

**THE AMERICAN  
VERSUS THE GERMAN  
VIEW OF THE WAR**

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The American Versus the German View of the War by Morton Prince

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THE AMERICAN  
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THE GERMAN VIEW  
OF THE WAR

BY

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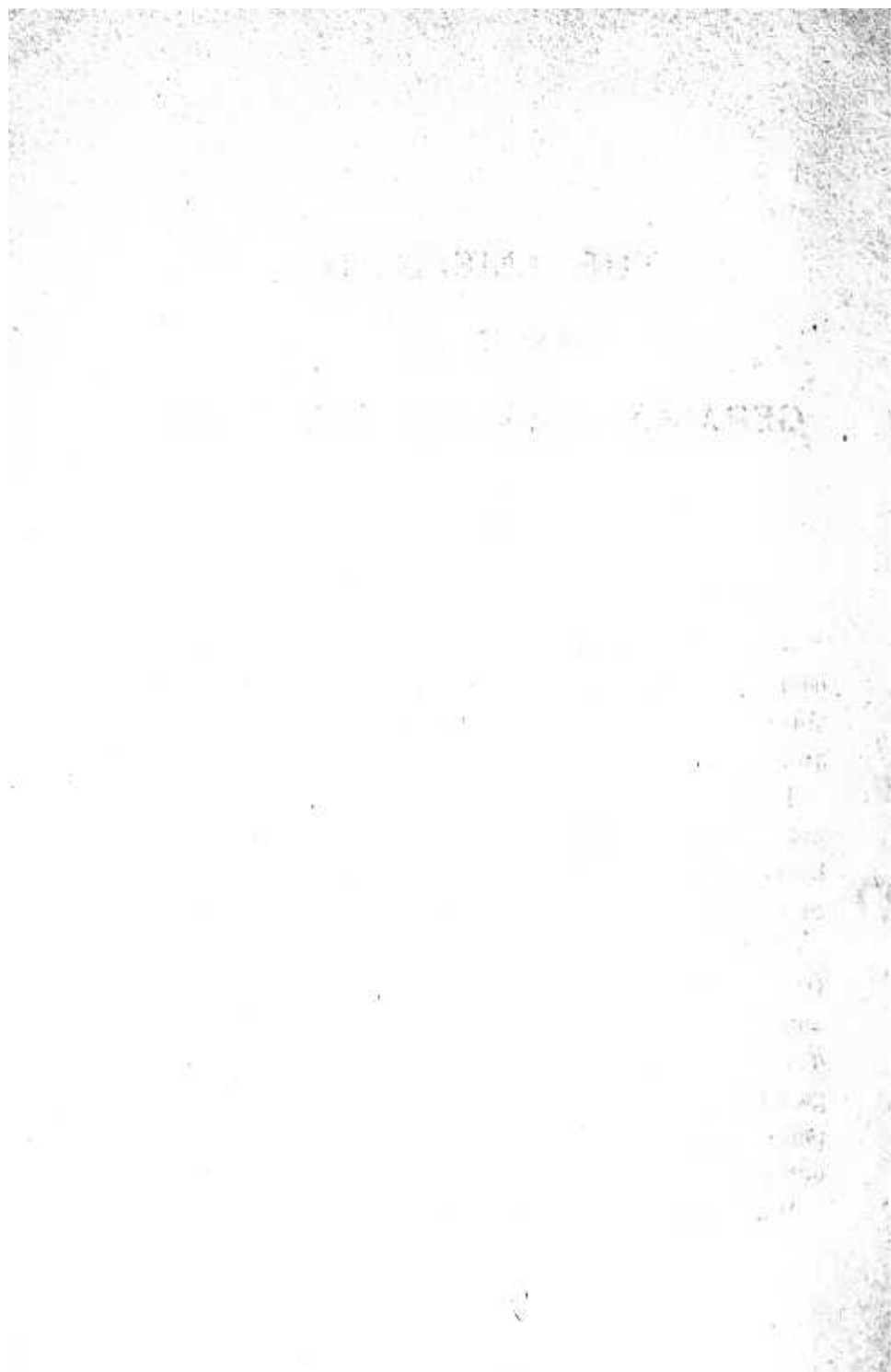
W. W. RAY  
AMSTERDAM: 1915

cf.

Boston, *February*, 1915.

The two articles here reprinted by request, were written for the Boston Post (February 7th and 14th). They are an examination of and reply to the appeals of the German propagandists to American sympathy, and give what the writer believes is the American view of certain incidents that have shocked the world, and of the German policies pursued in justifying and carrying on the present war. It is also believed they present the fundamental reason why Americans refuse their sympathy to Germany.

MORTON PRINCE.





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# THE AMERICAN

## VERSUS THE

### GERMAN VIEW OF THE WAR

#### I

##### FRENCH AND GERMAN LESSONS AT THE FRONT

SINCE the war began numerous articles by organised German propagandists have appeared scattered through the press and magazines of this country, and in pamphlets.

These articles have given us the German viewpoint of government, of the causes of and responsibility for the war, of the manner in which war should be carried on, of German ideals and other matters.

With the exception possibly of Dr. Dernburg, Dr. von Mach stands out as the most prolific writer among these propagandists. Furthermore, a few days ago he presided in Washington at the propagandist meeting of "German Americans," which passed resolutions demanding unneutral action by our government.

What, then, is the German viewpoint ?

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I turn to Dr. von Mach for the above reasons and because he has instructed us in a long series of articles specifically entitled the "German Viewpoint." These cover about every aspect of German thought and activity. With only one of these viewpoints am I interested here, that of the German army's method of carrying on war. I will cite only so much as will enable one who has not read the original article to understand this viewpoint.

Dr. von Mach begins by quoting the following words of the great von Moltke, written in 1880:

"Nobody, I think, can deny that the general softening of men's manners has been followed by a more humane way of waging war. The introduction in our generation of universal service in the army has marked a long step in the direction of the desired aim, for it has brought also the educated classes into the army."

"The truth of this statement," Dr. von Mach contends, "is fully borne out by the reports which have reached Germany from the front."

He then goes on to illustrate for our edification this "viewpoint" by a series of pictures of German army life constructed to show "the humane way of waging war" under the influence of the educated classes in the army.

These pictures are drawn from an account written by Professor von Hartmann, now serving as a lieutenant in the army. The first picture is of an incident

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which, we were told, "may well form the basis on which to construct a picture of the German army in the field to-day." It is called a "French Lesson at the Front. Place—A Stubble Field in Belgium. Time—Autumn, 1914."

### SONGS THE GERMANS SING

The soldiers, halted after a forced march, "are lounging in the field, talking and laughing" in animated groups. Breakfast finished, they "are in excellent humour." Some splendid fellows from the country have lighted their pipes and we hear them "singing the beautiful home and soldier songs" which we are told (though not in italics) "*often soften for the time being even the hardest hearts of warriors.*"

One sample of these beautiful, softening songs, expressive, we may suppose, of German sympathy for the enemy, is this :

" France, poor France, how will you fare  
When our German militaire  
Visits you ? Colours : Black and white and red.  
Poor little France, it is too bad ! "

Sympathetic songs like these are heard all over the field.

Then follows the French lesson. Here we see the German soldier passing his leisure, not in the rough, uncouth pastimes proverbial of soldiers of other