

some encroachment upon the territory and market of the Russian, or some other, ruling class. And the same thing holds true in regard to all the other principals in this European horror. While some of the lesser nations may not have taken part in forcing the issue, they have been pulled into it for the same reason that has driven the others to act.

It is alleged that Germany has been the most arrogant, unscrupulous and brutal of all, in the conduct of the war, as well as in regard to diplomatic flub-dub preceding the outbreak. If this be so, it only vouches that she has reached a somewhat higher stage in capitalist development and culture than the rest. The highest and noblest expression of capitalist rule is war. War in its perfect flower can mean nothing short of the complete annihilation of an enemy, utterly regardless of the means necessary to that end.

Presumably the various combatants in this delightful display of capitalist civilization will indulge in atrocities. And why should they not do so? What else can they do, for is not war itself an atrocious thing? What could possibly be more atrocious, more brutal, more cowardly, more vicious, more contemptible and vulgar, than the actions of these European ruling class ruffians and their puppets in deluding, cajoling or forcing these millions of otherwise peaceful and decent people to go forth to kill, maim and destroy?

Before this tragedy of "blood and iron" is closed millions will have been slain, and millions more maimed and crippled. Other millions will no doubt starve to death, to add still further glory to capitalist rule and laurel wreaths to its military chieftains. But whatever atrocities may be committed; no matter how many children may be butchered; no matter how many women may be violated; no matter how many non-combatants may be killed; no matter how many cities and villages are destroyed and fields laid waste,