

**ARMS AND THE MAP; A
STUDY OF NATIONALITIES
AND FRONTIERS**

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Arms and the map; a study of nationalities and frontiers by Ian C. Hannah

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BY

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PREFACE

WHILE we look back with some envy to the comparatively humane war methods of Attila and Tamerlane, we are all praying for a Europe in the future less like a powder magazine than the Europe of the present and the past.

Much may possibly be done if disputed provinces and *Irredentist* lands are assigned with some regard both to the true nationality and the actual wishes of their own people. Much, but we may hardly hope for all. There must be a wholly new spirit in the land if peace is really to be safe. H. W. Massingham (in the *Daily News* of 14th September, 1914) does well to point out: "Nationality alone will not save Europe. It may destroy it." H. N. Brailsford and others have said the same. There might be a real danger of what Renan once called "zoological wars."

My object in writing this little work is not to make any prophecies, still less to air any uninformed opinions of my own, but rather to

give in a broad and general way the more obvious facts which it is right to know when considering the possible form of the new map. While avoiding intricate detail, I have tried to indicate all the important cases in Europe where the bulk of the population of a district is of another race than that of the rulers of the land. I have included the whole continent and spoken of the colonising methods of all the nations for the sake of completeness, though it is probable that some of the countries will not be drawn into the war.

I am not without hopes that the work may be found of some service to schools or to general students of historical geography who desire a text-book more recent and less detailed than Freeman's well-known work. I have included no more history than seemed necessary for a brief study of the evolution of the different nationalities of the Continent, whether politically independent or not. And I have striven above all to be readable.

The importance of recognising national aspirations can hardly be exaggerated. No small part of European unrest during the nineteenth century may be traced to the

cynical way in which the Congress of Vienna (1814) ignored everything but the wishes of the different princes. That mistake, let us hope, can never be repeated. One shudders to think of the time that will probably be required to discuss even the general principles of the extremely numerous and most tangled problems that must be settled by the Treaty of Peace.

All the great European wars since the Renaissance have had their origins, to some extent, in disputes about subjects that were world-wide. It is common to speak of the Anglo-French struggles during the eighteenth century as "colonial wars." This is true in the sense that by far the most important questions they settled did concern lands across the seas, but it is hardly true to say that those who fought and those who negotiated attached most importance to things so far away, at any rate till the coming of Pitt.

It is otherwise to-day. Few will dispute the fact that the present struggle was at least predominantly "made in Germany" with the chief aim of gaining wide areas over the

seas where Teutonic emigrants could build new fatherlands as some counterpoise to the Empires of Britain and France. Hence a considerable part of the last chapter is devoted to German colonisation.

A very full account of the subject is given in "Map of Europe by Treaty since the General Peace of 1814," by Edward Hertslet (4 vols. : 1875, Butterworths). If God see fit to entrust any considerable share in redrawing that map once more to the British, we shall do well to remember the praiseworthy custom of Harald of the Fair Hair (p. 193), who "whensoever swift rage or anger fell on him, held himself aback at first and let the wrath run off him, and looked at the matter unwrathfully."

I have done my best to avoid mistakes, but if any reader should detect any errors I should count it a very real kindness to have my attention drawn to them that they may be amended in the second edition.

I. C. H.

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