

maintenance of peace proved unavailing, but the very highest attainments of skill, of scientific ingenuity and of organized force have made the conflict more terrible. In astonishment thereat, they are now seeking to explain what they could not or would not foresee.

While many of the explanations are based on imagined causes and while many others ascribe an undue importance to events that are comparatively insignificant, the true causes have nevertheless been pointed out. Above the din of contending opinions, one voice has spoken in no uncertain tones. Sweeping away all pretext and specious assertion, the head of the Catholic Church has laid bare the evil conditions whereof this evil of war is but the culmination. From his exalted position Pope Benedict XV looks with grief upon the struggling nations; but he also looks beneath the surface of things to the underlying causes. He tells the world plainly of the manifold wrongs which have broken the bonds of union between people and people and which have undermined the only solid foundation of human society. Failure indeed there has been, but it is not the failure of Christianity; it is rather the failure of theories and policies that have pretended to govern the world without any regard for the teachings of Christ and even in open opposition to His commands. "Truly," says the Holy Father, "as soon as the rules and dictates of Christian wisdom, which are the assured basis of stability and peace, came to be disregarded in the ordering of public life, the very structure of