

**GERMANISM AND
THE AMERICAN
CRUSADE**

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Germanism and the American Crusade by George D. Herron

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GEORGE D. HERRON

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BY
GEORGE D. HERRON
AUTHOR OF
THE MENACE OF PEACE
AND
WOODROW WILSON AND THE WORLD'S PEACE



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EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

An address I gave to the theological students of Geneva. It seemed to make much impression here, and I have thought the interpretation of America which I have made might be of use in America itself. It was given extempore, and then afterward written out from stenographic notes. I have kept the spoken form.

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I wish you could devise a way of getting it broadcast into the training camps.

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Europe—the world—human destiny for a long time—hangs in the balance. It is a terrible moment. Everything depends upon America, and there is no time to be lost.

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I

I WOULD be stupid indeed, and false to my faith in the cause of the Allies as well, were I either to deny or to ignore that this cause has never been so imperilled, nor the condition of Europe so precarious, as at the present moment. Russia, for whom France sacrificed so much, no longer numbers herself among the Allies. Her empire shattered, her momentary government in the hands of a German Socialism, Russia is now, for all practical purposes, co-working with Germany against the liberties of the world. With the release of the German and Austrian armies on the Russian front, and of the prisoners in Russia's hands, the Central Empires will have

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more than a million fresh soldiers to throw against Italy and France.

And the Allies have had to come to the defence of Italy: the barbarians are within her borders. German aerial wings, laden with maddest murder and destruction, will soon be dropping their burdens upon the babies and basilicas of Venice and Verona and Padua—upon the Padua wherein we Americans walk always softly, and with penitent hearts. And who knows what farther cities—cities sacred to the progress of Christ and of civilization—will also be rendered desolate, their children buried beneath demolished schools, their ancient arts and altars reduced to dust and ashes?

The Germans are in Italy, too, not because of their military superiority, but because of their comprehensive and pervasive propaganda among the Italian people—a propaganda supported by the intrigue and treachery of forces working for Italian disunion and denationalization. The mountain gates that

admitted the invaders to Italy were opened, alas! by traitor hands. And who can better sympathize with the Italian people than those of us who are proud of an American heritage and citizenship? We remember that we had our own Benedict Arnold in the darkest days of our War for Independence, and that Abraham Lincoln fought with treason, both covert and open, from the beginning to the end of our domestic struggle for national self-preservation.

It is true that the result has been the opposite of what Germany planned. The real Italy is now awake: the national soul of this people, to whom civilization owes so much, has once more asserted itself. It is as if Mazzini and Cavour and Garibaldi had returned from the dead. Against overwhelming odds, and with well-nigh miraculous endurance, with heroism that is epic and amazing, the Italian armies are holding back the invader until the Allies can come to their succor in adequate numbers.