

**THE WAR WEEK BY WEEK,  
AS SEEN FROM  
NEW YORK; BEING  
OBSERVATIONS FROM LIFE**

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The war week by week, as seen from New York; being observations from Life by Edward S. Martin

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**EDWARD S. MARTIN**

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The War  
Week by Week

*As Seen from  
New York*

Being Observations from  
*Life*

By  
Edward S. Martin

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## INTRODUCTION

**T**HE war in Europe caught the general American mind quite unprepared. Very few of us had given more than passing attention to the European situation. Most of us who thought about it at all, considered that though the factors that imperiled peace were obstinate and awkward, the cost of a great war and the disturbance attending it would be so enormous as to be prohibitive. So we had formed a habit of not taking first-class European war-clouds seriously.

The second-class clouds, we had noticed, did sometimes result in war, but the big ones had to be blown away; they threatened too much. When the trouble over Servia and the murdered arch-duke came along we were merely interested to see how Europe would get out of it. That she would in some way escape serious consequences we did not doubt. We had often before watched the European diplomatists side-step, and we expected to see them do it again.

They would have done it, who can doubt, if time had been given them, but as it was, the incredible happened. These following pages are a record in their way of how the



succeeding events affected American sensibilities. No one, of course, can assume to speak the sentiments of the people of the United States, but a very large majority of our people seem to have been affected alike by the events that passed before them and the news and the arguments that they read, and their conclusions and resulting opinions are probably reflected with fair accuracy in the pages that come after. Only citizens of German birth or descent and a few others have been able to accept the German point of view and approve the German proceedings. The rest of us—apparently four-fifths of the population—have seemed to see

things about alike, and to place our sympathies almost entirely with the Allies.

This American attitude appears to have been a surprise, as well as matter for concern, to the Germans, who seem to have expected that to us as neutrals, their cause would look good. There are details of their position that have a claim on neutral sympathy, and in the end may get it, but from the start these details have been crowded out of consideration by the alarming facts of the proceedings before us, and the still more alarming narrations and hypotheses put forward to account for them. We disapproved Germany's immense preparedness for war. We

saw in her and no one else the author and compeller of the crushing armament of Europe. From Bernhardi we learned of a theory and practice of war, which, unimportant when read as an academic dissertation, towered up into the proportions of a revelation when all the actual motions of the German machinery began to verify Bernhardi's forecast. We read Usher and took notice of Pan-Germanism; we considered the effect of Nietzsche and Treitschke on the German moral sense, and all the time, while we were gathering what ideas we could about the contents of the contemporary German brain, we had in daily view the tremendous drive of the German Army over