

Chapter 14 — Prussianized Germany

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

by William S. Sadler, M.D.

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Source for Chapter 14

- (1) Otto H. Kahn, *Prussianized Germany: Americans of Foreign Descent and America's Cause* (Union League Club, 1917, 21 pgs.)

Note: Excerpts of Kahn's address appeared in newspapers, including: *The Times-Republican* (Marshalltown, Iowa, Nov. 27, 1917) and *The Delphos Republican* (Delphos, Kansas, Dec. 21, 1917)

Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author first appears, or where he/she 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.

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XIV: PRUSSIANIZED GERMANY

14:0.1 I HAVE already called attention to the manner and methods of the Prussian militarists in their national propaganda of subverting and brutalizing the German peoples—the vast majority of whom are Alpine in their racial tendency.

“PRUSSIANIZED GERMANY” (Kahn 3)

And now I desire to offer in further proof and demonstration of this despicable and deplorable crime certain extracts

[contd] *From an address before the Harrisburg, Pa., Chamber of Commerce Sept. 26, 1917 (K 3)*

from a remarkable address given by Mr. Otto H. Kahn before the Chamber of Commerce, Harrisburg, Pa., September 26, 1917, as follows:

[contd] I speak as one who has seen the spirit of the Prussian governing class at work from close by, having at its disposal and using to the full practically every agency for moulding the public mind (K 3).

14:0.2 “I speak as one who has seen the spirit of the Prussian governing class at work from close by, having at its disposal and using to the full practically every agency for moulding the public mind.

[contd] I have watched it proceed with relentless persistency and profound cunning to instill into the nation the demoniacal obsession of power-worship and world-dominion,

14:0.3 “I have watched it proceed with relentless persistency and profound cunning to instill into the nation the demoniacal obsession of power-worship and world-dominion,

to modify and pervert the mentality—indeed, the very fibre and moral substance—of the German people,

to modify and pervert the mentality—indeed, the very fibre and moral substance—of the German people,

a people which until misled, corrupted, and systematically poisoned by the Prussian ruling casts, was and deserved to be an honored, valued, and welcome member of the family of nations (K 3-4).

a people which, until misled, corrupted, and systematically poisoned by the Prussian ruling casts, was and deserved to be an honored, valued, and welcome member of the family of nations.

SOURCE

[contd] I have hated and loathed that spirit ever since it came within my ken many years ago; hated it all the more as I saw it ruthlessly pulling down a thing which was dear to me—

the old Germany to which I was linked by ties of blood, by fond memories and cherished sentiments (K 4-5).

[contd] The difference in the degree of guilt as between the German people and their Prussian or Prussianized rulers and leaders for the monstrous crime of this war and the atrocious barbarism of its conduct

is the difference between the man who, acting under the influence of a poisonous drug, runs amuck in mad frenzy, and the unspeakable malefactor who administered that drug, well knowing and fully intending the ghastly consequences which were bound to follow (K 5-6).

[contd] The world fervently longs for peace.

But there can be no peace answering to the true meaning of the word—no peace permitting the nations of the earth, great and small, to walk unarmed and unafraid—

until the teaching and the leadership of the apostles of an outlaw creed shall have become discredited and hateful in the sight of the German people;

until that people shall have awakened to a consciousness of the unfathomable guilt of those whom they have followed into calamity and shame;

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14:0.4 “I have hated and loathed that spirit ever since it came within my ken many years ago; hated it all the more as I saw it ruthlessly pulling down a thing which was dear to me—

the old Germany to which I was linked by ties of blood, by fond memories and cherished sentiments.

14:0.5 “The difference in the degree of guilt as between the German people and their Prussian or Prussianized rulers and leaders for the monstrous crime of this war and the atrocious barbarism of its conduct

is the difference between the man who, acting under the influence of a poisonous drug, runs amuck in mad frenzy, and the unspeakable malefactor who administered that drug, well knowing and fully intending the ghastly consequences which were bound to follow.

14:0.6 “The world fervently longs for peace.

But there can be no peace answering to the true meaning of the word—no peace permitting the nations of the earth, great and small, to walk unarmed and unafraid—

until the teaching and the leadership of the apostles of an outlaw creed shall have become discredited and hateful in the sight of the German people;

until that people shall have awakened to a consciousness of the unfathomable guilt of those whom they have followed into calamity and shame;

SOURCE

until a mood of penitence and of a decent respect for the opinions of mankind shall have supplanted the sway of what President Wilson has so trenchantly termed “truculence and treachery” (K 7-8).

[contd] God strengthen the conscience and the understanding, the will and the power of the German people so that they may find the only road which will give to the world an early peace and in time lead Germany back into the family of nations from which it is now an outcast (K 8-9).

[contd] From each successive visit to Germany for twenty-five years I came away more appalled by the sinister transmutation Prussianism had wrought amongst the people and by the portentous menace I recognized in it for the entire world (K 9).

[contd] It had given Germany unparalleled prosperity, beneficent and advanced social legislation, and not a few other things of value, but it had taken in payment the soul of the race. It had made a “devil’s bargain” (K 9)

[contd] And when this war broke out in Europe I knew that the issue had been joined between the powers of brutal might and insensate ambition on the one side and the forces of humanity and liberty on the other; between darkness and light (K 10).

[contd] Many there were at that time—and amongst them men for whose character I had high respect and whose motives were beyond any possible suspicion—who saw their own and America’s duty in strict neutrality, mentally and actually,

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until a mood of penitence and of a decent respect for the opinions of mankind shall have supplanted the sway of what President Wilson has so trenchantly termed ‘truculence and treachery.’

14:0.7 “God strengthen the conscience and the understanding, the will and the power of the German people so that they may find the only road which will give to the world an early peace and in time lead Germany back into the family of nations from which it is now an outcast.

14:0.8 “From each successive visit to Germany for twenty-five years I came away more appalled by the sinister transmutation Prussianism had wrought amongst the people and by the portentous menace I recognized in it for the entire world.

14:0.9 “It had given Germany unparalleled prosperity, beneficent and advanced social legislation, and not a few other things of value, but it had taken in payment the soul of the race. It had made a ‘devil’s bargain.’

14:0.10 “And when this war broke out in Europe I knew that the issue had been joined between the powers of brutal might and insensate ambition on the one side and the forces of humanity and liberty on the other; between darkness and light.

14:0.11 “Many there were at that time—and amongst them men for whose character I had high respect and whose motives were beyond any possible suspicion—who saw their own and America’s duty in strict neutrality, mentally and actually;

SOURCE

but personally I believed from the beginning of the war, whether we liked all the elements of the Allies combination or not—and I certainly did not like the Russia of the Czars—that the cause of the Allies was America’s cause (K 10-11).

[contd] I believed that this was no ordinary war between peoples for a question of national interest, or even national honor, but a conflict between fundamental principles and ideas;

and so believing I was bound to feel that the natural lines of race, blood, and kinship could not be the determining lines for one’s attitude and alignment,

but that each man, regardless of his origin, had to decide according to his judgment and conscience on which side was the right and on which was the wrong, and take his stand accordingly, whatever the wrench and anguish of the decision.

And thus I took my stand three years ago (K 11-12).

For we Americans of foreign antecedents are here not by the accident of birth, but by our own free choice for better or for worse (K 14-15).

[contd] We are your fellow-citizens because you accepted our oath of allegiance as given in good faith, and because you have opened to us in generous trust the portals of American opportunity and freedom, and have admitted us to membership in the family of Americans,

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but personally I believed from the beginning of the war, whether we liked all the elements of the Allies’ combination or not—and I certainly did not like the Russia of the Czars—that the cause of the Allies was America’s cause.

14:0.12 “I believed that this was no ordinary war between peoples for a question of national interest, or even national honor, but a conflict between fundamental principles and ideas,

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And thus I took my stand three years ago.

14:0.13 “For we Americans of foreign antecedents are here not by the accident of birth, but by our own free choice for better or for worse.

We are your fellow-citizens because you accepted our oath of allegiance as given in good faith, and because you have opened to us in generous trust the portals of American opportunity and freedom, and have admitted us to membership in the family of Americans,

SOURCE

giving us equal rights in the great inheritance which has been created by the blood and the toil of your ancestors, asking nothing from us in return but decent citizenship and adherence to those ideals and principles which are symbolized by the glorious flag of America (K 15-16).

[contd] Woe to the foreign-born American who betrays the splendid trust which you have reposed in him! (K 16)

[contd] Woe to him who considers his American citizenship merely as a convenient garment to be worn in fair weather, but to be exchanged for another one in time of storm and stress! (K 16)

[contd] Woe to the German- American, so called, who, in this sacred war for a cause as high as any for which ever people took up arms, does not feel a solemn urge, does not show an eager determination to be in the very fore-front of the struggle;

does not prove a patriotic jealousy, in thought, in action, and in speech to rival and to outdo his native-born fellow-citizen in devotion and in willing sacrifice for the country of his choice and adoption and sworn allegiance, and of their common affection and pride (K 16-17).

[contd] As Washington led Americans of British blood to fight against Great Britain, as Lincoln called upon Americans of the North to fight their very brothers of the South,

so Americans of German descent are now summoned to join in our country's righteous struggle against a people of their own blood,

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giving us equal rights in the great inheritance which has been created by the blood and the toil of your ancestors, asking nothing from us in return but decent citizenship and adherence to those ideals and principles which are symbolized by the glorious flag of America.

14:0.14 "Woe to the foreign-born American who betrays the splendid trust which you have reposed in him!"

14:0.15 "Woe to him who considers his American citizenship merely as a convenient garment to be worn in fair weather, but to be exchanged for another one in time of storm and stress!"

14:0.16 "Woe to the German- American, so called, who, in this sacred war for a cause as high as any for which ever people took up arms, does not feel a solemn urge, does not show an eager determination to be in the very forefront of the struggle;

does not prove a patriotic jealousy, in thought, in action, and in speech, to rival and to outdo his native-born fellow-citizen in devotion and in willing sacrifice for the country of his choice and adoption and sworn allegiance, and of their common affection and pride.

14:0.17 "As Washington led Americans of British blood to fight against Great Britain, as Lincoln called upon Americans of the North to fight their very brothers of the South,

so Americans of German descent are now summoned to join in our country's righteous struggle against a people of their own blood,

SOURCE

which, under the evil spell of a dreadful obsession, and, Heaven knows, through no fault of ours, has made itself the enemy of this peace-loving Nation, as it is the enemy of peace and right and freedom throughout the world (K 18-19).

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