

## INTRODUCTION

While the formal Introduction to this publication, which appears only in Part I, may be deemed to explain sufficiently the purpose of the Endowment in issuing it, as well as to give all information as to the method pursued in its compilation and arrangement, the undersigned is unwilling to have the second volume come, as it were, unannounced into the world. Instead of reprinting the Introduction, he prefers to call it to the attention of the reader, and to have something as an Introduction to Part II not to be found in Part I.

It will be observed that the title of this publication states that it contains the diplomatic documents relating to the outbreak of the war, and the introduction to the first volume explains that the documents contained in the present work are those issued by the different belligerents, in an attempt to justify their entrance into the war, as distinguished from those documents which concern alleged atrocities, violations of international law, and other occurrences subsequent to the outbreak of the war. They are thus beyond the scope of the title and therefore find no place in the publication.

Three distinct phases of the present world conflict are shown in the documents reproduced: first, the great crisis at the beginning, involving, among the European Powers, Austria-Hungary and Germany, on the one side, and Belgium, England, France, Russia, and Serbia on the other; second, the entrance of Turkey into the war as an ally of the Central Powers and of Japan as an ally of the Entente Powers; and third, the entrance of Italy as an ally of the latter. Montenegro and Bulgaria have issued no official documents on the subject so far as can be ascertained.

In determining the order of the different books in this publication, the alphabetical arrangement by countries was found the most practicable and convenient. Thus Austria-Hungary appears at the beginning of Part I, and Serbia at the close of Part II. The elaborate tables of contents, and especially the analytical index at the close of Part II, remove, it is thought, any possible inconvenience in the alphabetical arrangement.

It should also be observed that, in order to give the reader the exact sources of the documents contained in the publication, the editor's footnotes, indicated in all cases by arabic numerals, give,