

across the frontiers the strain was increasing. Germany saw Russia with double her own population as a menace to the dangers behind Russia's ambition. Russia stood for everything abhorrent to German order and racial feeling.

And what of France? There is little to say of her when we assign responsibility. Here was a nation whose population was practically stationary; a nation with no racial future; a democracy with its racial and national integrity assured by its own peculiar genius. The dream of conquest had passed from the French mind. "My little ray in the sun" was her own sun of France. Her rule was that due to skill in handicraft rather than to any tactics of aggression. At every Hague conference France was for all measures that would preserve peace; Germany against every one that might interfere with her military ambition; England against any that might limit her action in defending the seas.

The desire for "revenge" for '70 had died out in the younger generation of Frenchmen. Her stationary population, which chauvinists resented, had solved the problem of expansion. From father to son, she had been content with her thrift, her industry, and her joy with the joy of living. For, more than any other European nation, she had that gift: the joy of living. Her armies and her alliances were truly for peace. She could not fight Germany and Austria alone. She must have help. If Russia went to war she too must go to war. She acted up to her belief when she held back her armies five miles from the frontier till the German struck; when she gave Germany a start in mobilisation — a start which, with German delay, came near being fatal for her. That