

**THE BALANCE OF MILITARY  
POWER IN EUROPE: AN  
EXAMINATION OF THE WAR  
RESOURCES OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND THE CONTINENTAL STATES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649256815

The balance of military power in Europe: an examination of the war resources of Great Britain and the continental states by John Frederick Maurice

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN FREDERICK MAURICE**

**THE BALANCE OF MILITARY  
POWER IN EUROPE: AN  
EXAMINATION OF THE WAR  
RESOURCES OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND THE CONTINENTAL STATES**



R. V. HALL  
11.5.1891

*The Balance*

: : : OF : : :

*Military Power in Europe.*

AN EXAMINATION OF

THE WAR RESOURCES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
THE CONTINENTAL STATES,

BY

COLONEL MAURICE,

ROYAL ARTILLERY,  
PROFESSOR OF MILITARY ART AND HISTORY AT THE  
ROYAL STAFF COLLEGE.

GEORGE A. SPOONER,  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

1891.

505D

AGS, LIO  
VTRO, VMEK  
VST, MLL

---

C. J. SMITH & CO., PRINTERS.  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

## CONTENTS.

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| INTRODUCTION, . . . . .                             | 5    |
| THE BALANCE OF MILITARY POWER IN EUROPE, . . . . .  | 27   |
| I. Russia and England, . . . . .                    | 47   |
| II. Germany, France, and Belgium, . . . . .         | 73   |
| III. Germany, Russia, and Austria, . . . . .        | 119  |
| IV. Italy, Turkey, and English Alliances, . . . . . | 161  |
| INDEX, . . . . .                                    | 199  |





## INTRODUCTION.

---

The circumstances which led to the writing of the articles forming the substance of this book were as follows: About four years ago I was asked to contribute to the "Citizen Series"—now being published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co.—a volume on "National Defences." I objected at first, that as the national defences of England depend on the navy, it was rather a subject for a sailor than a soldier. On the whole, however, I was persuaded that though it was necessary for me to consult some able sailor, the whole statement might be more conveniently furnished by me. From that time the question has been continually before my mind; but the more I have thought of it, the more impossible it has seemed to me to deal satisfactorily with it until there was, in some shape or other, before the public a statement, to which I could appeal, as to the warlike condition of other Powers. What is necessary for the defence of the English Empire depends on what attack is likely to be made upon it.

Furthermore, as it has happened to me to know intimately almost all those who for many years past have been practically considering the question, I was aware that for many reasons the time was hardly ripe for bringing the subject in a satisfactory shape before the public. The result has been that, greatly I fear to the disgust of my excellent friend and editor, Mr. Craik, I have been continually postponing

the publication of the volume. In the course of last year circumstances changed.

The advent of Mr. Smith to the War Office, and of General Brackenbury to the head of the Intelligence Department, led to the serious and earnest taking up of practical work of a kind that many of us had been praying for for years, and had begun to think past praying for. Notably the defence of our coaling stations—which my friend the late Colonel Home had throughout his active life, in season and out of season, pressed upon the attention of successive governments and on the country—began to be seriously taken up as a matter of practical politics. The subject had been referred to a Royal Commission as long ago as May, 1879, when Lord Beaconsfield's government was in office. But there did not seem to be any prospect of the stations being properly garrisoned, as well as fortified and armed, till Mr. Smith took office, and both in his first tenure, his short period of opposition, and his return to office, pressed for the taking of practical steps to maintain at all times in our distant possessions such garrisons as would enable us to resist a *coup de main*. Moreover, fortunately, information as to the steps being taken both in this respect and in others to make our defences practical, and not visionary merely, was laid in such shape before the public, that it was possible to quote it without divulging any information which was not designed for the public ear.

It had been my duty also, for the purposes of my current work, to study with especial care during two years, the present condition of the armed powers of Europe, and their military frontiers. Naturally, for a duty of importance to the future staff officers of our army, I had facilities for obtaining knowledge which were not easily accessible to others.

Just at the moment when I was beginning to feel myself competent to speak with some authority on the subject, the following circumstances occurred.

First, Lord Wolseley very kindly allowed me to study in proof the exhaustive essay, which has since been published in Mr. Ward's Jubilee volume, on the Past and Present of the English Army. That essay led to the conclusion that it is necessary for some authoritative non-party tribunal to determine the purposes for which we maintain our army and navy, to consider how far our present forces fulfill the necessary conditions, and to decide what forces we do or do not require to maintain.

Almost at the same time Sir James Fitz-James Stephen's Commission, among many other most valuable suggestions, made the same point.

In the course of conversation with me, Lord Wolseley had expressed the view that in the present condition of affairs we have the strongest interest in joining those powers who desire to preserve peace, and in resisting those who threaten disturbance.

All the circumstances of the time seem to make it so probable that war may suddenly break out in more than one quarter of Europe, that I thought it probable that many readers would be interested in having such guidance as a careful preliminary study of the facts might enable me to supply as to the probable conditions under which war would take place, either between France and Germany or between Russia and Austria, with Germany on the side of Austria. I thought, also, that I saw my way to that statement in relation to the European forces which seemed to me essential as a preliminary to any discussion of "our national defences;" and therefore, for the purposes of the proposed volume, I was glad to seize it. Just at the present moment an acquaintance of Sir Charles Dilke's put into my hand a proof of his last article of the series on "The Position of European Politics"—that on the "United Kingdom." He asked me to notice certain expressions which Sir Charles Dilke had used about a recent speech of Lord Wolseley's,