

tion must be made with the assent of all. 'We cannot recognize the right of any Power or State to alter an international treaty without the consent of the other parties to it,' said Sir Edward Grey in 1908, 'because if it is to become the practice in foreign politics that any single Power or State can at will make abrupt violations of international treaties you will undermine public confidence with all of us.'

The treaties, the breach of which Germany acknowledges, are Treaties of Guarantee, and it must be admitted that treaties of this nature have not always been enforced by the guarantors by force of arms. The interests of the guaranteeing States have always been the determining factor in their political action. All treaties of this character are made for particular political purposes, and that fact has perhaps been one of the reasons why statesmen, and text-writers dealing with the acts of statesmen, have often pointed out their weakness. Some of the guarantors must of necessity nearly always be unable to interpose by force in defence of a guaranteed State, and must limit their aid to the exercise of their influence on behalf of a State whose independence, integrity, or neutrality they have guaranteed. The cynical view of Frederick the Great that 'All guarantees are like filigree work, made rather to please the eye than to be of use' reads very like the view of the German Chancellor. Gentz takes a different view: 'I know well', he says, 'that guarantees on paper are feeble means of defence; however, one would be wrong to neglect them, for they furnish, at least to those who wish to do their duty and fulfil their engagements, a legal means of action when circumstances call them to it.' 'However,' says Geffcken, a distinguished German writer who quotes this authority, 'the interest