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## WHAT WAR INVOLVES FOR THE GERMANS AND FOR THE WORLD

(Continued from page 5)  
It was in 1904 Great Britain came out of her "splendid isolation" and entered into an understanding with France, which a few years later took final shape as the Triple Entente. It was not an absolute alliance on the part of Britain and was probably chiefly designed to guard France against an assault from Germany, when Russia's energies had been diverted into a conflict with Japan in the Far East. In the autumn of 1905 a great pacifist, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, became the head of the British Government, and at once proceeded to reduce Britain's naval programme in the hope that Germany would follow suit.

**Germany Hurried**  
The result was that Germany increased her rate of building and in 1908 was building four ships to Britain's two. Britain's pacifist policy had been a conspicuous failure. Elsewhere also the Germanic policy (as we may call the policy pursued in concert by Germany, Austria and the Hungarian aristocracy) was steadily drawing, with a sort of arrogant confidence, the lines of the Triple Entente.

Then in 1908 Austria-Hungary annexed finally Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1911 Germany made an attempt to seize a port in Morocco and thus secure a strategic position at the entrance of the Mediterranean. It would have been a fine shelter for the Goeben and Breslau the other week, and the Gut of Gibraltar would probably by now have been alive with floating bombs, but the attempt was frustrated by the resolute action of Britain and France.

**Competition on the Sea**  
The Morocco incident served at least to test Britain's attitude. The war party in Germany was eager for war, the Crown Prince applauding publicly von Heydebrand's fiery speech. But the Kaiser held off, as he has done on more than one occasion.

### PLANNED TO DISPOSE OF BRITISH AND TO SINK THEIR ENTIRE FLEET

The failure of Napoleon to master Europe because of his inferiority at sea is then referred to, an illustration which seems to betray the ideal of conquest in the writer's mind. Then he explains why the German fleet must be capable of coping with the British fleet before France can be attacked with the certainty of success:  
Like a cavalry division on the right wing of our army, the (German) fleet must undertake the protection of its flank by an offensive movement in the North Sea. The fleet must make it impossible for the British to land on the coast of France; it must be able to scour all around far in front of our advancing army. It does not matter at what point the 160,000 English attempt to land, wherever the English transport fleet is waiting, the black smokestacks of the German squadrons must rise on the horizon, and the rear German battleships sink it to the bottom of the sea, while the others in a death-grapple with the conveying fleet send them and themselves to Hades.

The writer never seems to doubt for a moment that the German armies can sweep victoriously on to Paris if British reinforcements can be prevented from landing on their flank. Then he concludes his pamphlet (which consists of 47 pages with 5 more of naval statistics and estimates) with the following stirring appeal:

In this sense (i.e. the necessity of combining sea-power with land-power) is the once derided saying that "our future is on the sea," now accepted by the conscious will of the whole nation. Germany looks with clear eyes towards the time when German valor will give proof of itself on the rushing seas. To the great days in our history, from Fehrbellin to Sedan, there will be added another day which will be named from some bank, or shoal, or spot somewhere in the North Sea, which the unnautical man has never heard of, but which our grandchildren will read of with enthusiasm.

**Many Thousands Distributed**  
Such is the literature which has been circulated in Germany by the tens of thousands during the last two

casions. For the last two years, however, Great Britain has been figuring in the publications of the Allddeutsch or Pan-Germanic party as the irreconcilable enemy, no less than France or Russia, of German interests. Many of the well known Politiks series of pamphlets are directed against "England." In one of them (England's Weltherrschaft und die Deutsche Luxusflotte), the writer tells his countrymen that to increase their army is not enough, they must also have a navy capable of coping with that of Great Britain in order to secure their "share of the world," (Welterbe). Then he proceeds to reassure them as to the ultimate issue of this contest:

**His Assurances**  
"Now, some over-anxious souls may think that England will always be

### HER OWN MANY INTERNAL TROUBLES IMPELLED GERMANY TO THIS WAR

The internal political situation in Prussia has also no doubt had something to do with the Kaiser's decision for war at this time. The opponents of electoral reform in Prussia, the all powerful Prussian nobility in particular, say that they were about to face a struggle for the equalization of the franchise. At a general meeting of the Berlin Social Democrats on 14th June last, it was resolved to accumulate a fund to be employed in a political strike on behalf of an equal franchise. The proposal aroused notes of alarm both in the Upper and Lower Houses. Strong speeches were made calling on the Government to take energetic measures against any political strike as unauthorized by the Prussian constitution.

**Are United**  
The Prussian nobility, a strong and

high spirited body of men who think just enough, that they have done much to make the German Empire, are determined not sink into political insignificance, even if it needs an adventure that staggers the world to prevent it. The speeches made in the Herrenhaus two months ago not only showed a stern determination to resist all changes in the peculiarly restricted franchise, but had a tone which hinted that the time had come for the policy of Ruckbildung, (development backwards), that is, the further restriction of the lower class vote.

Of course a coup d'etat of that kind would be too bold a stroke in time of peace, but it might be done after a great war, were Germany victorious.

**The Programme**  
That this is really part of the Allddeutsch party's programme is stated, not at all obscurely, in a book of 300 pages recently written by Dr. Paul Liman on the character and views of the Crown Prince. "The final form of our political life," writes Dr. Liman will be determined on the battlefield. The boundaries of future claims and rights will be drawn by the sword, by the capacity to conquer. Not for the first time will democratic demands then be paid back in their own coin by the possibility of obtaining the restriction of popular rights (die Beschränkung des Volksrechts) and of carrying the question of electoral claims into the fiery atmosphere of conflict. . . . then would a coup d'etat appear in the milder guise of a necessary measure of defence.

That is the policy with which the Crown Prince and the Allddeutsch party are openly credited with by a member of that party. Dr. Liman's book is not a wise or solid book, but it must be admitted that his portrait of the Crown Prince is in accordance with much that is known and heard about him. The Kaiser on the other hand is represented as too hesitating in his policy, as one of those drilling accumulating, grenadier collecting Hohenzollerns, who leave it to more daring successors to use the resources they collect.

**Radical Protests**  
Of course such literature does not pass altogether without protest from the democratic camp. I saw a couple of pamphlets on the other side. One was by a Berlin journalist, Hans Leuss, and was a moderate, though very outspoken protest against the helpless political condition of the German people liable to be hurried into aggressive war at a moment's notice by the will of one man. Herr Leuss also exposes very clearly the danger into which a too ambitious policy is leading the German nation. In this connection he refers to the recently published book by Dr. Liman:

The Crown Prince, according to Dr. Liman, is an admirer of Napoleon I. That world-shaker, to whom Europe was but a mole-hill would not have said so of the Europe of to-day. In population, wealth and military resources Europe has made giant strides since Napoleon's time. And even the genius of Napoleon was not equal to the task of es-

able to surpass us in naval construction, so that all our efforts will be in vain—the relative numbers will remain always the same.

These ideas are those of people whose information is decades behind the times. We have steadily and continuously, and with less expenditure of money than England's, been approaching her strength upon the set. Let us compare the numerical growth of British and German line-of-battleships from 1898 to 1912. At first we stood as 1 to 6, the British fleet being more than six times as strong as we; two years later the ratio was 1 to 4.8; four years later 1 to 2½, and to-day (1912) England is not more than twice as strong as we. It is an almost silent struggle the world significance and greatness of which later centuries will know how to appreciate. . . .

England will not always be able to keep up the ratio of 2 to 1. Work is higher paid in England than with us, and once we have got the desired number of sixty great ships-of-the-line she will not be able, from financial reasons, to construct 120 dreadnoughts, and besides she has not the inexhaustible reservoir of men which universal conscription provides.

But he seems to have judged that no more favorable moment was likely to arrive. Britain appeared to be on the brink of civil war over the Irish question, and the great self-governing colonies were only beginning to work at a defensive organization for the Empire.

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