

appears obvious that this war presents itself to the mind as the direct consequence of the wars of 1864, 1866, and 1870—the logical continuation (perhaps conclusion) of that era of blood and iron begun on January 16, 1864, by the Austro-Prussian ultimatum to Denmark, and continued unrelentingly to the present day. In this ultimatum the two German Powers demanded from Denmark the cancelling within two days of the new constitution of November 15, 1863, a demand which—parliament having been adjourned—could only be fulfilled by violating the constitution. There is a striking resemblance between some points of this ultimatum and of that delivered by Austria to Serbia on July 23, 1914. The striking feature in both of these pieces of diplomacy is the putting forth of claims that are absolutely irreconcilable with the constitution and other laws of the nation concerned, and the absolute refusal of sufficient time for having the said laws altered in the legal way.

When Denmark took up the war in 1864, many persons expressed the opinion that the inevitable bloodshed was 'but for a scrap of paper', and when afterwards the Danish Government with more tenacity than prudence stuck to the conviction of rescue through the intervention of England and France, this too was 'but for a scrap of paper', viz. the Treaty of London of May 8, 1852, by which the integrity of the Danish Monarchy was fixed and guaranteed by the five Great Powers besides Sweden-Norway. But in 1864—contrary to the case of Belgium in 1914—England and France did not acknowledge any separate duty to back their guarantee by military force when it was infringed by two of the other guarantors with the silent consent of the third. Denmark, left alone and disappointed, was mutilated