

## WHY WE ARE AT WAR WITH GERMANY

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"The object of this war is to deliver the free peoples of the world from the menace and the actual power of a vast military establishment controlled by an irresponsible government, which, having secretly planned to dominate the world, proceeded to carry out the plan without regard either to the sacred obligations of treaty or the long-established practices and long-cherished principles of international action and honor. . . . This power is not the German people. It is the ruthless master of the German people. . . . It is our business to see to it that the history of the rest of the world is no longer left to its handling."  
—President Wilson, August 27, 1917.

### WE FIGHT FOR PEACE AND FOR SELF-RESPECT.

What sort of a peace does Germany hope to secure? That can be answered in a sentence: a peace which will enable her to fulfill in the next war the aims she has failed to fulfill in this. What is the peace the Allies wish? Again the answer is brief: a peace that will make sure that "it shall not happen again."

This war has already killed (not maimed or wounded) over 8,000,000 young and vigorous men, yet Germany still believes that war is essential to human progress, and that any act, however atrocious, is permissible so long as it is an act of war. Against that theory America has set her will.

Does anyone still doubt that Germany believes in war? Here are four leaders of Germany speaking: "Perpetual peace is a dream, and it is not even a beautiful dream; war forms part of the eternal order instituted by God." "A long peace not only leads to enervation, but allows of the existence of a multitude of pitiful, trembling, miserable creatures . . . who cling fast to life with loud cries about their 'right' to exist, block the way for real strength, make the air fetid, and altogether defile the blood of the nation." "The worst of hypocrisies is the participation by Germany in The Hague Conference." "We must not look for permanent peace as a result of this war. Heaven defend Germany from that." And Treitschke, the historian-tutor to the military class of Germany, taught over and over again that war was the only means of achieving world leadership; that war "is to be conceived as an ordinance set by God"; that "war is just and moral, and that the idea of eternal peace is both unjust and immoral and impossible."

These theories, put in practice, have made of Germany the Cain of civilization—"his hand against every man's hand." In self-defense and in mere self-respect, America was forced to strike back. We could not sit still when we realized that it was our duty "to be and to remain the out-spoken moral opponents of the present German policy, and of the German State, so long as it holds this present policy, and carries on its present war. . . . Germany, as at present disposed, is the willful and deliberate

enemy of the human race." (Josiah Royce.)

But if there be any who have not this larger vision of the issues of the war—who are not moved to stake all on the abstract justice of our cause—then let them ask themselves what self-respect as a nation demands of America, and of true Americans, under the treatment we received from Germany.

When the European war came in 1914, and while we were still neutral, what insult was not heaped upon our self-respect? The Austrian Ambassador, Dumba, plotted to organize strikes in our munitions factories, and to buy up agitators to incite workmen to discontent. German spies, now convicted and in jail, have admitted that they worked under the direction of high German officials to commit acts in violation of our neutrality. Some of these same officials have admitted the expenditure of millions of dollars in illegal operations conducted "in direct defiance of our laws, and in insolent disregard of international diplomatic courtesy." The catalogue of German crimes in America, and of German agents amongst us, while we were still neutral, if published in full, would be astounding almost to disbelief.

The German acts have startled us at last to the knowledge that the nation which permits them without resentment is no nation in that essential quality of patriotism—self-respect. Without that quality, we are but a mass of disorganized peoples, having no influence in world affairs, and ultimately at the mercy of that state which best knows how to carry on shameless intrigues amongst us. Germany is that state. We are fighting in the hope of saving the world from her immoral ideals; but we are also fighting to restore our self-respect.

This is the eighth of a series of ten articles by Professor Adams.

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The Allies are all in the same boat, a long way from shore and on limited rations—and Uncle Sam is running the relief ship. It's up to us to save the cargo.

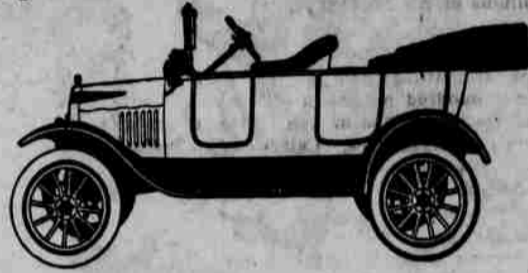
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