

population. What is to be done? The Lord made the earth for the people. Unpossessed and uncultivated soil is intolerable if men are starving for food. A good half of Australia will never be inhabited by white men. The climate forbids it. The Philippines are sparsely populated. The Japanese know these facts and are creating a great navy—for the sea, under the sea and in the air. An excuse will come time he found for taking possession of these islands. Britain is the protection of Australia and besides knowing these things these latter will build an efficient navy. The United States does not want war with the Japanese and many Americans fully appreciate the fact that these Asiatic islands would be the bone of contention. If they get rid of them now, as they announce they will do, it may not only prove to be justice and generosity, but even good policy.

Going back to Europe, which is the crux of the problem, it is pertinent to ask what will be done with the little States and peoples. They must be preserved. It is the only way. A people, be they never so small, profoundly conscious of nationhood—Israel for instance—will keep the fires of patriotism smoldering a thousand years, waiting an opportunity to let the flames burst forth again. England's method, at any rate, short of supreme sovereignty, giving peoples autonomy, letting the Bothers and the Lauriers govern themselves is the only way to keep them sisterly and loyal.

The experience of Germany in Poland and Alsace-Lorraine, where with their method of thoroughness and brutality they persistently endeavored to smother the smoldering embers of nationality, ought to be enough to warn the ambassadors who will soon sit in conference, to draw a new map of Europe, against again trying that useless and tyrannical experiment. Belgium, if not Denmark and Holland, is the desideratum of the German heart. They have the Teutonic strain. If they would only hand over their sovereignty what a sea coast would not Germany possess. Rotterdam is as necessary for the Vaterland's ambitions as Constantinople is for the Russians or Avlona is to the Austrians. England will stubbornly oppose an Antwerp or Rotterdam base—one Heligoland is enough. This is the reason the war will drag on. There is no use parleying till many of the ambitions of the Teuton-Turk alliance are abandoned. England is committed to the conservation of the little countries. That was why she sent her expeditionary force to Belgium. Even if self-defense was her primary and fundamental motive, it was best consulted by defending Belgium and France as buffer nations, and now it is war to the death that all these fundamental factors may be secured.