

**THE ROAD TOWARD PEACE; A
CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF
THE CAUSES OF THE EUROPEAN
WAR AND OF THE MEANS OF
PREVENTING WAR IN THE FUTURE**

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The road toward peace; a contribution to the study of the causes of the European war and of the means of preventing war in the future by Charles W. Eliot

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PREFACE

FOR more than eight years past my mind has turned from time to time to the study of the causes of war, and of the means of preventing war. The first time I discussed in public the means of preventing war was at a meeting of the Canadian Club of Ottawa, on the 23d of February, 1907. The speech I made there is the first chapter in the present volume. In May of the same year, I took part in the discussions at the Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration; and two short speeches which I made then form the second chapter of this volume. At the Lake Mohonk Conference of 1910, I read a paper on "The Fears which cause Increasing Armaments," which appears here as the third chapter. In 1911-12, I went round the world as an envoy of the Trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to "procure material for a Report to the Trustees, through the Division of Intercourse and Education, as to what activities may wisely and helpfully be planned in and for the Asiatic countries, that will advance the cause of peace

and international good-will." In the summer of 1913, I presented to the Trustees a rather full Report of my observations and reflections, accompanied by a considerable number of supporting documents. Selected pages from that Report constitute the fourth chapter. The next three chapters consist each of a letter on the War written to the *New York Times*. Chapter VIII is an address to the Business Women's Club of Boston on "America's Duty in Regard to the European War." The ninth chapter is a letter to the *New York Times* on "The Sources and the Outcome of the War." Between November 24 and December 14, I exchanged letters with my friend Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, the eminent financier, each of us writing four letters, and neither of us having any thought of publishing our letters. But, after three weeks of correspondence, it seemed to both of us that the publication of the letters might do some good. This correspondence appears in the tenth chapter. A fifth letter to the *New York Times* makes the eleventh chapter. I have included in the volume as the twelfth chapter, an address on Forefathers' Day, 1914, before the New England Society in the City of New York; because the Pilgrim ideals, spread

across the American Continent, account in large measure for the wide difference to-day between the national ideals of Germany and those of the United States. The thirteenth chapter of the book contains an address given on the 15th of January, 1915, before the Harvard Club of Boston on "National Efficiency best developed under Free Governments," but later revised and enlarged. The huge war in Europe is going to put to a supreme test this theory concerning the surest sources of national efficiency. The last chapter consists of a letter to the *New York Times* in which I endeavored to describe the lessons concerning international relations which the war had taught convincingly down to the 9th of March, 1915. The chapters follow the chronological order.

In an appendix I have placed two addresses I made on the 6th of March, 1902, on the occasion of the visit of Prince Henry of Prussia to Cambridge and Boston.

CHARLES W. ELIOT.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,
15 March, 1915.