

therefore proposed that burglary should cease. Germany, on the other hand, was a young and enterprising burglar, just starting on a promising career. So long as Great Britain, the great robber state, retained her booty—one-fifth of the habitable globe—what right had she to expect peace from the nations? ¹ Her empire was decadent, moribund; and Germany had not only the power but also the right and the duty to wrest her empire from her. ² For right is a question of might. At the bottom of this theory one must recognize a sense of outraged justice. ³ And if one is asked to justify Great Britain's having painted red one-fifth of the habitable globe, frankly one cannot. Nor can one justify the fact that *A* earns five times as much as *B*, but not one-tenth of the income of *C*. In this workaday world we have to be content with a rough kind of justice, and to acknowledge accomplished facts. We must 'live and let live'.

It should be borne in mind, however, that though we commonly speak of 'our colonies', they are not strictly *ours*. The relation is not one of ownership in the sense in which that term is understood in Germany. Our fellow countrymen have settled in distant parts of the earth, and the land which they occupy is *theirs*. We trade with them; we support them in various ways and are supported by them. But we do not take tribute from them. The whole relation is something of a mystery, which the Germans have hitherto completely failed to grasp. It is highly complex, highly unorganized. Perhaps

¹ See the late Professor Cramb's *Germany and England*, p. 14, and cf. General von Bernhardi in *Our Future*, &c., p. 207. The theory is also well stated by Professor Usher in *Pan-germanism*, pp. 247, 248.

² Cf. von Bernhardi, quoted in *Germany and England*, p. 65.

³ For the same point of view at the present day see the French Yellow Book, p. 2: 'France with her forty million souls has not the right to rival Germany in this way.' Cf. pp. 3, 4, 19.