

**THE BOOK OF TRUTH AND
FACTS: FACTS WHICH
EVERY AMERICAN
SHOULD KNOW**

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The Book of Truth and Facts: Facts Which Every American Should Know by Fritz von Frantzius

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Friedrich Wilhelm

BY

FRITZ VON FRANTZIUS

GERMAN CULTURE
ENGLISH CULTURE
AMERICAN CULTURE

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German Achievements

Philosophy

Science

Art

Inventions

Discoveries

Finance

Commerce

Administration

Legislation

English Culture

American Culture

FOREWORD

The purpose of this booklet is to enlighten the American people on conditions, not only in Germany, but also in the United States and England, and to acquaint them with German ideals, which are so grossly misunderstood in this country. There are many things which I left unsaid for some reason or other, but I venture to hope that this book will be read by all true Americans, and that they may glean from it valuable knowledge of facts.

My main object in publishing this book is to warn the American people against the dangers menacing this country, and jeopardizing the existence of the United States of America as a free and independent country.

My criticisms may sometimes appear severe, but I trust they will be accepted in the spirit in which they are offered. Few people have courage enough to come out in the open and tell the truth, as their positions in life do not permit them to do so. History shows that many men who came forward with the truth had to suffer martyrdom. I am ready to state my convictions frankly in the interest of the great cause, and to tell what others either would not say, or are debarred from saying.

May this book pass from one American to another and thus contribute to strengthen the ideals of this country.

Let us be a free and independent nation forever!

FRITZ VON FRANTZIUS.

The Book of Truth and Facts

On September 20th, 1914, an article appeared in the *New York Times* from the pen of Brander Matthews, professor at Columbia University, attacking the Germans as exponents of culture. The public may be interested in hearing also the other side, inasmuch as the subject was treated by Mr. Matthews rather superficially. As a layman I take great pleasure in accepting the challenge of Professor Matthews, in order to enlighten people on conditions in Germany.

In the first place, what does the professor mean by the word "culture"? Does he mean merely occasional budding of literature, discoveries or developments? Then perhaps, in the opinion of some people, Tolstoi and Turgenief as literary geniuses, or Marconi as an inventor, may place Russia and Italy at the head of all culture and civilization. Tolstoi pre-eminently is the product of his time, illustrating the pitiful conditions of the Russian peasants, and so on. Very likely we should never have heard of a Marconi wireless if Hertz, a German, some twenty years ago, had not discovered the electromagnetic waves. In fact, is it solely invention or a few literary geniuses that places one nation ahead of the other?

The word "culture" embraces a world of achievements, which combined, in a measure, form a unit, and only as such can be brought in contrast with that of other nations.

One of the principal things is providing adequate means of defense of a government against attacks from its enemies, as a single blunder along this line might cause the downfall of a nation (study history). High standard of hygienic and sanitary conditions, cleanliness, scientific manufacturing of foodstuffs and drugs, high standard of modern utilities, such as water systems, lighting, transportation, expedient telegraph and telephone service, laws of order and safety towards protection of life and welfare of its people in all its branches, as public thoroughfares and gathering places, insurances, pensions, invalid funds, etc., high standard of schools and general institutions of learning in all arts and sciences, as well as finance and commerce, small percentage of illiterates, high moral standard as a nation, ethic—honorable character (not to spread deliberate falsehoods in war and in times of peace), humanity, especially in warfare (not to gouge out soldiers' eyes) and the way of treating prisoners; certain dignity as a nation in curbing the black and yellow races, sufficient pride and self-control of a white nation not to fraternize with the yellow race against the white in an effort to annihilate a white nation, principles of highest honor, efficiency in agricultural production, discoveries, inventions, their development, up-to-date conveniences in country and city life, ways and means of keeping down pauperism (slums), and saving people from starving, protection of the aged and invalids, ability to compete with foreign trade, protection of international laws as to patents and copyrights (no violation of these), court of justice to give equal protection to the poor as well as the rich, etc., comfort in traveling and living, good hotels and eating places at moderate prices, hygienic and healthy cooking. These and many other things are but a part of the comprehensive word "culture."

The German word "Kultur" embraces far more than the word "culture" in the English language. There is a great difference between "civilization" and "Kultur." Many nations are highly civilized, but to have "Kultur" means to possess deep conscience and high morale, and a philosophical conception of life.

Let us but touch upon a few of these points called into doubt by Professor Matthews.

Professor! As you have "sat for more than forty years at the feet of the masters of French literature," it is quite natural that you should view Germany's culture through French spectacles. How differently you would feel if you had devoted as much time to German culture! Since this war began, there have been disclosures relative to the Anglo-Belgian military agreement irrefutably proving the violation of Belgian neutrality by Great Britain and France before Germany took this step. And did not Germany, on condition that she be allowed to pass freely through Belgium, promise to pay indemnities at the end of the war, and also maintain Belgium's independence? The fact is that if Belgian neutrality ever existed, it was broken by England, France and Belgium herself before the war began. Belgium, on account of her secret agreement with France and England, and by her sympathies with these nations, and by the fact and character of her resistance, really made herself one of the allies. Well-posted historians and even English diplomats refer to Belgium's neutrality as "a scrap of paper." After all, what is the real cause of this world-war? Is it not England's jealousy of Germany's supremacy? As Sir Edward Grey said himself: "Britain refused definitely to remain neutral" on any con-

ditions. The violation of the neutrality of Belgium had nothing whatever to do with the decision of Great Britain to join the war. Sir Edward Grey himself admits that categorically, and does it not appear that England, Russia and France conspired to destroy Germany?

In regard to the destruction of Louvain, we know by this time that the Belgians themselves are responsible for it, because the civilians attacked the German soldiers despite repeated warnings. By the way, the Belgian protest commission was sent to the United States for the purpose of creating anti-German sentiment here. This has always been England's policy, even in times of peace, mainly through subsidy to such an extent that we really have no American press in the United States to-day, but an English one which is decidedly anti-German.

You further say that the Germans dropped bombs into the unbesieged city of Antwerp. In the first place, did not the French try first to throw bombs into the city of Nuremberg, without, however, causing any damage? Secondly, when the bombs were thrown, Antwerp was in fact besieged, and the bombs were hurled only into the fortress, where women and children had no right to be. The destruction of Louvain also has been much exaggerated, and the point is now settled that the Rheims Cathedral has been but slightly damaged by a few shots, for which the French themselves are to be blamed, using the steeples as signal stations. It is well known that Germans in warfare are more humane than any other nation, the best proof of which is that during the Franco-Prussian war they saved Paris from destruction by means of starvation, when otherwise they could have accomplished the fall of the city much quicker by bombarding it.