

moral and material welfare of the victorious nation as a whole, futile or disastrous. It was shown that ambitions like those embodied in Pan-Germanism could not, however successful, serve any real end in promoting the happiness, well-being, or dignity, of the people who sanctioned them and whose sacrifices made the achievement of them possible. That conclusion this present war is now tragically and pathetically confirming, however much the complex details of the military and political struggle may vary the process of the demonstration. Even from the point of view of the moral and material well-being of the German people, the victory of the Prussian arms would be a disaster.

These considerations are not emphasized by way of personal vindication. It matters very little, of course—especially in times like these—whether this or that author should have been misunderstood or misrepresented. It matters a very great deal (if we are really determined that the vast heroisms, the dreadful sacrifices, of our peoples shall not be altogether wasted) whether distortion and misrepresentation obscure certain facts which must form the very foundations of the resettlements and reconstructions which we shall tomorrow be called upon to make. Unless those settlements are to prove as unsound and treacherous as the old, certain fallacies which have in the past exercised a fatal hypnotism over the statecraft of Europe—not of Germany alone—must be corrected, and the essential truths more generally recognized.

For some reason, the bias of old prejudices, natural human rebelliousness to modifying even slightly a familiar point of view, seems to expose any and every statement of those truths (I suppose my own experience is that of most who have preceded me in this field of