

# **ENGLAND AND THE WAR (1914-1915)**

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England and the War (1914-1915) by André Chevrillon & Rudyard Kipling

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**ANDRÉ CHEVRILLON & RUDYARD KIPLING**

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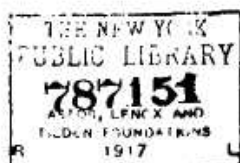
BY  
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WITH A PREFACE BY  
RUDYARD KIPLING



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## FOREWORD

"England and the War" was first published as a series of articles in the *Revue de Paris* from November, 1915, to January, 1916. It deals with a phase of England's war effort and life which may now be considered as closed. Some of the facts recorded here (for instance, what we say of England's first success against the German submarines) have even ceased to be true—though this too may be but a transient phase. Yet in the period described here arose the forces which make England's present achievements possible—arose changes in her modes of thought and life, which will affect the whole of her future. What makes the eighteen months with which this book is specially concerned the essential period in the English history of the war, is that it is characterized by facts, chiefly psychological. England's awakening to the unexpected and tremendous reality of the war; her gradual discovery of her enemy's deadly hatred and purpose; the rising and spreading of the idea that in time of national peril, military service is a duty for every able-bodied Englishman; the appeal to the individual conscience; the working of the mind which resulted in millions voluntarily taking the pledge; the dead weight of

old traditions, habits, and prejudices; the cross and counter-currents of class and party ideas, whose acquired momentum could not, in a free democracy like England, but persist for some time and interfere with the general effort at adaptation; finally, the fusion of all tendencies into one collective will and movement, enabling the State to organize the country for national service and culminating in the law of conscription: such facts belong to the spiritual order, to that life of the soul from which spring all the material acts and productions of men. In human affairs, somebody said, the deepest view is reached when we consider them, not as appearances but as decisions. And Mr. H. G. Wells, quoting this saying in his "Future in America," added that the essential factor in the destiny of a nation lies in the form of its Will, the quality and quantity of its Will. The history of Germany's will to war began long before the war, but the history of England's will to war (this book may contribute to make it quite clear) only began with the war, and we may say that the essential part of the narrative ends at the passing of the Conscription Bill. ] After that, the psychological condition of England is very much the same as that of the other great belligerents. Her part of the story becomes purely material, industrial, and military; she goes on fighting, she perfects her weapons and methods: the will is formed and cannot change.

FOREWORD

vii

~~Of the rise and growth of her will this little book~~  
gives a rapid sketch. That the model was moving  
under our eyes whilst it was being pencilled was a  
disadvantage which has perhaps its compensa-  
tions.

ANDRÉ CHEVRILLON.

*January 25, 1917.*