

**GERMANY MISJUDGED: AN  
APPEAL TO INTERNATIONAL  
GOOD WILL IN THE INTEREST  
OF A LASTING PEACE**

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Germany Misjudged: An Appeal to International Good Will in the Interest of a Lasting Peace by  
Roland Hugins

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**ROLAND HUGINS**

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AN APPEAL TO INTERNATIONAL GOOD  
WILL IN THE INTEREST OF A  
LASTING PEACE



BY  
ROLAND HUGINS

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TO THOSE AMERICANS AND ENGLISHMEN  
WHO HAVE HEDED KIPLING WHERE  
KIPLING HAS NOT HEDED HIMSELF:  
"IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR HEAD WHEN ALL ABOUT YOU  
ARE LOSING THEIRS AND BLAMING IT ON YOU—"  
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED.





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## FOREWORD

**T**HERE are persons who look upon the term "pro-German" as an epithet of reproach. Though not one of these, I insist that the term does not accurately characterize this book. The book is pro-American. It is written from the American point of view, and with American interests in mind. Personally I am not much worried for the Germans, because, for one thing, I am convinced that they are entirely able to take care of themselves. But I am much concerned for the future of America.

I have tried to analyze the international situation from the facts as I see them. I have written with both a fear and a hope: a fear that the United States, the one great nation that so far has stood aloof, might lose its head and join the carnage; a hope that America, at some future time, might contribute effectively to the upbuilding of a permanent peace for the world. To my mind the United States can make no bigger blunder, no graver historical mistake, than to abandon its position of neutrality. I contend that it has no business in this war, no matter whether the Teutonic Powers win or lose. The plunge into war is like a jump into a whirlpool; it is easy enough to get in, but there is no calm second thought, and escape can be

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#### FOREWORD

purchased only by a terrific drain on vitality. America sober, would not make war; but America drunk with anti-German prejudice, might take the plunge. To add, in some small way, to that sobriety of judgment that would make us pause before we leap, is one of the chief purposes of the book.

That America will be able to do anything constructive for world peace seems to me questionable. For at present the vision of America is clouded. It is not anti-war, except in a vague, sentimental way; it is anti-German. It identifies "militarism" with a single nation. It does not see that militarism in Germany (and I do not deny its existence there) can never be wiped out by the pressure of rival militarisms. Guilt, apparently, is never satisfactory until it is personal. Americans in general have felt revulsion and horror at this war, and they have shown a disposition to fix the guilt on somebody, some definite set of human beings,—not a system—not an historical process—but a visible and punishable criminal. And they have made the German people, or the German Junkers, the criminal. But this is not thinking, it is malice. G. Lowes Dickinson has observed: "I believe that this war . . . is a calamity to civilization unequalled, unexampled, perhaps irremediable; and that the only good that can come out of it would be a clearer comprehension by ordinary men and women of how wars are brought about, and a determination on their part to put a stop to them." America will never contribute effectively to the cause of world peace until it sets