

no less directly than was the Russian arrow of Port Arthur. While, with characteristic skill, Germany played Britain off against the possibility of Russian opposition or encroachment in regard to her own sphere for the spoliation of China—through the Anglo-German Agreement concerning the integrity of China—she, at the same time, encouraged, counselled, and then aided Russia to make war upon Japan, not only to set aside the very principle of her agreement with Britain, but to vanquish and destroy the only Power which could efficiently assert that principle. In the late war, in which the issues were the dismemberment of China and the existence of Japan, Russia fought Japan for Germany no less than for herself. Germany no less than Russia hoped for and stood to benefit by the destruction of Japan. For both nations an empire was at stake. The victory of Japan is equally a death-blow to the hopes and ambitions of Germany as well as of Russia. But the blow has fallen with heavier and more bitter force upon Germany. It is true that no great sacrifice of hers has been stultified. For her, however, as in the case of Russia, there are no other spheres of rich illimitable territory only awaiting her population and her energies to add to her national greatness through power and economic wealth. For her there is no comfort and compensation in peace and friendship with the powerful alliance which guarantees the existing frontier lines of Asia. For Germany, there is only the bitterness of lost desire and the tragedy of want in things essential for her national survival and success. The Anglo-Japanese Treaty has closed the world's last free postern-gate of empire against her. Asia is henceforth to be inviolate. The "mailed fist" is commanded to withdraw. Kiao-Chau becomes a meaningless possession—the grave of a still-born empire—a fortress floating in the air.

At first sight, then, both the interests and the policy of Russia and of Germany—in regard to China—seem to be coincident. The national necessities of both countries inspire them with an Imperial policy which demands territorial