

Belgium amongst the shambles of human blood, the blood of innocent women and children and non-combatants, mutilated and murdered in cold blood in the protection of their homes and firesides, and this to terrorize the inhabitants of peaceful cities and towns. He deliberately destroys the most historic buildings and works of art in Belgium, buildings spared by the barbarians of the middle ages, and then professes to weep tears of sympathy and sorrow at his having been compelled to do so. He derides and ignores treaties and conventions as might be expected of the barbarians of ten centuries ago, and yet at the same time pleads the conventions of the Hague Tribunal when he seeks to enforce them as against a neutral country. He sends his battleships to the undefended sea coast towns of England, deliberately murders women and children and then whines because Great Britain has placed an embargo upon contraband of war entering neutral ports for use in Germany. The psychological feature of Germany waging this war is a subject of deepest interest to every student of human nature. It transcends all human understanding that a nation which became imperial in its constitution and in its national career since the Franco-Prussian war, could conceive of their ability at the present time to achieve world power in the overthrow of the other great powers of Europe. Never was there such a case of national insanity as this from which Germany is suffering. This germ of world power seemed to inoculate the blood of her Empire immediately after it was organized. It has been implanted in every youthful mind, it has permeated every page of her literature, her schools have taught it as the religion of Germany, her professors have lectured upon it in every university, and even her ministers of religion have preached it as a divine gospel from the pulpit until the whole nation became obsessed with the hallucination that this was their destiny.

In no nation has the national ego ever been developed as in Germany. No nation ever prided itself so much on its faculty and capacity for scientific, philosophic and diplomatic analyses both of nations and things as does Germany. In applying her standard of measurement to foreign countries France was found to be helpless, Russia a revolutionary mob and England corrupt and decadent. Fully confident in her world destiny, her constitutional authorities have, it is said, prepared a new constitution by

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which the belligerent powers are to be absorbed in the hegemony of Germany with the German Emperor as the divinely appointed Over Lord of Europe. Never did Germany pause to think that Great Britain, that France, that Russia, that Japan and the other great powers of the world had for centuries been building up their empires both through the arts of peace and of conquest when the present Germany was nothing but a country of scattered states and principalities. Did she think these great powers had so far lost their virility, their manhood and their nationhood as for a moment to permit themselves to be overwhelmed or even overawed by this military despotism?

Had Germany for a moment analysed the trend of civilization, of democracy, of free government and of the diffusion of intelligence and education among free peoples, she would have awakened from her dream and would have pursued the even tenor of her way in building up her own nation through the arts of peace instead of setting in motion those irresistible forces by which she is destined to be crushed.

The civilization of a people cannot be built up in a generation, no more can it be destroyed in one; its roots extend down into the grounds of centuries. It is the product of many generations, it is a process of the slowest evolution, its progress bears the mark of centuries. Germany's hallucination of its destiny being world power is nothing short of a national insanity which, for the protection of civilization, must be crushed out by the other nations of civilization. This is the task which to-day is facing the allies, the task in which Canada, as part of the Empire, has joined, and which she is determined to pursue to the end.

The forces of civilization have been fighting for centuries to combat the savagery of barbarism. Although civilization may not have entirely eliminated the brute force of Germany which we see displayed in the present war, yet it has so implanted itself in the make-up of the other great powers of the present age that might can no longer dethrone right. Mere brute force cannot take the place of or supersede that moral force which must be fundamental in every nation. In this 20th century we have arrived at that point when the moral forces of a nation are mightier than all the dazzling splendors of empire, when the religion of christianity is more powerful than the religion of valour, when the mantle of human charity is greater than that of