A WORLD REMAKING; OR, PEACE FINANCE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649736973

A World Remaking; Or, Peace Finance by Clarence W. Barron

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CLARENCE W. BARRON

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A WORLD REMAKING

OR

PEACE FINANCE

By CLARENCE W. BARRON

Author of
"WAR FINANCE" "THE MEXICAN PROBLEM"
"THE AUDICIOUS WAR" ETC.



HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS NEW YORK AND LONDON

I DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO MY YOUNGEST GRANDCHILD

MARTHA ENDICOTT

IT IS THE ONLY COMPENSATION I CAN MAKE TO HER FOR GRANDPA'S LONG ABSENCES FROM HOME, AND IS WITH THE HOPE THAT SHE MAY LONG CONTINUE THE EARTHLY LINK IN THE STILL INSPIRING INFLUENCES OF HER MOTHER AND HER GRANDMOTHER, MY FORMER TRAVELING COMPANIONS IN EUROPE.



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FOREWORD.

It has been my ambition and life work to find the root causes for economic changes.

Poultney Bigelow well says in his late work on "Prussianism and Pacifism":

"There is no moment in the life of a nation more important than any other. Wars and famines, earthquakes and pestilences—these make convenient aids to memory and help to fasten the attention of uncritical readers. But if history is to serve humanity, its duty is to lay bare the causes of disaster and thus help the legislator to frame better laws for the future."

All history is bound up in the human problems of personal and national finance—personal and national protection to daily subsistence. I visited Europe in the first six months of the war to find its causes, and published my observations in "The Audacious War."

I went to Europe again in the summer and fall of 1918, viewed the scarred battlefields and the devastated cities, traveled the high-

FOREWORD

ways with the forces moving forward and the German prisoners traveling back, and stood under the roar of the guns and the protection of the balloon observers and airplane men. Then I passed around the end of the line into Switzerland and from "the roof of the world" took survey of the negotiations for peace which were begun in January, 1918. I saw the crumbling of the German military Frankenstein monster and hastened home before the armistice to describe the situation and the coming end of the military operations in my articles and book entitled "War Finance."

I visited Europe again in the winter and spring of 1919 to find out what Germany would have to pay in reparation, indemnity and disarmament under the terms of peace.

I found the economists agreed with my first figures that Germany could pay between thirty and forty billion dollars and still have machinery and incentive to recover her industrial position in the world. I found also the undercurrents, the diplomacy and the compromises that forced the real issue of German settlement into the background and brought forward a peace pact of three sections that would first set up a league of nations, or superstate, that would maintain the peace of the world