

ECONOMIC CAUSES OF WAR

I.

COMMERCIALISM AND IMPERIALISM

SOCIALISTS have always maintained that war was an effect of economic forces. As this is a general statement made by Socialists, I think the present time is ripe to substantiate it. This I will endeavor to do from a study of numerous books, written on the war from the capitalist's viewpoint, also other books on colonization.

Dr. Harris's book, "Intervention and Colonization of Africa," tells us (1914): "The rise of capitalist industry in the last 30 or 40 years has destroyed and rebuilt the old worn out towns of the old world, and awakened democracy, while on the other hand, largely as a result of these economic forces, European society has spread throughout the world. This expansion has come about by the way of enterprise of adventurous traders pushing their wares and gathering in the rich natural treasures of savage lands. This transformation is mainly responsible for those policies of imperial expansion, of com-