

**BRITAIN'S CASE AGAINST
GERMANY; AN EXAMINATION
OF
THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
OF THE GERMAN ACTION IN 1914**

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Britain's case against Germany; an examination of the historical background of the German action in 1914 by Ramsay Muir

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Britain's Case Against Germany

An Examination of the Historical Background
of the German Action in 1914

BY

RAMSAY MUIR,

Professor of Modern History in the University of Manchester

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PREFACE.

DESPITE the difficulty of maintaining an attitude of aloofness and impartiality during a great war, I have honestly tried in this little book to see the facts plainly, and never to tamper with them. My main purpose is to show that the great issue for which we are now fighting is no new thing, and has not emerged suddenly out of diplomatic difficulties in the Balkans. It is the result of a poison which has been working in the European system for more than two centuries, and the chief source of that poison is Prussia. Accordingly, I have tried to show (1) that the action of Germany in 1914 is due to a theory of international politics which has taken possession of the minds of the German people since the middle of the nineteenth century; (2) that this theory is the outcome of the traditional policy of the Prussian state during the last two hundred and fifty years; (3) that it had to fight against a far nobler and more inspiring ideal, the ideal of the Germany of Goethe, of Stein and of Dahlmann, and only the dazzling success of the Prussian policy as pursued by Bismarck made possible its victory; (4) that the German Empire of to-day is so organised as to ensure the dominion of the Prussian military monarchy and of Prussian ideas and methods over the rest of Germany; and