an argument. Upon many critical questions relating to the war, necessary evidence has not yet reached the world. Upon many others, where the facts are established, there is opportunity for honest differences of opinion. Upon few issues are the materials so abundant that a conclusion may be safely reached in the thick of the struggle. Whatever the faults of judgment, they are the author's own; the book has been written without aid or revision from others. The purpose is to treat the subject fairly and impartially. While sympathizing with all the peoples involved, there is one nation in favor of which I feel an unalterable partiality: it is the United States of America, which has her anxieties and interests also in the tremendous struggle.

ALBERT BUSHNELL HAET.

Cambridge, October 17, 1914.

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