

**THE ECONOMIC  
ANTICHRIST: A STUDY  
IN SOCIAL POLITY**

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The economic antichrist: a study in social polity by W. Blissard

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**THE ECONOMIC ANTICHRIST**

# THE ECONOMIC ANTICHRIST · A STUDY IN SOCIAL POLITY

BY

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The son of perdition, he that opposeth and exalteth himself  
against all that is called God.—S. PAUL.

Of Law there can be no lesse acknowledged, than that  
her seat is the bosom of God, her voice the harmony of  
the world.—R. HOOKER, 1597.

## PREFACE

CHRISTIANITY is usually judged by its power over the world. In the following pages the reasoning will be reversed, for the question is urgent: What is the power of the world over Christianity? Human nature is the soil in which the seed of Divine Truth is set. The world influences character; consequently the conditions congenial or otherwise to the spread of Truth are largely formed by secular order.

The term "Nature" will not be used in the limited sense of mere physical agencies, but rather as the sum-total of the physical, moral, and spiritual energies of the time being. It is thus an elastic term, since with the progress of life and of society these several factors of humanity have constantly grown in power and reach.

While this content of Nature has been gradually filled up, a system—known as economic—has also been growing into power over human affairs. It is more than pertinent to consider how the Christian religion, which entered the world before the Economic development, fares in its modern setting.

BISHOPSBOURNE,  
*March 1917.*



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# THE ECONOMIC ANTICHRIST

## CHAPTER I

### GERMAN ECONOMICS IN TERMS OF WAR

KAISERIST diplomacy is constitutionally bound to its plea that the German interest in the present war is that of self-defence by the fact that the Kaiser, as War-Lord, is incompetent to drag the Federated States into war otherwise than on the hypothesis that the German Empire has been militarily attacked. Consequently on August 4, 1914, we have the Imperial Chancellor suggesting in the Reichstag that the safety of the Empire was threatened: "The fifty years," he said, "have not yet passed during which Count Moltke said we should have to defend the inheritance we won in 1870." When the war was an actual fact he strikes the same note. Speaking on December 2nd of that year, he definitely imputes aggressive intention to Great Britain, France, and Russia thus: "The London Cabinet allowed this enormous war, this world-wide war, to arise because it appeared a favourable opportunity, with the help of her comrades of the Entente, to destroy the vital nerve of her greatest Economic Competitor."

But if we go back a couple of years we find the Crown Prince of Prussia avowing an economic

initiative. To a book designed for German edification—*Germany under Arms*—he contributes a Preface which means nothing less than an implied declaration of offensive war, as appears from such a sentence as the following :—

“ Only by our good sword can we obtain the place in the sun which is our due, but is not voluntarily conceded to us.”

This is the language, not of the defenders of that which they have won, but of aggressors whose gaze is fixed upon a new “ inheritance ” to be won by force of arms, as was that gained in 1870, and, having been violently secured, to be patriotically defended.

Also the Crown Prince showed himself desirous of immediate war. He notes with anxiety that economic preoccupations are unfavourable to war alarms and excursions : “ Since the last great war Germany has behind her an economic advancement which has something almost alarming about it.” “ The old ideals, nay, even the prestige and honour of the Army, may suffer, for peace, peace at any price, is required for the undisturbed earning of money.” Again : “ We desire Economic Supremacy. We must strike for it with the weapons of our Army and Navy before the economic degeneracy of the martial habit has hypnotised us with its peace lullaby.”

These are not the arguments of meek self-defence. “ The survey of the past showed how the force of arms, by securing a huge indemnity from France, has put us marvellously far along the road of Economic progress. We are in a position now to look upon Economic Supremacy as being within our reach.