

## PREFACE

address herself, is none the less valuable. As for all the writers of this school, England is for him the enemy *par excellence*. But in some respects he surpasses them all by imputing to her, even in the conduct of the coming war, the same Machiavellian duplicity which has, of course, in his opinion characterized her diplomatic preparations for it. "The world is governed only by trickery and deceit," wrote Frederick the Great to Voltaire, and the Emperor William prides himself, above all, on being the direct heir of the Frederickian tradition. But he who puts his faith in trickery and deceit and makes a constant practice of them, is apt to assume that everyone else does the same, and this assumption lands him in grievous miscalculations. Colonel Frobenius has stumbled badly into this very pitfall. He believes, of course, in the first place that England, whilst anxious to see Germany involved in a life and death struggle with France and Russia, would do her best to keep out of the