

**THE BETRAYAL: BEING A RECORD  
OF FACTS CONCERNING NAVAL  
POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION  
FROM THE YEAR 1902 TO THE  
PRESENT TIME**

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The betrayal: being a record of facts concerning naval policy and administration from the year 1902 to the present time by Charles Beresford

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**CHARLES BERESFORD**

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THE BETRAYAL

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# THE BETRAYAL

BEING A RECORD OF FACTS CONCERNING  
NAVAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION FROM  
THE YEAR 1902 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

G.B.

BY  
ADMIRAL LORD CHARLES BERESFORD,  
M.P.



LONDON  
P. S. KING & SON  
ORCHARD HOUSE  
WESTMINSTER

1912

"When all its work is done, the lie shall rot;  
The truth is great, and shall prevail,  
When none cares whether it prevail or not."

COVENTRY PATMORE.

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## PREFACE

THIS book is a statement of facts. I have written it, in order that my countrymen should possess the opportunity of acquainting themselves with the truth concerning the naval administration and the naval policy in force during the years from 1902 to the present time, and of estimating the results of that policy and of that administration.

For it is only by means of the acquisition of such knowledge that the country can be enabled to judge for itself of the adequacy of the first line of defence to-day, when the posture of international affairs demands extreme vigilance, lest at a crisis we be found unprepared.

Precisely that contingency occurred during the summer of last year.<sup>1</sup>

In the result, the First Lord of the Admiralty was removed, the Board of Admiralty was reconstituted, and the formation of a War Staff was announced.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix XII.



In view of the nature of these events, it was decided to suspend the publication of this book during their progress.

The author has for thirty years consistently advocated the creation at the Admiralty of a War Staff charged with the duty of organization for war.<sup>1</sup>

Now that the foundation of a War Staff has actually been established, it rests with the country to see to it, in the light of the facts of the case, that the War Staff is so constituted as to fulfil the object of its existence: which is, to prevent such a betrayal of the national confidence and of the security of the Empire as that which is exemplified in these pages.

CHARLES BERESFORD,

ADMIRAL.

CANNES,

*January, 1912.*

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix XIII., "Memorandum drawn up by Captain Lord Charles Beresford (Junior Lord of the Admiralty) in 1886," etc.

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