

macy to protect the natural isolation of an island kingdom. Consequently the great European powers have sought to establish a balance of power under which the abilities of one group should be maintained more or less on an equality with those of the other group. This alignment necessitated an admission, no matter how tacit, that disagreements between the nations of one group could be adjusted by methods other than war, and the very fact of this grouping of friendly nations under the practical necessity of remaining friendly and not fighting each other has demonstrated that war itself is needless and has become an anachronism.

The result of this war will be to destroy utterly the balance of power, and to leave one group enormously preponderant. The detachment of Italy from the unnatural Dreibund, the destruction of Austria-Hungary as an empire and of Germany as a military power, and the flocking of all the weak and hungry nations, eager for some of the spoils of victory, to the side of the conquering Entente powers, will leave these powers entirely unopposed and supremely able to do what they choose. It is impossible to believe that they, who have proved that they are able to agree under the stress of war, and who will have the horrors of war so new before