

heavy for the people to support, and any great revolt against militarism would be a revolt against the Junker caste who lived only by it. What course then would be so effective for the Junkers as to bring on a war, to justify their army by its use, and to shout for the Vaterland and scream patriotism with voices that should drown any protests from helpless socialists and serve to make a deceived populace turn to the Junkers through a mistaken patriotism? It is not the first time that foreign wars have been brought about to conceal a domestic malady of the nation, nor the first time that a generous but mistaken patriotism has been aroused to act as the bulwark of an absolutism which was in reality the greatest foe of the people cajoled into rallying to its defence.

Once the war was afoot, the German rallying cry was that the Empire was fighting for its very existence. This was absolutely true if its existence as heretofore constituted was intended, for the world cannot afford to tolerate its continuance. But the German people are not fighting for their own existence; indeed aside from the losses and suffering of the war and the burden of hatred and debt under which they will have to labour for many years, the lot of the people will be far better under the new conditions of demo-