

# **CIVILIZATION AND THE WORLD WAR**

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Civilization and the World War by Anson Daniel Morse

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**ANSON DANIEL MORSE**

**CIVILIZATION AND  
THE WORLD WAR**



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## FOREWORD

**I**N THIS supreme war belligerents and neutrals plead that what they do is done in the interests of civilization. Each people sincerely believes that its own existence is bound up with the safety and welfare of civilization, to which the war has become a menace. Evidently this is the bond, real or supposed, which gives to each belligerent group a common cause. To invoke civilization is to appeal to a patriotism both higher and more comprehensive than national patriotism, and also more fundamental, for its concern is for the security and well-being of those things precious to all men, outlasting the lives and fortunes of particular states.

Since all the combatants claim that they are acting in the true interests of civilization, it is evident that there is hopeless divergence of view in respect to its nature. This essay sets forth the result of efforts to find right answers to these questions: What is civilization? What is the nature of the process by which individuals and peoples become civilized? How in its motives, aims, and methods is the war related to this process? By what means and with what arrangements for the future can the struggle be brought to an end so as to insure the best good of all nations, and restore to its normal working, but with increase of efficiency, the civilizing process?

## CIVILIZATION AND THE WORLD WAR

These are the questions of the hour. To their solution many may hope in some measure, however small, to contribute by offering the best that is in their hearts and minds.

This discussion necessarily falls into two parts: the inquiry into civilization which establishes the standards for civilized peoples and nations, and the testing of this war and of the two groups of belligerents by these historically established standards.

ANSON D. MORSE

FEBRUARY, 1916



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## INTRODUCTION

THIS book is offered to the public partly as a tribute to a man whom very many Americans delight to honor and partly as a unique study of a problem that is uppermost in their minds — nothing less than the nature of civilization and the relation of Germany to it. Is she a civilizing force, or has she stood squarely across the course of this great movement? Does she still stand there, and can the world, as it struggles back to the level that it occupied before the war, get help or hindrance from the great empire in its new and democratic form? The theme itself will challenge attention, and the rare personality of the author will heighten the interest that readers will find in his treatment of it. Great numbers of his countrymen will be glad to know what Anson D. Morse thought of civilization and of Germany, and will expect to have their own views clarified thereby. For pupils and associates he was a never-failing source of light and leading, and they visited him in his home on Pelham Mountain much as the friends of Thomas Jefferson, whose life he so