

**THE PULPIT IN WAR  
TIME, PP. 4- 173**

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**VARIOUS**

**THE PULPIT IN WAR  
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# *The Pulpit in War Time*

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opinion throughout the modern civilized world had given its hearty consent to the sanctity of treaties and was more and more hopeful that by international agreement there might come an end to the suicidal rivalry in national armament programs. Outside of Germany and Austria there was growing up in the lives of all peoples a keen realization that the nation was not the ultimate loyalty to which the heart of man could attach itself. Greater than the nation was the common life of civilized man. The nation justifies its existence, its right to be, only as it trains its people to feel their essential unity with other nations, and their prime moral obligation freely to recognize the rights of men born under other flags and reared under other political institutions. Outside of Germany's reactionary leaders there is not a land on the globe where the ever-increasing triumphs of democracy were not hailed as the harbingers of a better day on earth. There was not a spot left on the globe, not even in China, where any other sovereign, with a straight face, could address his soldiers in words like these from the lips of the Kaiser to his new recruits at Potsdam: "Body and soul you belong to me. If I command you to shoot your fathers and mothers you are to obey my command without a murmur." With the growth of democracy everywhere and with the educational and scientific advance of the last century, tribal ideas of religion and life had everywhere else in our modern world become about as extinct as the life of ancient Troy. Only in Germany could a responsible head of the state,

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without being immediately locked up for lunacy, deliver himself after this fashion: "Remember the German people are the chosen of God. On me as German emperor the Spirit of God has descended. I am his weapon, his sword, and his vicegerent. Woe to the disobedient, death to cowards and unbelievers." As the word "unbelievers" before the Kaiser's monstrous assertions here takes in about ninety-five per cent of the inhabitants of our modern world, it is perfectly evident that if we are not "cowards," the German Kaiser proposes to do away with us, and leave only those who are willing to live and act as if they did accept the preposterous claims of the Germans to being God's chosen and only beloved people, with their mad Kaiser and his bloody sword as the Almighty's appointed vicegerent and weapon on earth. For in spite of our universal and intense longing for peace, in spite of our disappointment that some other way could not be found to settle these irreconcilable differences between Kaiserism and democracy, between German kultur and true Christian culture, between tribalism and world unity, the Kaiser and his kind in the summer of 1914 decided that the day for the settlement of these differences in the realm of reason had passed, and that one or the other of these irreconcilable tendencies in our modern world should triumph on the bloody field of battle.

To the utter consternation of all right-thinking minds in the world, this mad, self-styled regent of God, this last stalwart upholder of the dark-age

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doctrine of the divine right of kings, suddenly flung, right and left, short time ultimatums to the nations of Europe, ultimatums which could not have been accepted without leaving this reactionary monarch absolute master of Europe's destinies, and, without waiting for twenty-four hours to elapse, his first order to his vast standing army was to invade a helpless little nation whose security his own plighted word had long been sworn to uphold. No honest observer of those awful days in the summer of 1914 could fail to see the difference between the spirit of Germany and that of the other nations around her whom she declared had begun the attack. If Germany was honest in asserting that she was set upon from without against her will, she revealed the strangest psychology in the history of mankind, for her whole attitude, from that of the soldiers who went singing "Germany Over All" through the desolated fields of Belgium to the manifesto of her famous "Ninety-three," was one of "Hurrah and hallelujah! The blessed, prayed-for, prepared-for, and longed-for day has come!" while every other people in Europe plainly cried, "My God, my God, if it be possible let this cup pass away from me!" The nations of the earth, outside of those that were immediately drawn into the war, were not slow in deciding who was doing the deliberate lying to prove innocence of the crime of letting loose war in a world at peace. No efforts to maintain legal neutrality could keep down the moral indignation which everywhere flared up against Germany, until at last one of the



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most gifted and honest minds in all Germany, Maximilian Harden, dared to say to his people: "Let us cease our wretched efforts to apologize for what Germany has done, and let us stop heaping contempt and insult upon the enemy. We have not plunged into this colossal adventure against our will, nor was it forced upon us by surprise. We wanted it, we had to want it. And we do not appear before the bar of Europe because we do not recognize its jurisdiction in the case. Our might will make a new law in Europe. It is Germany who strikes. Germany is carrying on this war because she wants more room in the world and larger markets for the products of her activity."

With that honest though brutal confession the moral judgment of mankind to-day absolutely agrees. Germany makes war on the nations of the earth because with her war is a perfectly legitimate, and at the same time the supreme, national industry. She knows no moral law of either God or man. Might alone is her God. She makes war because in her blind egotism and self-deception, purposely taught to her people by her ruthless military leaders, she is without conscience, and without limits in her covetousness. Her brutal, piratical leaders have taken her people into the high mountain and have shown them all the kingdoms of the world, and the German hordes have been sinful and gullible enough to believe that all these will belong to Germany if the Germans will only continue to fall down and worship before their God of might with his sword-swallowing

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Kaiser as earthly vicegerent. This moral degeneracy and monstrosity in the soul of the German people is the prime cause of the present world catastrophe. The Kaiser never wearies of telling us that God is with him, and that what he has done has really been the work of God. We deny it. If the Devil himself had been brought right up out of hell, hide, hoofs, horns, tail, and all, and given absolutely free rein in Europe, he could not have produced any more of an at-home feeling than his satanic Majesty must enjoy when he to-day looks abroad over the finished work of this so-called vicegerent of God. Wave on wave of fresh horror has swept over the conscience of mankind as month by month has brought to light the deliberate crimes and terrorisms practiced by this relentless enemy of mankind. Says a clause from the instructions of the German General Staff, "By carefully studying the history of warfare, the officers will be able to resist the influence of exaggerated humanitarian ideas."

Surely, measured by this standard, there have never before been such diligent students of the history of warfare! No other set of men laying any claim whatever to civilization have ever commanded such pitiless barbarities on helpless victims as the German officers. I have spent weeks going over the trail of the bloody Hun's footprints in France and I know that the hundredth part of his mad, inhuman crimes against old men, women, girls, and helpless babies has not yet been written. Terrorism with him has been reduced to a vast

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science and he has done his atrocious deeds with a scientific forethought which leaves the mind aghast that man born of woman could have ever dared so to affront a righteous God. These things with the German army are not accidental. They are a part of a preconcerted plan which is drilled into the German soldier. Says another German authority on this point: "The enemy state must not be spared the anguish and woe inherent in warfare. The burden must be crushing and must remain so. When a national war breaks out terrorism becomes a principle which is necessary from a military standpoint." Ah, there we have it: "The military standpoint" in the degenerate German mind has usurped the whole place and function of the common moral ideals which normally direct the conscience of the rest of civilized mankind. This is the thing which in spite of all our modern hatred of war has drawn in upon Germany and her allies the power of a virtually united world. Men everywhere, no matter what their abstract ideas about war were, found themselves facing these terrible facts that every moral ideal for which the race has struggled, that every hard-won spiritual victory, that every blood-bought right and sacred ideal of freedom, mercy, and humanity was endangered by the possibility of a victorious Germany. To let Germany win was to deny the best and most fundamental achievements of nineteen hundred years of Christian culture; to let Christian civilization be crucified and destroyed and erect in its place the worship of Thor and Woden. Germany's acts,