

**WHAT IS WRONG  
WITH GERMANY?**

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What is wrong with Germany? by William Harbutt Dawson

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**WILLIAM HARBUTT DAWSON**

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WITH GERMANY?

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

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BY

WILLIAM HARBUTT DAWSON

AUTHOR OF

"THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN GERMANY,"  
"MUNICIPAL LIFE AND GOVERNMENT IN  
GERMANY," "GERMANY AND THE GERMANS,"  
"INDUSTRIAL GERMANY," ETC. ETC

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## INTRODUCTION

CLEAR proof of urgency is obligatory on anyone who ventures to add to the abundant literature which has been called forth already in this country by the European War. In justification of the present book I would rely less upon the strong feeling of compulsion which has prompted it than upon the fact that it is the outcome of an honest endeavour to get behind the visible and more obvious causes of the war and to bring to light the tendencies of national thought and policy—the *causæ causantes*—which had long been leading Germany directly towards this dismal catastrophe.

It will be seen that in pursuing my inquiries I have been at pains to let the Germans be, as far as possible, their own critics and accusers. In placing them in the witness-box against themselves, I have relied not upon the confused and frenzied talk of the present moment, when the Germans are saying so many things that they will one day wish to forget, but upon deliberate utterances of well-known writers and public men evoked by the normal controversies of normal times and intended only for home consumption. It would have been possible to have multiplied indefinitely this self-incriminating evidence had it not seemed judicious to confine the selection to quite recent years.

The book is intended, however, to serve a further object. Two special facts about Germany's recent conduct must have come as a shock to thousands of English people and Americans who, bringing to the study of German life and character both patient labour and open-hearted sympathy, had supposed that they had succeeded in entering to some extent into the national