

OUR SECRET ALLIANCE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649360659

Our Secret Alliance by Cornelia Steketee Hulst

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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CORNELIA STEKETEE HULST

**OUR SECRET
ALLIANCE**

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"Alliance, if you please, understanding
between gentlemen."

—JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.



By

Cornelia Steketee Hulst

Chicago

[League to Ensure International Justice]

1917

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Alice Park Coll.

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FOREWORD

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It would seem that the many books and articles thus far published on the European war of 1914 must have told the whole story, but certain events that have impressed themselves upon me seem not to have been traced in any, and so I feel constrained to point them out, especially because the evidence that I shall present from Boer sources has never been published so far as I know, and should be laid before the jury of the nation and historians that will render final verdict upon this case.

That jury of historians will, as always before judging the evidence, try the witness, so my readers will pardon me if I precede my narrative of events by an account of myself, how I happened to secure my knowledge, and what my invalidating biases may be. I believe that I am typically American. My grandparents came to America when my parents were children, and were among the Pilgrim Fathers of the immigration into the West, their motive, faith in America and discontent with certain temporary infringements upon liberty in the Netherlands, that home of liberty. I have never known more devoted Americans than my father and mother were. My father's keen interest in American and Dutch history probably stimulated me, for even before I had reached the university my interest was vivid and so wide that nothing that was human was foreign to me. My seminary course of the university led me into Austrian and Russian history in a study of the


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Near Eastern question, or Balkan problem, as it was in 1889. I left the university strongly prejudiced in favor of England, owing to the fact that her affairs had occupied a disproportionate amount of our consideration and that almost all of the history that we read had been from English sources and written under the national bias. It has taken me twenty-five years to realize how wise Washington Irving was when he said that the world's history will have to be rewritten in America to secure a just consideration for all. I was brought up in reverence for the Republican party, but came to admire greatly some things that President Cleveland did, and have ever since given my admiration irrespective of party. The contemporary history of the intervening years I followed rather closely by means of London publications, so my information is not to be discounted as coming from enemy sources. I have been keenly in sympathy with the great English Liberals in their struggle against modern imperialism in England, and Leonard Courtney, Gilbert Chesterton, Bernard Shaw, Philip Snowden, Frank Harris, Francis Neilson, and a host of others who have stood against the imperial policies of their country are my heroes, along with the great English Liberals of the past age, Matthew Arnold, Carlyle, Morris, Hunt, Keats, Shelley, Byron, and Browning, whose patriotism led them to tell their country her sins in the hope to save her from wrong-doing. This seems to me true patriotism and the correct interpretation of "my country wrong or right." The thing which would cheer on our country when she is wrong is unworthy of the name of patriotism and will lead her to destruction, so my prayer is and will continue to be, *God speed the right and chastise us into the path of right-doing.*

When I say that the facts of this war seem to



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me to incriminate England, it is not because I have a German bias. I have not had access to the German side of the story, except recently in pamphlets and periodicals, which I try to read with discrimination, keeping in mind the principle that bias and deliberate attempts at deception in enemy literature are pitfalls that must be avoided. Of course I have admired greatly the literature, science, public economy, and general administration, in which Germany has led the world.

As I have said, my information is almost all from English and American sources. If I know more of Rhodes and his politics than others do who have read much since the war began, it must be credited to the vivid interest that I brought to the reading of the *Contemporary Review* and the *Fortnightly Review* in the nineties, and to the accretions that followed, largely at the time of the Boer War and after the Boer War, when we, who were ardent sympathizers with the republics against the British Empire, entertained some of the most notable men who came to this country, men who knew the South African situation at first hand.

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CECIL RHODES in 1895 made his first attempt to annex the South African republics to the British empire, and this was a prelude to uniting Africa later from the Cape to Cairo by annexing the German colonies through which his railroad was planned to pass. It was at this time that, "thinking in continents," he formulated his world-policy to "paint the map of the world a British red." After the annexation of the African republics, the next great step in the process was to be a division of the world before 1920 between the Russians and the united Anglo-Saxon peoples, and the means that were to be employed were alliances of Great Britain with Russia and with the United States. The proposition was stated boldly and fully, and in such a manner as to make the inference perfectly clear that before 1920 Germany must be removed from the map, her fragments appropriated by the Allies. As this policy was presented in the article "1920," published in the *Contemporary Review* (London, December, 1895) no pretext was made that Germany was threatening the world and no chivalrous

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or holy motives were assigned for forming this concerted action against her. The "changed purposes of Pan-Germanism," and "protection of little nations," and "war against militarism," and "war against war" were all advanced later in the procedure—was not the purpose to appeal to the public and confuse the issue, to win our American diplomats and our American people as well as the people of allied Europe? Mr. Rhodes himself never professed fear of Germany and thought that the British navy would be sufficient, if increased according to his recommendation, to capture the new German navy whenever it chose.

Those who try to understand this world war of Rhodes's making and our part in it, can do so only if they look to the motives assigned long before the fray was begun, and before our diplomats were captured. Therefore I propose to direct attention back to the beginnings when motives of imperial methods were not masked, and to the men who first worked for an American alliance. My discussion will be limited mostly to events on this side of the Atlantic to show the extent to which the project of an alliance with "America" has succeeded. Most of the evidence will be unearthed by future historians who can gain access to facts now hidden, and a great deal will never be brought to light, for the agreements have

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been secret, "understandings between gentlemen," as Mr. Chamberlain stated in his announcement to the House of Commons in the course of the Boer War. An investigation of the expenditure of Cecil Rhodes's millions, bequeathed to be administered secretly with the purpose of bringing "America" into alliance with Great Britain would bring to light much that is hidden, but will hardly be permitted by the empire that after the Jameson Raid failed to investigate Rhodes's piracy in its behalf. On this side of the Atlantic, however, the course of events is sufficient to prove that a secret alliance was made—the proof was practically sufficient before Mr. Chamberlain made his announcement. Perhaps no treaty entered upon as our constitution provides, *by and with the consent of the Senate*, has ever been so important in its influence upon our national ideals and welfare as this secret one has been, so it behooves us before the next step is taken to understand as completely as possible what has happened, what is involved, and what is likely to follow.

It might seem that it would be impossible to win the United States to the Rhodes policy of annexing the African republics and painting the map of the world red, including our own territory. Washington had warned us in solemn accents not to entangle ourselves in foreign politics, and