

## Chapter 13 — The German Educational System

from *Long Heads and Round Heads: Or, What's the Matter with Germany* (1918)

by William S. Sadler, M.D.

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### Sources for Chapter 13, in the order in which they appear

- (1) James W. Gerard, *My Four Years in Germany* (New York: Grosset & Dunlap Publishers, 1917)

*Note:* The full text of this book was printed in installments in various newspapers, including the *Nebraska State Journal*, beginning in August 1917.

- (2) Munroe Smith, LL.D., Editor, *Out of Their Own Mouths: Utterances of German Rulers, Statesmen, Savants, Publicists, Journalists, Poets, Business Men, Party Leaders and Soldiers* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1917)
- (3) William Archer, Compiler, *Gems (?) of German Thought* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1917)

### Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source first appears, or where it reappears.
- (b) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.
- (c) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row, or parallelisms separated by yellowed parallelisms.
- (d) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and Sadler pointedly differ from one another.
- (e) **Pink** indicates passages where Sadler specifically shares his own experiences, opinions, advice, etc.

- (f) **Red** indicates an obvious mistake, in most cases brought about by Sadler's miscopying or misunderstanding his source, or an otherwise questionable statement.

Matthew Block  
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SOURCE

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13: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

## XIII: THE GERMAN E D U C A T I O N A L SYSTEM

13:0.1 I WONDER if the American people really understand the workings of the modern German educational system.

### VII: THE SYSTEM (Gerard 85)

The teachers in the schools are all government paid

In Germany every college professor, every public instructor, down to the most humble teacher employed in the kindergarten, is under governmental—imperial control and direction.

13:0.2 By means of this strong, centralized system and control, the Kaiser and his associate Prussian advisers are able to

and teach the children only the principles desired by the rulers of the German people (G 85).

impress on the youth of Germany any system of ethics or military teaching which they may see fit.

In other words, the educators of Germany are in the direct employ of the Prussian military party, which at the present time controls and dominates the imperial German government.

### TEACHERS DOMINATED BY THE MILITARY

13:1.1 The slightest deviation from these policies which have been instituted in Berlin and which are prescribed for the teachers of Germany is certain to bring swift retribution and sure punishment from the German authorities.

## SOURCE

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The German teacher knows full well that he must carry out to the letter the plans and policies dictated by the Berlin authorities.

13:1.2 It should still further be recognized that the German educational scheme does not promote and foster the system of free play and games which other countries look upon as of such great value in developing the individuality and initiative of the pupil.

You never see gangs of small boys in Germany. Their games and their walks are superintended by their teachers

I can recall in my mind now seeing the long lines of German children being marched to and from their play and brief outings in semi-military fashion, carefully guarded by their teachers.

Unfortunately, the German system causes a child to look upon his play as a serious thing, as a means to an end; whereas, in this country, we teach a child to play a game just for the sake of the game.

13:1.3 But perhaps the most serious flaw in the whole German educational system is not so much the blighting effect of the system, as such, upon the independence of thought and spontaneity of action on the part of the German children, as is to be found in the additional fact that the German authorities have been for more than two generations using this system as the direct means of

who are always **inculcating** in them reverence and awe for the military heroes of the past and present (G 85).

**inculcating** the spirit of war-worship and militarism into the mind of every child educated in the German school system.

## TEACHING OF WAR- WORSHIP

13:2.1 What could be expected of German youth when, as a part of their routine education, their plastic minds were fed upon a teaching which was based upon this philosophy of military sacredness as evidenced by the following quotations from leading Germanic authorities, which are cited in this connection without further comment:

### III: WAR-WORSHIP (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 133)

**War and Ethics.** (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 137)

**255.** The appeal to arms will be valid until the end of history, and therein lies the sacredness of war.—H. v. TREITSCHKE, P., Vol. i., p.29 (140).

**Militarism Exultant.** (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 159)

**322.** If we are to carry on the warlike education of our people—and we are resolved to do so—

then we by that very fact affirm our constant readiness again to enter upon a war, as soon as our honour, our inward or outward growth, or the expansive tendencies rooted in the inmost nature of our people, demand it.”— PASTOR D. BAUMGARTEN, D.R.S.Z., No. 24, p. 17 (165).

13:2.2 “The appeal to arms will be valid until the end of history, and therein lies the sacredness of war.”— Treitschke.

13:2.3 “If we are to carry on the warlike education of our people—and we are resolved to do so—

then we by that very fact affirm our constant readiness again to enter upon a war, as soon as our honor, our inward or outward growth, or the expansive tendencies rooted in the inmost nature of our people demand it.”— Baumgarten.

SOURCE

I: "DEUTSCHLAND ÜBER ALLES"  
(*Gems (?) of German Thought* 31)

**Der deutsche Gott.** (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 69)

**116.** There lurks in our people something of the God-consciousness which inspired the Old Testament prophets.

Very childlike indeed, but of far deeper meaning than he could guess, was the saying of a little boy to his playmate at the outbreak of war: "I am not in the least afraid! The good God will help us for He is German!"—K. ENGELBRECHT, D.D.D.K., p. 45 (77).

III: WAR-WORSHIP (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 133)

**War and Biology.** (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 140)

**259.** The efforts directed towards the abolition of war must not only be termed foolish, but absolutely *immoral*, and must be *stigmatized as unworthy of the human race*. . . .

The weak nation is to have the same right to live as the powerful and vigorous nation!

The whole idea represents a presumptuous encroachment on the natural laws of development.—GENERAL v. BERNHARDI, G.N.W., p. 34 (141-42).

**War and Kultur.** (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 143)

**265.** I must first of all examine the aspirations for peace, which seem to dominate our age and threaten to poison the soul of the German people. . . .

13: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

13:2.4 "There lurks in our people something of the God-consciousness which inspired the Old Testament prophets.

Very childlike, indeed, but of far deeper meaning than he could guess, was the saying of a little boy to his playmate at the outbreak of war: 'I am not in the least afraid! The good God will help us for He is German!'"—Engelbrecht.

13:2.5 "The efforts directed towards the abolition of war must not only be termed foolish, but absolutely *immoral*, and must be *stigmatized as unworthy of the human race*. . . .

The weak nation is to have the same right to live as the powerful and vigorous nation! . . .

I must first of all examine the aspirations for peace, which seem to dominate our age and threaten to poison the soul of the German people. . . .

## SOURCE

I must try to prove that war is not merely a necessary element in the life of nations, but an indispensable factor of Kultur, in which a truly civilized nation finds the highest expression of strength and vitality.—GENERAL v. BERNHARDI, G.N.W., p. 14 (144).

I: “DEUTSCHLAND ÜBER ALLES”  
(*Gems (?) of German Thought* 31)

**The Chosen People and its Mission.** (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 78)

**132.** Friedrich Nietzsche was but the last of the singers and seers who, coming down from the height of heaven, brought to us the tidings that there should be born from us the Son of God, whom in his language he called the Superman.—PROF. W. SOMBART, H.U.H., p. 53 (83).

**German Humility.** (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 31)

**30.** No nation in the world can give us anything worth mentioning in the field of science or technology, art or literature, which we would have any trouble in doing without.

Let us reflect on the inexhaustible wealth of the German character, which contains in itself everything of real value that the Kultur of man can produce.—PROF. W. SOMBART, H.U.H., p. 135 (42).

## 13: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

I must try to prove that war is not merely a necessary element in the life of nations, but an indispensable factor of Kultur, in which a truly civilized nation finds the highest expression of strength and vitality.”—Bernhardi.

13:2.6 “Friedrich Nietzsche was but the last of the singers and seers who, coming down from the height of heaven, brought to us the tidings that there should be born from us the Son of God, whom in his language he called the Superman.

No nation in the world can give us anything worth mentioning in the field of science or technology, art or literature, which we would have any trouble in doing without.

Let us reflect on the inexhaustible wealth of the German character, which contains in itself everything of real value that the Kultur of man can produce.”—Sombart.

## **PRUSSIAN MILITARISM AND TYRANNY**

13:3.1 Our ethnic study of the Germanic peoples of the present day reveals the fact that the German Empire consists of about ten or twelve per cent of the Nordic or Teutonic stock, and that the balance is either Alpine or mixed Alpine and Nordic. We have seen, from a race standpoint, that this constitutes almost an ideal arrangement for the building up of a great and effective military machine.

13:3.2 We have further noted the fact that the German educational system is entirely in the hands of the Prussian military caste; that the Germanic educators are all in the employ of the State and under imperial control; and, further, that the whole modern educational system of Germany is dedicated to the military idea—the aggrandizement of military conquest and the exaltation of war-worship.

13:3.3 That the present-day philosophy of Prussia is essentially a military one is further shown by the following direct statements, which are quoted in this connection to show that our indictment of Prussianism is justified; that they really do believe in the military destiny of Germany under their control and direction:



## EXALTATION OF WAR

III: WAR-WORSHIP (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 133)

**War and Ethics.** (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 137)

**249a.** War makes room for the competent at the expense of the unsound. War is the source of all good growth. Without war the development of nations is impossible.—K. WAGNER, K., p. 183 (138).

**250.** The sight of blood and wounds steels the nerves of the soul, the horrors of war stimulate the spirits, so that instead of the falsehood and cowardice of enervation, the old heroic virtues are restored . . .

fear of God, martial bravery, obedience, uprightness of mind, constancy, truth . . . manlike courage, manly pity, and all that is great and good in humanity.—E. v. LASAULX, P.G., p. 86 (138).

VIII: UTTERANCES OF MILITARY WRITERS (*Out of Their Mouths* 150)

**The army the basis of civilization** (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 150)

The army takes the first place among the institutions of every country. It alone makes possible the existence of all the other institutions.

All political and civil liberty, all the creations of civilization, the finances, the State itself, stand and fall with the army.

Field Marshal Count Helmuth von Moltke, Speech in the Reichstag, Jan. 11, 1887 (150-51).

13:4.1 “War makes room for the competent at the expense of the unsound. War is the source of all good growth. Without war the development of nations is impossible.”—Wagner.

13:4.2 “The sight of blood and wounds steels the nerves of the soul; the horrors of war stimulate the spirits, so that instead of the falsehood and cowardice of enervation, the old heroic virtues are restored. . . .

Fear of God, martial bravery, obedience, uprightness of mind, constancy, truth, manlike courage, manly pity, and all that is great and good in humanity.”—Lasaulx.

13:4.3 “The army takes the first place among the institutions of every country. It alone makes possible the existence of all the other institutions.

All political and civil liberty, all the creations of civilization, the finances, the State itself, stand and fall with the army.

. . .

SOURCE

War instituted by God (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 151)

Perpetual peace is a dream, and it is not even a beautiful dream. War is part of the eternal order instituted by God. . . .

Moltke, Letter to Bluntschli, Dec. 11, 1880 (151).

**Biology, civilization, idealism, and Christianity demand war** (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 151)

. . . War is not merely a necessary element in the life of nations, **but an indispensable factor of culture, in which a truly civilized nation finds the highest expressions of strength and vitality. . . .**

**The brutal incidents inseparable from every war vanish completely before the idealism of the main result.**

...

Gen. Friedrich von Bernhardi, "Germany and the Next War"; translated by A. H. Powles (Longman, Green & Co., 1912), pp. 6, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22 (151-52).

III: WAR-WORSHIP (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 133)

War Necessary to Germany. (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 149)

**283.** A pacific agreement with England is a will-o'-the-wisp which no serious German statesman would trouble to follow.

We must always keep the possibility of war with England before our eyes, and arrange our political and military plans accordingly.—GENERAL v. BERNHARDI, G.N.W., p. 99 (151).

13: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

Perpetual peace is a dream, and it is not even a beautiful dream. War is part of the eternal order instituted by God."—Moltke.

13:4.4 "Biology, civilization, idealism, and Christianity demand war.

War is not merely a necessary element in the life of nations, but an indispensable factor of culture, in which a truly civilized nation finds the highest expressions of strength and vitality. . . .

The brutal incidents inseparable from every war vanish completely before the idealism of the main results. . . .

A pacific agreement with England is a will-o'-the-wisp which no serious German statesman would trouble to follow.

We must always keep the possibility of war with England before our eyes, and arrange our political and military plans accordingly. . . .

## SOURCE

**282.** ... France must be so completely crushed that she can never again come across our path.—GENERAL v. BERNHARDI, G.N.W., p. 105 (151).

**285.** ... We must not hold back in the hard struggle for the sovereignty of the world.—GENERAL v. BERNHARDI, G.N.W., p. 79 (152).

VIII: UTTERANCES OF MILITARY WRITERS (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 150)

**The diffusion of “culture” by war** (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 152)

It lies in the nature of a fully developed State—the history of all ages confirm it—to feel the need of forcing the greatest possible number of the inhabitants of the earth into the domain of its culture....

Highly developed cultural nations conquer to educate, to extend their culture to others (152).

**Must culture build its cathedrals on hills of corpses, seas of tears, and the death-rattle of the vanquished? Yes, it must...** (153).

Either it must be denied that culture is a blessing to humanity, and dreams of Arcadian simplicity must be accepted, or the right to rule must be accorded to one’s nation.

In the latter case, **the power of the conqueror becomes the supreme moral law** to which the vanquished must submit. *Vae victis!*

Lt. Karl A. Kuhn, Instructor in Military History, Charlottenburg, “Die wahren Ursachen des Weltkrieges” (1914), pp. 10, 11 (152-53).

## 13: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

France must be so completely crushed that she can never again come across our path. . . .

We must not hold back in the hard struggle for the sovereignty of the world.”—Bernhardi.

13:4.5 “It lies in the nature of a fully developed state—the history of all ages confirm it—to feel the need of forcing the greatest possible number of the inhabitants of the earth into the domain of its culture. . . .

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In the latter case, the power of the conqueror becomes the supreme moral law to which the vanquished must submit.”—Kuhn.