

for us, and so solve the problem once for all, relieving us of all bother. But the prevention of future wars will not be the work of a paper scheme for the mechanical rearrangement of European administration and the redrawing of the European map; it will not be the work of a Conference sitting for three weeks or three months: it will be the result of policies to be shaped during the next ten or fifteen years by the general ideas obtaining in Europe. I have attempted in the appendix to this volume to show briefly, and very roughly and generally, in what manner the principles here enunciated might be applied to existing conditions. It would be possible, of course, to expand these general indications into a detailed and imposing paper scheme for the governance of the world: a model constitution for the United States of Europe. Such a paper scheme would, of course, be worth just nothing. However cunningly devised, it would be doomed to failure so long as current political conceptions give rise to conflicting ambitions, mutual fears, evil hate and passions. That is why this book deals mainly with those false conceptions. So long as we hold them they will render us as incapable as the Prussians themselves of so dealing with other peoples as to create and maintain a society of nations.

Particularly must we, because it is our privilege to lead Europe in political conceptions, approach the problem of relations between nations with real understanding and a sane temper. Then we may hope for better things. Not otherwise.

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