

pangermanistes commencent à s'agiter, il ne reste plus guère de régions pouvant être facilement et avantageusement colonisées dans l'univers. Le pangermanisme appela le militarisme à son secours. Quand on a pour maxime que "la raison du plus fort est la meilleure" il n'y a guère qu'une solution et le général von Bernhardt l'indique nettement: "Il est impossible par des artifices diplomatiques d'améliorer le partage aujourd'hui existant du globe. Si nous voulons procurer à notre peuple la situation mondiale qui lui convient, **il nous faut nous confier à notre épée.**" C'est clair, significatif, sans équivoque! De là est venu 1914! La guerre est l'oeuvre du pangermanisme qui d'ailleurs avait déjà essayé sans succès de la déchaîner à différentes reprises.

L'auteur de la brochure "Peace through a disentangling alliance", après avoir dit que l'Allemagne ne pouvait vouloir la guerre, envoie néanmoins le pavé de l'ours en montrant combien sont fondées les aspirations pangermanistes. Voici ce qu'il écrit sous le titre "A Chance of Heart All Around":

A few comments on the preceding remarks may not be amiss. No doubt Germany, like all other nations, needs a change of heart in many respects. The question is which side should make the start—Germany or her prospective partners. To live comfortably with Germany will be the easiest thing in the world, if her neighbors will but recognize the fact that, as the most highly educated nation, making the best use of her land, taking the best care of her people, she is entitled to the permanent enjoyment of her present rank as one of the leading powers. England, owning an empire more than four times the size of the United States, has enough land; in fact Mr. Asquith said that she has no desire to acquire more. Russia, nearly three times the size of the United States, has enough land; Tsar Nicholas I said so long ago. France, with a colonial domain one-and-a-half times the size of the United States, has enough land to assure her continuance as a great power. Germany having hardly any colonies fit for white settlement, must inevitably decline from her rank as a great power, unless she acquires a wider sphere of influence. If there are in the Old World any backward countries that need the uplifting influence of a strong, vigorous, civilized nation, nothing can be plainer than that they should be conceded to Germany as her sphere of influence. If the German government takes better care of its people than any other government, as is universally admitted, what better luck could befall any backward, neglected, ill-treated people than to come under the influence of such a government? Do this justice, and "out of justice will come peace". Admit Germany's claim to an adequate sphere of influence to insure her permanent rank as a great power, and she will be the most comfortable neighbor to live with. To understand what the denial of that claim means to her, all you have to do is to imagine yourself in her place and picture to yourself what your feelings would be. Would you not feel compelled to remain armed to the teeth in order to escape vassalage? Could you adopt any other policy than the one which you call militarism?

There is ample evidence to show that this situation is well understood by the leading statesmen in Britain, and that they would gladly