

main with England, though Norwegians view Russia with some apprehension. The sympathies of Sweden are to a large extent with Germany, although this implies no animosity toward England, and is coupled with a great deal of genuine love for France. The key to the situation is that Sweden does not love Germany so much as she fears, and for that reason hates, Russia. The main features of Sweden's geographical situation are in themselves an explanation of the Swedish state of mind. Sweden and Norway are joined along four-fifths of their entire length, and the Koelen Ridge, which screens Norway so effectively, is of little use to Sweden in this respect, a difference rising out of the conformation of the peninsula. The sound between Sweden and Denmark is only a mile and a half wide at one point. From Germany to the southern coast of Sweden is only a short cruise. The Island of Gothland, on the eastern coast of Sweden, projects far into the Baltic, offering an equal temptation to Russia and Germany. The Aland Islands practically form a bridge from Finland to the Swedish coast just north of Stockholm. There are a dozen points along the northernmost half of Sweden where a landing of troops from Finland could be easily effected. And finally, Sweden and Russia meet at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, at a point whence a railway starts across the Koelen Mountains to an ice-free harbour on the Norwegian coast. And the region tapped by that railway contains unlimited stores of some of the best iron ores known to the world, not to mention other mineral resources and a wonderful wealth of timber.

Let us also recall a few historical data. When Sweden lost Finland to Russia in 1809 the two countries had been at war for more than two hundred years,