

**THE GREAT WAR:  
THE CAUSES AND  
THE WAGING OF IT**

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The Great War: The Causes and the Waging of It by Theo. D. Jervey

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**THEO. D. JERVEY**

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WAGING OF IT

BY  
THEO. D. JERVEY



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*The Author*

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## PREFACE

The following short story of the Great War was prepared by the author in the winter and spring of 1917 when it became probable that the United States would be drawn in through the resumption by Germany of unrestricted submarine activity against neutral shipping and neutral non-combatants. It was thought that in the Southern States, especially, a clear understanding of the causes of the war and a truthful account of the waging of it, up to our entrance in it, might be of some value to those who might not have given much attention to the consideration of such before this time. In this connection, if it was advisable for the representatives of the French and British Governments to indicate to us their mistakes, it was thought by the author appropriate that, while revealing, to some extent, the splendid courage, devoted patriotism and wonderful determination of the Allies to exhibit, at the same time, the evidence of courage, capacity and determination of our foes which a study of the war reveals. Also, if there have been mistakes made by our Allies, as yet not as apparent to them as to some of us, the revelation of such might be as helpful to us and to them as was the recital by them of those they did see and thought necessary to expose to us so clearly.





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## CHAPTER I.

### THE CAUSE OF THE WAR

To obtain in reasonable space and time a definite idea of THE WAR, it might be a mistake for the average man to review the facts which led up to it any further back than 1890, the twentieth year of the German Empire.

Two facts of great significance occurred in that year. The first was the cession by Great Britain to Germany of the island of Heligoland, by which the coast of Germany was immensely strengthened against invasion. The second was the passing of Bismarck, whose resignation was accepted by the young Emperor William the Second, by whom, from that date, the policies of Prussia and the German Empire were directed, by such Chancellors as were willing to become his mouthpiece.

In the administration of Bismarck, the German army did not absolutely control the German State. In the administration of the young Emperor, it at once became apparent, it was increasingly to do so; for that able and resourceful ruler at once identified himself with the aspirations of the army chiefs and, with great tact, drew together the military of Austro-Hungary and Germany through every device which could arouse in them a generous emulation and a fraternization. For this purpose cavalry rides, between Berlin and Vienna and Berlin and Buda Pest, became the order of the day, and accordingly up and down the roads, betwixt the capitals, young German, Austrian and Hungarian officers continually thundered, making a record for man and beast and receiving, from the German Emperor, marked attentions.

It was thus the beginning of an era; but outside of Germany few persons had any idea of the inflation of German ambition; for, indeed, to some extent, it was a period of reaction throughout the world. A few years previously in England, with the shattering of the great Liberal party over the question of Home Rule for Ireland, the government