

2 PRUSSIANISM AND ITS DESTRUCTION

people: the importance of "facts"—Dreadnoughts, beefsteaks, machine-guns, and a balance at the bank—as opposed to the "theories," ideals, desires, aspirations, of the idealogues and the doctrinaires. These things cannot change human nature or the "hard" facts of the world; they can be no concern of men of affairs or those responsible for practical policy—above all, should such logomachies of the study be no concern of statesmen and men of action, since it is their business to deal with "things as they are."

Such is the attitude, as of course you are aware, if you have followed the discussion of the issues of war and peace or of the more fundamental problems of international relationship, that has invariably been adopted by all those who desire to retain their reputation for practicality and common-sense.

And now to-day we have not only become convinced, but are saying loudly and insistently, that, so far from theories, doctrines, professors, and philosophers, being of no account, the war in which we are engaged, the greatest in so many respects that has marked our history, or any history, has but one basic and fundamental cause: theories, aspirations, dreams, desires—the false theories of professors, the false ideals of idealogues.

For we in Britain are practically agreed that this war is the result of a false national doctrine, which is in its turn the work of half a dozen professors and a few writers and theorists—Nietzsche, Treitschke, and their school. Not only have their false ideas and ideals produced the greatest war of history, but they have accomplished a miracle still more startling: they have radically transformed the nature and character of a