

**THE AMERICAN VERDICT ON THE  
WAR: A REPLY TO THE APPEAL  
TO THE CIVILIZED WORLD OF 93  
GERMAN PROFESSORS**

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The American Verdict on the War: A Reply to the Appeal to the Civilized world of 93 german professors by Samuel Harden Church

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**SAMUEL HARDEN CHURCH**

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WAR: A REPLY TO THE APPEAL  
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GERMAN PROFESSORS**



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# American Verdict on the War: A

REPLY TO THE APPEAL TO THE  
CIVILIZED WORLD OF  
93 GERMAN PROFESSORS

BY

**SAMUEL HARDEN CHURCH,**  
President Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh

TOGETHER WITH THE APPEAL  
AND THE NAMES OF THE SIGNERS

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This letter has been printed in nearly all the principal languages of the world and circulated broadcast throughout the neutral countries of Europe, and among the allied nations; while a special edition in the German language is now being distributed by British aviators among the German people in peaceful flights across the German borders; innumerable requests for the pamphlet by Americans, who have, in some cases, expressed the desire for hundreds of copies for circulation among friends, have led to its publication in America.

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BALTIMORE, MD.

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*Handwritten scribble*

*By J. J. ...  
Pres. C. ...*

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*Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name*

## FOREWORD

I was moved to write my letter on the German War because "The Appeal to the Civilized World," to which it is a response, had been sent to me by a valued friend, Dr. Fritz Schaper, of the University of Berlin. In making this reply I felt it to be a duty to place before Dr. Schaper, and before the German people, an expression of the views which were almost overwhelmingly entertained by the American people, in order that public opinion might exercise its largest influence in the restoration of peace. I have not yet received a reply from Dr. Schaper, although General von Dickhuth, Governor of the German province of Thorn, in East Prussia, has written to me that my letter duly reached its destination in Dr. Schaper's hands; and other German friends have assured me that they, too, have read it.

I can only add now that if the safeguards of the World's peace and dignity are indeed ultimately to be found in an International Court, and in an International Military Power which shall be charged with the enforcement of that Court's decrees, then it seems high time that the neutral Governments of North and South America, including of course our own, should unite with those of Italy, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Switzerland in a mighty League of Peace, and constrain the warring nations to stop the conflict, the German armies to retire at once from the violated soil of Belgium and France, and the guilty nations to be assessed due penalties. Such a League of Peace, to be joined later by all the nations now at war, would forever end the encroachment of powerful states upon weaker ones, and we would then see human rights placed above the arrogance of nations.

S. H. CHURCH.

Pittsburgh, February 20, 1915.

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# Reply to the German Professors

BY

SAMUEL HARDEN CHURCH,

President Carnegie Institute, Pittsburg.

Author of "The Life of Oliver Cromwell."

**N**INETY-THREE of the most prominent men of Germany, distinguished in various branches of science, art, education, and literature, have recently circulated broadcast throughout America a letter entitled, "An Appeal to the Civilized World," in which they attempt to change public opinion in the United States on the subject of war. In this letter they state that Germany was not responsible for the outbreak of the war; that she did not violate the neutrality of Belgium; that she did not destroy Louvain; that her soldiers have not oppressed the Belgian people nor committed any atrocities; and that militarism is the only safeguard of German civilization. Mr. Church, the President of the Carnegie Institute, at Pittsburg, and author of a book that has won distinction in America and Europe, has made reply to the German appeal, as follows:

PITTSBURGH, U.S.A., November 9, 1914.

PROF. DR. FRITZ SCHAPER,  
Berlin, Germany.

*My Dear Doctor Schaper:*

I have received with your compliments and autograph a printed letter addressed "To the Civilized World," and signed by ninety-three of the most distinguished names in German art, science and literature, your own among them, and I assure you that a communication so endorsed will receive my most profound consideration. To me those ninety-three names are tremendously potent and influential. I have the honor of a personal acquaintance with some of these gentlemen, yourself and Prof. Adolf von Harnack, and a few others, while many of these men have done their work with such universal scope that they must not count themselves as Germans only, because they belong to the whole world, and the whole world esteems and reveres them for their eminent services to humanity. The plays of Hauptmann and the music of Humperdinck are, I am sure, as well known in America as in Germany. Many of us have sat at the feet of Ehrlich and Eucken as Paul sat at the feet of Gamaliel. In our great institutions of science, art, and learning, such as our Carnegie Institute, we look upon Bode as a source of final judgment in his field of work. Max Reinhardt is at the head of a new movement in theatrical production which has reached the American stage. Siegfried Wagner is a precious name to us all by inheritance. Röntgen, Wassermann, Behring, and the other signers have promoted learning and ameliorated human suffering. You yourself have, through the suggestion made by your Emperor, been a guest in Pittsburgh at the dedication of the new building of the Carnegie Institute,

amidst a group of illustrious men gathered here from all over the world, the German section, as I remember with feelings of deep friendship, having included General von Loewenfeld, General Dickhuth, Dr. von Ihne, Dr. von Moeller, Dr. Koser, and yourself, all of them, in response to our urgent request, bringing with them, as our most precious guests, their wives or daughters, except alas! General von Loewenfeld, who, winning his way to the head of armies, told me he had not yet been able to win a wife. But I have reminded him that while there is life there is hope.

Need I say more to prove to you how deep is the sympathy, affection, and gratitude which I and all my countrymen cherish towards the people of the German Empire? Need I say how our hearts bleed for them in this time of dreadful calamity, or how much we hope and pray that peace may soon return to the troubled bosom of the Fatherland? Why, the very texture of our nation would make us true to Germany in all her moral rights, because we have at this moment eight million people of German birth or German parentage in our population, and these citizens are among the very best in this country. Therefore, in a peculiar sense, we hold Germany in our heart of hearts, for she is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. But in the same way we cherish the people of all other races, except, alas, those from Asia, and one day, in God's own time, we shall grow big enough in a spiritual sense to receive the children of Asia with equal hospitality. But we are a cosmopolite nation, and besides having those eight million Germans we have absorbed thirteen millions from Great Britain, 300,000 from France, 3,000,000 from Russia, 2,000,000 from Austria, 25,000 from the Balkans, and 100,000 from Belgium. All told we have 32,000,000 of foreign birth and foreign parentage in our 100,000,000 population,