

PREFACE

conflict herself, with a view to profiting, as she has always done, by the ultimate exhaustion of the belligerent Powers. But should she come in, it would be only for the purpose of destroying the German Navy, of which she has watched the growth with jealous alarm; even if her military resources allowed her to take any part in the hostilities on land, it would not be in her interest and therefore she would not care to assist the French Army which, if victorious over Germany, would in its turn become once more, as it has been in the past, a source of disquietude to the British Islands. Colonel Frobenius, it should be added, is good enough to impute equally mean *arrière pensées* to our allies. France and Russia, according to him, would like to destroy the German Army, but they would also like to preserve the German Navy as a counter to be subsequently employed against the increasing predominance of England. It is a singular and also a reassuring feature in the disquisitions of all