

**THE ORIGIN OF THE
WAR: FACTS
AND DOCUMENTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649297337

The origin of the war: facts and documents by Karl Federn

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KARL FEDERN

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Facts and Documents

BY

KARL FEDERN

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"DANTE AND HIS TIME," "HISTORY OF CARDINAL MAZARIN,"

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ETC.



G. W. DILLINGHAM COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

NEW YORK

31 - 2111

1915

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I. INTRODUCTORY WORDS

These pages have not been written to gratify the passions of nationalism of any kind or to indulge in hatred of hostile countries and nations. I believe that if the peoples of civilized countries had correct notions of each other's real disposition and were not misled by interested persons, this fearful war might never have been precipitated. And I fear that an increase of hatred between the civilized nations of the earth will be its most deplorable result.

I have lived in England and France, and have in both these countries very real sympathies. French history and French literature have been the chief subject of my studies and publications for many years, as my readers know: I cannot but love the country and the nation whose spirit has attracted me so far as to make me give my

chief attention to its development. And I am deeply indebted to French scholars for the kind assistance given by them to my work. I have been a member of the Comité for the Rapprochement Intellectuel Franco-Allemand; and as for England, I wrote articles during the Boer war to defend the British point of view, when I was almost alone in my nation to do so. I have for a long time considered English civilization as foremost and the English constitution as a model. I have constantly been pleading for an understanding between Germany and France and England as the most advanced nations of Europe. I do not believe in Lord Palmerston's maxim, "Right or wrong, my country"; on the contrary, I do believe it to be a most pernicious principle. I trust I may be able to discuss the present situation with calmness and impartiality.

From an international viewpoint I have attempted to scrutinize as briefly as possible the

facts which led to the war. These facts cover a much larger field than those contained in the multicolored books, particularly the German White Book and the British White Papers, the documents most generally known.