

I intend to deal with this subject from the historic standpoint. I want to go back into the lessons of history, because I tell you candidly that there is nothing more educative, nothing more illuminating, nothing that helps a man more to form a correct impression, than a careful, full, complete study of ancient and modern history. It was partly through that, I suppose, that I saw this war coming nearly ten years before it came. Of course I was ridiculed a good deal about it, but that did not bother me; and now the ridicule is on the other side, yet those who attacked me, will now turn around and say they saw it coming all the time—it is a most extraordinary conversion. (Laughter).

I intend only to deal with the two greatest and most important wars in past history which were fought for world-power, because they both give useful lessons for us to consider to-day. One was the great struggle between Rome and Carthage; the other was the war of Napoleon. The Emperor William's war now going on, came on without any reason; the Germans had no wrongs to redress, no slights to resent, no grievances to complain of; they went into this war purposely for world-power; their best writers admitted it—they wanted to get the mastery of the world.

The war between Rome and Carthage continued from 264 B.C. to 146 B.C., a period of 118 years, broken by two treaties or truces or armistices. The first Punic War lasted for 23 years. It was a bitterly contested struggle between the Romans and the Carthaginians, and at the end of 23 years, in a great naval victory, the Romans got the upper hand. The war lasted so long, that great numbers of the men who fought in that big battle at the end of the war, were unborn when the war began. The Romans tried to prevent a recurrence of the trouble, so they took Sardinia from them, they took Corsica, they took an