

Chancellor, both in his interviews with the British Ambassador and in his speech in the Reichstag, there is a principle which, if accepted, would shatter not only the whole fabric of the Public Law of Europe but of Public International Law in general. This principle, too, is the groundwork of the basis of the policy which has been systematically pursued by both Austria and Germany since the former with the latter's assistance in 1908 tore to shreds a large part of the Treaty of Berlin without the assent of their co-signatories, and entered on the path which led direct to the Austrian ultimatum to Servia, an ultimatum launched with the connivance of Germany by a Great Power which denied to the smaller the elementary rights of an independent sovereign State. Ever since the close of the Russo-Japanese war in 1905, when the balance of power in Europe was for the time disturbed to the advantage of the Powers forming the Triple Alliance, Germany and Austria have acted in defiance of the principles which normally underlie the whole code and system of international intercourse. The visit of the German Emperor to Tangier in 1905, the Congress of Algeciras, the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908, the visit of the *Panther* to Agadir in 1911, were all steps downward from the standard of international ethic which deems war to be but the last resort of nations, and only to be appealed to when diplomacy has failed. These acts afford evidence of the application of the doctrine that war is 'politics par excellence', and lead direct to the enunciation of the principle that 'might is right'; that the Society of States or Family of Nations based upon equal justice and equality before the Law of Nations is a useless and unworkable fiction; that there is no room in the world for International Law to regulate