

## PREFACE

THE purpose of the following chapters is to try to interpret those ideas and ideals of Germany that issued in the unparalleled war. No attempt is made to furnish a record of the events of the war, either military or political, nor to recount the misdeeds of Germany. The sole task undertaken is to try to understand the dark mind and the immoral soul of Germany, and to offer an explanation of her downfall. There is now abundant reason for believing that it is a materialistic philosophy of life and of the world that has eaten out the moral life of the German people. The reader will be the final judge of the correctness of this interpretation.

The prevalence of materialism in Germany can be seen in the deliverances of German leaders in all branches of national activity, from statesmen to historians, and from scientists to philosophers. This philosophy seems to have cast its malignant