

A peaceful settlement was not achieved and the world was plunged into war, because the German government insisted upon resort to force. There can be no peace in the world so long as there are men at the head of great states who preach and practice the gospel of force. There are times when force can only be effectively met by force; but, at such a time, if we are to be true to ourselves and the civilization for which we stand, we must bear in mind that, in the long run, the only way in which force can be overcome is by persuasion. We must never let ourselves forget that in no nation are all the people bad; that within every nation, even in those in which the doctrine of force for the moment prevails, there are hundreds of thousands of men and women just as anxious as we are to prevent anything in the nature of destruction, above all, to prevent the destruction of civilization.

What is now facing the world is a struggle between the pagan gospel of force and violence, and the Christian conception of humanity and free personality. In resisting force we must avoid the fatal error of ourselves glorifying force; in defending freedom we must beware of destroying freedom; in championing the cause of humanity we must not descend into inhumanity.