

*from world affairs was a counsel of perfection—so long as no powerful enemy arose to assail it. But the German, with astounding craft, made of this apparently safe policy the very trap for destroying America. We in Britain have run a terrible risk from lack of strategic thinking, but we were nearer the danger and more easily alarmed. The American is far away, and wrapped in the mantle of the written tradition of the Monroe Doctrine. By consequence, it is unthinkable to an American that Germany could even dream of destroying her—yet the destruction of Britain and America is the aim of the German's war—it is to that deliberate purpose and to that alone that the Germans have launched upon this war. When, therefore, we find great American journalists telling us that the heart of America bleeds for Belgium, but has little interest in the Balkans; when we find our American Allies unrepresented in Paris at the War Council about the Eastern war, we are bound to recognize that the American does not even now realize that it is exactly this majestically heroic Serbia that matters in this war more than anything—that it is precisely this Serbia which held the gate shut to the Pan-German Map—and that it is precisely the making or unmaking of Serbia which will lead to the future welfare or disaster of America and Britain. Serbia is the bulwark of Britain and America, as surely as Britain is the bulwark of America against the German design of world dominion. And if this book prove nothing but that to the Man-in-the-Street it will not*