

Now the wily old Bismarck had always kept friends with Russia, the huge nation on the East, who are mainly of Slav or Slavonic race. That was wise, for the Russians could at any time be humbled, after the British Empire had been broken up and the small nations, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Sweden, had been absorbed and the French had been smashed forever. But an event happened when Russia was foolishly drawn into a war with Japan in which the Russian armies were not victorious. Bismarck would not have been deceived into thinking that the Russian Empire was weakened thereby, for he would have guessed that, after this serious reverse, the Army would again be built up better than before. But the Kaiser and his flatterers did not understand the signs which history teaches and thought that the huge Nation of the Czar was really unfit to fight: that the officers were dissolute and ignorant and that the peasants were indifferent or rebellious. So the Kaiser and his puppet Chancellors—the little men who aped the ways of Bismarck without his brains—no longer sought the friendship of Russia and allowed the Nations who saw the dangers of German ambition to combine in self-defence.

Then came an attack by the Christian States in the Balkan Mountains against their enemy and oppressor, the Sultan of Turkey. They beat the Turks and then fought again among themselves for the spoils, and the Serbians and Greeks and Montenegrins were victorious. The Serbians and Montenegrins are Slavs like the Russians and their success established south of German Austria, a consolidated Kingdom of Slav race under Russian protection.

This was a great trouble to the Generals around the Kaiser, because they had been the officers who led the