

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

FROM shortly before the war till the end of 1914 the writer of the following Notes occupied a leading position in a German manufacturing firm with wide international connections. The very nature of his work breathed the spirit of war. When the war broke out, the writer renewed his efforts to free himself from the profession he loathed. The following Notes were written during the months that elapsed before he obtained his release. After one vain attempt to get them published, he left them untouched for more than three years; and it was only three weeks ago that they came into his hands once more. In view of the vast development which the war itself and our insight into it have since undergone, the Notes now seem to him both imperfect and incomplete: nevertheless he believes it to be his duty to lay them before the public in their original form and without alterations. The only change he has made is to omit a few sections which dealt at some length