

Chapter 17 — “Might Is Right” — The Law of the Jungle

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 17, in the order in which they appear

- (1) William Archer, Compiler, **Gems (?) of German Thought** (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page & Company, 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 **Le Queux**, “German Germ Factory to Destroy Allies by Epidemics Is Exposed”

Note: This article appeared in various newspapers, including *The San Francisco Examiner* (San Francisco, Ca., Dec. 2, 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
17 February 2019

XVII: “MIGHT IS RIGHT”—THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE

17:0.1 GERMANY was one time Christian in its morals and humanitarian in its philosophy, and in order to justify the Prussian propaganda of war-worship, conquest, and frightfulness, a new priesthood of state military priests and paid philosophers had to be developed and fostered, and in this task the Prussians were easily and thoroughly successful.

17:0.2 And, in proof of the new religion of Germany, of the new ethics of Prussia, that “might is right,” we can cite numerous authorities without having the trouble to quote from Nietzsche and his diabolical doctrines of the Superman. And so to show that today, in the standards of the German nation, might is regarded as the equivalent of right, we have only to cite the following authorities:

THE NEW LAW OF FORCE

V: MACHIAVELISM (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 185)

Might is Right. (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 194)

391. In the age of the most tremendous mobilization of physical and spiritual forces the world has ever seen, we proclaim—no, we do not proclaim it, but it reveals itself—the Religion of Strength.—PROF. A. DEISSMAN, D.R.S.Z., No. 9, p. 24 (195).

17:1.1 “In the age of the most tremendous mobilization of physical and spiritual forces the world has ever seen, we proclaim—no, we do not proclaim it, but it reveals itself—the Religion of Strength.”—Prof. Deissmann.

SOURCE

385. What does right matter to me? I have no need of it.

What I can acquire by force, that I possess and enjoy; what I cannot obtain, I renounce, and I set up no pretensions to infeasible right. . . . I have the right to do what I have the power to do.—M. STIRNER, D.E.S.E., p. 275 (194).

IV: UTTERANCES OF PUBLICISTS, MEN OF LETTERS AND JOURNALISTS (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 69)
OTOM

Germany Willed the War (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 84)

... Let us drop our pitiable efforts to excuse Germany's action; let us cease heaping contemptible insults upon the enemy.

Not against our will were we thrown into this gigantic adventure.

It was not imposed on us by surprise. We willed it; we were bound to will it.

We do not appear before the tribunal of Europe; we do not recognize any such jurisdiction (84).

[contd] Our force will create a new law in Europe. It is Germany that strikes.

When it shall have conquered new fields for its genius, then the priests of all the gods will exalt the war as blessed.

Harden in the "Zukunft" (August-October, 1914); cited in "Jugés par eux-mêmes," pp. 46-47 (84).

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

17:1.2 "What does right matter to me? I have no need of it.

What I can acquire by force, that I possess and enjoy; what I cannot obtain, I renounce, and I set up no pretensions to infeasible right. . . . I have the right to do what I have the power to do."—Stirner.

17:1.3 "Let us drop our pitiable efforts to excuse Germany's actions; let us cease heaping contemptible insults upon the enemy.

Not against our will were we thrown into this gigantic adventure.

It was not imposed on us by surprise. We willed it; we were bound to will it.

We do not appear before the tribunal of Europe; we do not recognize any such jurisdiction.

Our force will create a new law in Europe. It is Germany that strikes.

When it shall have conquered new fields for its genius, then the priests of all the gods will exalt the war as blessed."—Harden.

SOURCE

V: MACHIAVELISM (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 185)

Might is Right. (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 194)

384. The law of the strong holds good everywhere.—GENERAL V. BERNHARDI, G.N.W., p. 18 (194).

III: UTTERANCES OF PHILOSOPHERS, HISTORIANS AND MEN OF SCIENCE (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 33)

Little States and weak peoples (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 39)

A so-called small State is not a State at all, but only a tolerated community, which absurdly pretends to be a State. . .

There may be greater and lesser States. **The lesser States have rights only in so far as they possess a power of resistance that must be taken into account,**

in so far as they are desirable allies or respectable adversaries....

Lasson, *ibid.*, Pp. 13, 14, 71, 72, 75, 98, 99, 100 (39-40).

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

Justification of conquest (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 168)

... Since almost every part of the globe is inhabited, new territory must, as a rule, be obtained at the cost of its possessors—that is to say, by conquest, which thus becomes a law of necessity. . . .

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

17:1.4 “The law of the strong holds good everywhere. . . .

A so-called small State is not a State at all, but only a tolerated community, which absurdly pretends to be a State. . .

The lesser States have rights only in so far as they possess a power of resistance that must be taken into account. . . .

Since almost every part of the globe is inhabited, new territory must, as a rule, be obtained at the cost of its possessors—that is to say, by conquest, which thus becomes a law of necessity. . . .

SOURCE

In such cases might gives the right to occupy or to conquer.

Might is at once the supreme right, and the dispute as to what is right is decided by the arbitrament of war.

Bernhardi, "Germany and the Next War," pp. 14-15 (168).

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

In such cases might gives the right to occupy or to conquer.

Might is at once the supreme right, and the dispute as to what is right is decided by the arbitrament of war."—Bernhardi.¹

BARBARIC RUTHLESSNESS

17:2.1 The subject of German ruthlessness and Prussian barbarism needs little or no proof outside of Germany's military conduct in the present war; but, in order to show that her cruelties were premeditated—that they are part of the Prussian military system—one needs only to go through the present-day literature of her poets, philosophers, and professors to find the incriminating evidence. How could any people, especially those with Alpine racial susceptibility, be other than cruel and ruthless when fed upon such teachings as the following extracts are representative of:

IX: UTTERANCES OF COMMANDERS AND SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 176)

In case any of the inhabitants fire upon soldiers of the German army, **one-third of the male population will be shot.**

Notice posted up in Hasselt, Belgium, Aug. 17, 1914; "Jugés par eux-mêmes," p. 84 (176).

17:2.2 "In case any of the inhabitants fire upon soldiers of the German army, one-third of the male population will be shot."

—Notice posted, Hasselt, Belgium, August 17, 1914.

SOURCE

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

“Grow hard, warriors!” (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 159)

... The soldier must be hard. Grow hard, warriors!

It is better to let a hundred women and children belonging to the enemy die of hunger than to let a single German soldier suffer.

Gen. von der Goltz, “The Ten Iron Commandments of the German Soldiers”; cited in “Jugés par eux-mêmes,” p. 74 (159).

III: UTTERANCES OF PHILOSOPHERS, HISTORIANS AND MEN OF SCIENCE (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 33)

Professional frightfulness (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 68)

... If neutrals were destroyed so that they disappeared without leaving any trace, terror would soon keep seamen and travelers away from the danger zones and thus save many lives.

Prof. Oswald Flamm, in the Berlin “Woche”; cited in the New York “Times” (May 15, 1917) (68).

IX: UTTERANCES OF COMMANDERS AND SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 176)

Order to kill prisoners (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 186)

Beginning with today, no more prisoners are to be taken.

All prisoners are to be put to death. The wounded, whether armed or not, are to be put to death.

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

17:2.3 “The soldier must be hard. Grow hard, warriors!

It is better to let a hundred women and children belonging to the enemy die of hunger than to let a single German soldier suffer.”—Gen. von der Goltz.

17:2.4 “If neutrals were destroyed so that they disappeared without leaving any trace, terror would soon keep seamen and travelers away from the danger zones and thus save many lives.”—Prof. Flamm.

17:2.5 “Beginning with today, no more prisoners are to be taken.

All prisoners are to be put to death. The wounded, whether armed or not, are to be put to death.

SOURCE

Prisoners, even where they are organized in large units, are to be put to death. No living man is to remain behind us.

Order of the day, issued by Gen. Stenger, of the 58th Brigade, August 26, 1914; “Jugés par eux-mêmes,” p. 85 (186-87).

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

War must be conducted more ruthlessly (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 157)

It would be yielding to voluntary self-deception not to recognize that **at the present time war must be conducted much more ruthlessly and much more violently,**

and that it must come much nearer to affecting the entire population, than has previously been the case. . . .

Utterances of approved legal authorities and precedents found in international settlements can hardly claim full authority in the law of war . . . because military situations necessarily vary and military problems are therefore subjected to personal judgment, which can recognize no other law than that of military necessity.

Hartmann, *ibid.*, vol. xiv, pp. 90, 91 (157-58).

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

Prisoners even where they are organized in large units, are to be put to death. No living man is to remain behind us.”

—Gen. Stenger, August 26, 1914.

DELIBERATE RUTHLESSNESS

17:3.1 “At the present time war must be conducted much more ruthlessly and much more violently,

and it must come much nearer to affecting the entire population than has previously been the case. . . .

Military situations necessarily vary and military problems are therefore subject to personal judgment, which can recognize no other law than that of military necessity.”—Hartmann.

SOURCE

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

I: UTTERANCES OF RULERS (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 1)

Imperial menace (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 4)

You know very well that you are to fight against a cunning, brave, well-armed and terrible enemy.

If you come to grips with him, be assured quarter will not be given, no prisoners will be taken.

Use your weapons in such a way that for a thousand years no Chinese shall dare to look upon a German askance. Be as terrible as Attila's Huns.

William II, Speech to the Chinese Expeditionary force, July 27, 1900. The last sentence appeared in contemporary reports but not in the official version (4).

IV: RUTHLESSNESS (*Gems (?) of German Thought* 169)

360. We are not only compelled to accept war. . . . but are even compelled to carry on this war with a cruelty, a ruthlessness, an employment of every imaginable device, unknown in any previous war.—PASTOR D. BAUMGARTEN, D.R.S.Z., No. 24, p. 7 (182).

361. Whoever cannot prevail upon himself to approve from the bottom of his heart the sinking of the *Lusitania*—

whoever cannot conquer his sense of the gigantic cruelty (*ungeheure Grausamkeit*) to unnumbered perfectly innocent victims . . . and give himself up to honest delight at this victorious exploit of German defensive power—

17:3.2 “You know very well that you are to fight against a cunning, brave, well-armed and terrible enemy.

If you come to grips with him be assured quarter will not be given, no prisoners will be taken.

Use your weapons in such a way that for a thousand years no Chinese shall dare to look upon a German askance. Be as terrible as Attila's Huns.”

—William II, Speech to the Chinese Expeditionary Forces, July 27, 1900.

17:3.3 “We are not only compelled to accept war. . . . but are even compelled to carry on this war with a cruelty, a ruthlessness, an employment of every imaginable device, unknown in any previous war. . . .

Whoever cannot prevail upon himself to approve from the bottom of his heart the sinking of the *Lusitania*—

whoever cannot conquer his sense of the gigantic cruelty to unnumbered perfectly innocent victims . . . and give himself up to honest delight at this victorious exploit of German defensive power—

SOURCE

him we judge to be no true German.—
PASTOR D. BAUMGARTEN, D.R.S.Z.,
No. 24, p. 7 (182).

346. Hatred, delight in mischief, rapacity and ambition, and whatever else is called evil, belong to the marvelous economy of the conservation of the race.—FR. NIETZSCHE, J.W., section 1 (177).

331. One must . . . resist all sentimental weakness.

Life is *in its essence* appropriation, injury, the over-powering of whatever is foreign to us and weaker than ourselves, suppression, hardness, the forcing upon others of our own forms, the incorporation of others, or, at the very least and mildest, their exploitation.—FR. NIETZSCHE, B.G.E. section 259 (171).

356. Verily, ye good and just; much in you is laughable, and most of all your fear of what hath hitherto been called “devil”! . . . I guess that you will call my Superman “devil”!—FR. NIETZSCHE, Z. *Of Manly Prudence* (181).

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

him we judge to be no true German.”
—Baumgarten.

17:3.4 “Hatred, delight in mischief, rapacity and ambition, and whatever else is called evil, belong to the marvelous economy of the conservation of the race.

One must . . . resist all sentimental weakness.

Life is in its essence appropriation
injury, the overpowering of whatever is foreign to us and weaker than ourselves, suppression, hardness, the forcing upon others of our own forms, the incorporation of others, or, at the very least and mildest, their exploitation. . . .

Verily, ye good and just; much in you is laughable, and most of all your fear of what hath hitherto been called ‘devil’ . . . I guess that you will call my Superman ‘devil’!”—Nietzsche.

SELF-CONFESSED GERMAN MILITARY CRUELTY

17:4.1 That the Prussian propaganda of war-worship and “might is right” has served the purpose of unleashing the latent barbarism and the inherent cruelty in the breast of the Alpine soldier is borne out by the following extracts, which are but a few of many that might be cited in this connection, and which are made from letters found on dead or captured soldiers.

SOURCE

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

IX: UTTERANCES OF COMMANDERS AND SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 176)

No quarter to Turcos nor to English (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 194)

The captain called us about him and said: “In the fort that is to be taken there are, in all probability, Englishmen. I do not wish to see a single English prisoner in the hands of the company.” A general shout of assent was the response.

Under-Officer Göttsche, 85th Infantry Regiment, Ninth Army Corps; Bedier, *ibid.*, p. 44 (194).

“Something in what is said about German barbarians” (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 193)

Courcy, north of Rheims, Oct. 22.

We are lying here on the lawn, in the garden of the owner of the glass-factory, whose house, at present, harbors our regimental staff in its cellar. The village and the workingmen’s houses here are thoroughly looted and ruined. Atrocious! After all, there is something in what is said about German barbarians.

Z—, 78th Infantry Regiment (East Frisian), Tenth Corps; Bédier, “Comment l’Allemagne essaie de justifier ses crimes,” p. 25 (193).

Many of these letters are too awful to read, but extracts from just a few will serve to show the reader how fruitful has been the effort of the Germans to harden the hearts and debase the morals of the young manhood of the nation:

17:4.2 “The captain called us about him and said: ‘In the fort that is to be taken there are, in all probability. Englishmen. I do not wish to see a single English prisoner in the hands of the company.’”

—Officer, 85th Inf., 9th Corps.

17:4.3 Courcy, October 22.

“The village and the workingmen’s houses here are thoroughly looted and ruined. Atrocious! After all, there is something in what is said about German barbarians.”

— Z—, 78th Inf., 10th Corps.

SOURCE

Order to kill wounded enemies (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 194)

There they were lying in heaps, eight or ten wounded or dead, one on top of the other. Those who were able to walk were made prisoners and taken along; those who were seriously wounded, who had a shot in the head or in the lungs, etc. . . . and were not able to get up, received more bullets to finish them. These were our orders.

Reservist Fahlenstein, 34th Fusileers, Second Army Corps; Bédier, *ibid.*, p. 45 (194).

Priests and women (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 195)

I am sending you a bracelet made out of a piece of shell.

This will be a fine souvenir of a German warrior, who has gone through the whole campaign and has killed heaps of Frenchmen.

I have also bayoneted a good number of women.

During the battle of Budonwiller, I did away with four women and seven young girls in five minutes.

The captain had told me to shoot these French sows, but I preferred to run my bayonet through them.

Letter dated Peronne, March 16, 1915, from a Bavarian soldier, Johann Wegner, to his betrothed; cited by T. de Wyzega, *ibid* (195).

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

17:4.4 “Those who were able to walk were made prisoners and taken along; those who were seriously wounded, who had a shot in the head or in the lungs, etc. . . . and were not able to get up, received more bullets to finish them. These were our orders.”

—Reservist Fahlenstein, 34th Fusileers, Second Army Corps.

17:4.5 “I am sending you a bracelet made out of a piece of shell.

This will be a fine souvenir of a German warrior, who has gone through the whole campaign and has killed heaps of Frenchmen.

I have also bayoneted a good number of women.

During the battle of Budonwiller, I did away with four women and seven young girls in five minutes.

The captain had told me to shoot these French sows, but I preferred to run my bayonet through them.”

—Letter from Johann Wenger.

SOURCE

“A day of honor for our regiment” (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 191)

. . . They are shot down from the trees like squirrels, and below they are warmly greeted with rifle-butts and side-arms; they need no surgeons;

we are no longer fighting honorable enemies, but treacherous bandits.

Through a clearing on the jump—there, see! they are hiding in the hedge; up and at them! No quarter is given (191).

There lies stretched out, face to the ground, a Frenchman, but he is only shamming dead. The kick of a sturdy musketeer tells him that we are there. Turning over, he calls for quarter,

but he is told that he needs a dose of French medicine and is pinned to the earth (191-92).

Very soft-hearted men put the French wounded out of their misery with bullets; the others hew and stab whenever they can. . .

At the entrance of their leafy shelter huts they lie, whining for mercy;

but whether they are slightly or mortally wounded, our brave musketeers save the Fatherland the costly care of numerous enemies. . . (192).

Having added a few verses entitled “Heimkehr vom Kampf,” Under Officer Klemt obtains the following attestation: “Above statements confirmed. De Niem, Lieutenant in command of the company.” Bédier, *ibid.*, pp. 31 *et seq.* (192)

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

17:4.6 “They are shot down from the trees like squirrels, and below they are warmly greeted with rifle-butts and side arms; they need no surgeons. . . .

No quarter is given.

A Frenchman turning over, calls for quarter

but is pinned to the earth. . . .

Very soft-hearted men put the French wounded out of their misery with bullets; the others hew and stab whenever they can. . . .

At the entrance of their leafy shelter huts they lie, whining for mercy;

but whether they are slightly or mortally wounded, our brave musketeers save the Fatherland the costly care of numerous enemies.”

—Officer Klemp, in letter, attested by Lieut. de Niem.

GERMAN PLANS FOR SPREADING DISEASE AND PESTILENCE

“GERMAN GERM FACTORY TO DESTROY ALLIES BY EPIDEMICS IS EXPOSED” (Le Queux)

The following story reveals the startling plans of Germany to exterminate the allied armies by disease germs. That such a plan was put in operation has been officially revealed by the United States State Department at Washington (LQ).

[contd] By William Le Queux (LQ).

... I have hesitated to eliminate the technical detail written down by my pre-war friend, Albrecht Zuber, for I believe it may be of interest to any reader who is acquainted with the bacteriological examination, and, further, it throws a vivid light upon the cunning and unscrupulous methods of Germany's diabolical underground warfare.

Hence, without comment, and without apology, I print below Dr. Zuber's letter just as I received it, and also the first chapter of the astonishing revelations which he has recently placed in my hands (LQ).

17:5.1 A short time ago the United States government gave out information to the effect that Germany had perfected plans for the cultivation of the microbes of Asiatic cholera and other pestilences, and was planning, through her secret agents, to inoculate the water supply and otherwise to bring about the infection of the Allied armies.

17:5.2 And now come the revelations of William le Queux,

publishing the letters of Albrecht Zuber

SOURCE

That the researches being conducted by Professor Rudolph Rahl were “of national importance to the Fatherland” I [Albrecht Zuber] discovered next day when we commenced work in the great upstairs laboratory in that large silent house [in Zurich].

The astounding truth was that in that big white apartment there were being cultivated the vacilli of various deadly diseases [including Asiatic cholera] with the aid of which Germany hoped [via secret means] to decimate the ranks of her enemies and create a great pestilence among the civilian populace of the allies. ...

“I want you to cultivate that, Zuber. Make as many cultures as you can of it,” he said in his deep, gruff voice (LQ).

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

showing how he was actually employed by one Rudolph Rahl to cultivate these microbes,

and thus the whole exposure—this whole revelation of Germanic frightfulness—acquires the real background of truth and definite information.

17:5.3 But is not this in perfect harmony with the teachings of the German authorities herein cited? Have they not been trained that all methods of exterminating, crippling, or destroying their opponents is legitimate? Why should their scruples hesitate when it comes to a simple matter of cultivating disease microbes in a laboratory, and then by inoculating the food or water supply of their enemies through their well-organized system of secret agents, I say why should they hesitate at such a simple procedure as this when they have already in their philosophy thrown overboard all the rules of civilized warfare, humanity, and common decency?

1. Sadler strung together two quotes by Bernhardi and one quote from Lasson and attributed all three to Bernhardi.

SOURCE

17: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS