

quality has played in determining the rise and the decline of nations, the moral impulse that has led to victory, and the moral decay that has preluded defeat.

But if study conducted on these lines would illumine the past, far more would it illumine the present. Why is it that now, when their material resources are greater far than any of which in recorded time any people ever boasted, the whole Anglo-Saxon race, alike in the British Empire and in the United States, is in visible peril of overthrow at the hands of rivals far poorer, in the case of Japan, and in that of Germany of dominions incomparably less rich and less extended? Because their women shrink from motherhood and their men from the practice of arms. And of both avoidances the cause is the same, namely, the absence of that spirit of self-sacrifice which is the very essence of spiritual life. If that spirit dominated England to-day, would Englishmen decline the first duty and the first privilege of all who are not serfs—the duty and the privilege of rendering themselves fit to defend that freedom which their manlier forefathers won for them and left to them? If Englishmen were worthy of that bequest, would they hide, as now, careless of the claims of Empire, behind their ships? And would they, while crouching thus, suffer—with a madness of folly to which history affords few parallels—the relative decline even of the very fleet which is their only safeguard, until, within three years from now, they must have either but a bare equality to Germany in the North Sea—twenty-one British to twenty-one German Dreadnoughts—or else surrender the Mediterranean, and with it Malta, Egypt, and the route to the East, to the mercy of Germany's pledged allies?

The truth is that armaments are the reflection of the national soul. The immense naval and military strength of Germany is the reflex of moral and social conditions better than our own. The excess of her birthrate over ours (and still more over that of France) is in itself the proof of that superiority. For the growth of her population involves not the production of degenerates, but of a sound and vigorous race. Patriotism, public spirit, frugality and industry are the essential moral factors which render possible the vast armed force which Germany wields. And in all these factors it must be admitted, with whatever shame and sorrow, that she surpasses England. Therefore, if in the gigantic process of international competition England fall before Germany—which fate may God avert—then that fall