

**THE WORLD PERIL:
AMERICA'S INTEREST
IN THE WAR**

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The World Peril: America's Interest in the War by Various

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AMERICA'S INTEREST
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BY
MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| JOHN GRIER HIBBEN | |
| CHAPTER I | |
| American Rights Imperilled..... | 5 |
| HENRY VAN DYKE | |
| CHAPTER II | |
| Democracy Imperilled | 19 |
| THOMAS JEFFERSON WERTENBAKER | |
| CHAPTER III | |
| International Law Imperilled | 53 |
| EDWARD S. CORWIN | |
| CHAPTER IV | |
| The World Balance of Power Imperilled | 82 |
| MASON W. TYLER | |
| CHAPTER V | |
| The World Peril and the Two Americas | 106 |
| CLIFTON R. HALL | |
| CHAPTER VI | |
| The World Peril and American Interests in the Far East..... | 190 |
| MASON W. TYLER | |
| CHAPTER VII | |
| The World Peril and World Peace | 213 |
| PHILIP MARSHALL BROWN | |



THE WORLD PERIL

INTRODUCTION

The Department of History and Politics of Princeton University offers the articles of this volume as an especial contribution to the more accurate understanding of the reasons for the entry of the United States into the European War, and to the more vivid appreciation of all that is involved in the outcome of this conflict. There is an imperative need today that every American citizen should clearly discern the full significance of a Teutonic victory. This volume will greatly aid in illuminating the understanding of any who may still be unable or unwilling to appreciate the bearing of the issues of this war upon their own country and the world. It is well from time to time as occasion offers to refresh our memory and fortify our resolution by a frank rehearsal from a new point of view of the proved facts of German political policy and ambition.

To establish a Germanic world empire, to realize her arrogant pretensions that the Germans are a superior race and destined by divine decree to subdue all peoples to an unquestioning obedience to her autocratic sway, with an insolent insistence that all means are justified

by the sacred end of the German will to rule—broken treaties, the ingenuity of scientific savagery, campaigns of frightfulness, wanton cruelty, mocking the restraints of moral law, the dictates of mercy, the demands of decency and the promptings of chivalry—this is the Teutonic program. Americans should not allow themselves to forget this or to minimize its import.

A nation that has been inhuman in war will be merciless in victory. Within the last few days Count Zu Reventlow has been quoted in the press as saying that the moral law is binding as between Germans, but not as between Germans and other nations. If this is an ethical creed obtaining in war, it will not be set aside by a nation flushed with victory and glutted with the spoils and indemnities of war. Our pacifist friends whose well meaning utterances in this present crisis are nothing more or less than treason should consider the inevitable tendency of their peace propaganda. It means either a direct and immediate surrender to German demands and the consummation of a German victory, or an inconclusive outcome of the present war, affording to Germany the opportunity and the means to reconstruct her war machine and precipitate within the next generation another world conflict and agony.

We dare not pay the price of a premature peace. Rather let us be willing to undergo any sacrifice, to suffer, to endure to the end all the miserable woe and sorrow of a protracted war.

If Germany has been misrepresented and is fighting a fair war in a fair way with the legitimate purpose solely to defend her own land and her own people, then this war should end at once and an equitable compromise be sought and secured. If, however, one is constrained to believe that the success of Germany will prove the scourge of the world, then there is no escape from the grim conclusion that this war must be fought to a finish, whatever may be the accumulated misery for us and our children.

JOHN GRIER HIBBEN.

Princeton, N. J.,
August 27, 1917.