

# HOW THE FIGHT WAS WON

---

## CHAPTER I

### THE CAUSES OF THE WAR

By 1914 GERMANY had reached the summit of her power. The steady and rapid growth of her industries and her commerce had brought her much wealth and great reputation. Her navy, negligible fifteen years before, was then second to Britain's only. Her army, always formidable, had been increased in size until it approximated her ideal of "a nation in arms," and had been fashioned by a generation of Prussian drill-sergeants into an extremely effective machine.

The consciousness of power gave birth to vast and ill-formed dreams of empire. Germany had taken a leading position among the nations of the world, but still she was not satisfied. She was desirous of becoming the arbiter of the destinies of Europe. More than that, her vaulting ambition saw a world subdued and paying homage to the Teuton. By force of arms she had grown; Poland, Denmark, Austria, and France had been forced in turn to yield to her might and contribute to her aggrandizement. By force of arms she would continue to grow. France, whose astonishing recovery after the Franco-Prussian war had disappointed Germany's expectations, would be utterly crushed. Britain, whose flag covered one quarter of the habitable globe, would be forced to pay tribute to conquering Germany, and her colonies would provide that "place in the sun" so fervently desired. The Slav hordes of