

compel respect for the neutrality of Belgium by every means at its disposal, and against attempts upon it from any and every quarter.

The comparison between Belgium in 1914 and Denmark in 1807 breaks down on every point.

The position of Great Britain in the great European war is different from that of her allies. Germany declared war against Russia on August 1 and against France on August 3, though war between Russia and Austria—for we must remember that Austria is, ostensibly at any rate, the prime cause of the whole catastrophe—did not commence till August 6. As against Russia and France, Germany was the aggressor. But the Declaration of War, or rather the ultimatum with a conditional declaration of war, was made by Great Britain to Germany on August 4, and a state of war commenced as from 11 p.m. on that day. Technically Great Britain took the aggressive against Germany. International Law, unlike municipal laws, is destitute of a judiciary; there is no legal court before which nations can be arraigned, it leaves it to them to decide when they must resort to force to support their demands. It cannot determine the various causes for which war may justly be waged, but it can lay down that under given circumstances there has been a violation of a rule of International Law or international obligations. Whether such violations are of a sufficiently grave character to justify resort to war is a matter for international morality, but, as I pointed out in an inaugural lecture in this place only just three years ago, situations sometimes arise in which the acceptance of peace would be felt by a nation to be an intolerable humiliation, and when a State could have no alternative but war to preserve its legitimate