

HOUR OF DESTINY

which became a considerable factor of German war power. The political grounds for England's opposition, therefore, primarily rest on an astonishing but frequently re-appearing fear of our sea power. In order to obtain a clear view of the motives hitherto underlying her policy we will examine England's past history.

Since that country has played a part in the history of sea Powers, that is to say since she determined to obtain for herself a position on the sea, her opponent has always from time to time been the strongest sea Power. Thus, just as she was the constant enemy of the world Powers Spain and Portugal so long as they ruled on the sea, England turned against Holland as soon as the latter, after her release from the Spanish yoke, had won her dominion on the sea. And as soon as the latter, in unfortunate misapprehension of her real requirements and hard pressed on her frontiers, neglected her navy, England immediately took up her attitude against