

Chapter 23 — Germany A Menace to Civilization

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 23, in the order in which they first appear

- (1) Elisabeth Robinson **Scarvil**, “Narratives from the War,” in *The American Journal of Nursing* (Vol. XVII, No. 4, Jan. 1918), p. 315-316

Note: Sir Berkeley Moynihan’s speech was also reproduced in “Society Reports. Seventh Clinical Congress of Surgeons of North America, Held in Chicago, October 22-26, 1917,” in *Medical Record: a Weekly Journal of Medicine and Surgery* (Vol. 92, No. 19, Nov. 10, 1917), p. 897

- (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) **Anonymous**, “Lend to U.S.—or Pay Kaiser”

Note: This item appeared in various newspapers, including *The Washington Evening Star* (Washington, D.C., June 12, 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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XXIII: GERMANY A MENACE TO CIVILIZ- ATION

23:0.1 AND now who can doubt, if Germany should come out victorious in the present struggle, that all civilization—civilization as we understand the term in America—would be menaced by the world-wide diffusion of this triumvirate of “Germanic Kultur,” the “rule of might,” and the “religion of valor”? The American Republic has been summoned as the power of the hour to stand in the gap—to make sure the defeat of our cruel foe. No people were ever called to a higher and holier task, and no armies have ever been marshaled for such a crucial test, as regards the future of Christian civilization,

[*Note:* The Battle of Vienna, on Sept. 12, 1683.]

since the eventful day when the Polish general, Sobieski, halted the onrushing Mohammedan hordes as they once threatened to overrun all Europe with their barbarous brand of oriental culture and sensuous religion.

AMERICA FIGHTS FOR CIVILIZATION

23:1.1 The American people are called upon now to finish this struggle; especially is this fact to be brought home to us with more and more force as we witnessed

[*Note:* This occurred in July 1917, after Russia’s Kerensky Offensive on the Russian front failed. The Germans and Austro-Hungarians counter-attacked, forcing the Russians to retreat 240 km.]

the almost utter collapse of Russia as a military power.

SOURCE

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The French have long held the enemy at bay. The British arrived in time to prevent Paris from falling into the hands of the German forces as the result of their dash through Belgium;

“NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR”
(Scovil 315)

Colonel Sir Berkeley Moynihan,¹ consulting surgeon to the British Army, in a speech at the Clinical Congress of Surgeons of North America, held in Chicago, said: “In the opinion of those best able to judge, the turning point of the war came in November, 1914, on that memorable day after the battle of the Marne when the second (first?) battle of Ypres was fought out. The English Army on that occasion was a thin line,

when a man could not, by reaching out both his arms, touch his nearest neighbor.

Between that line and the coast there was nothing in reserve—everything was put in that line.

To that line was supplied all the ammunition they had, which would not now be considered enough for a poor morning’s work, 150 rounds per man with four machine guns to each battalion (S 315).

and, no doubt, future historians will paint for us a vivid word picture of

that long, thin, British line on November 11, 1914—

a line so thin that in most places they could not even touch hands.

They were absolutely without reserves.

They were the last line of defense when, on that fateful morning about gray dawn,

the last supply of ammunition was distributed to them.

If you will picture this scene in your mind’s eye you will recognize that

SOURCE

On the morning of the 11th the Germans made their attack on that poor, thin, miserable line ... It was made by the best troops that Germany had at her disposal in the early days of the war, and they were magnificent troops of whom any nation in the world would justly be proud.

The odds were never less than five to one, sometimes seventeen to one ... and along that line the German dead were found heaped up seven, nine, ten and eleven deep. The attack failed, and that thin line held, and that was all that stood at that moment between civilization and disaster to the world” (S 315).

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that long, thin line of British troops was all that stood between civilization and disaster.

And as time passes, Americans will increasingly thank God that that line held, that the onrushing Germans were checked, that in some places the German dead were piled six and seven deep in front of this last line—

on that day, the last stand of twentieth-century civilization in its unequal struggle with the long-prepared and marvelously organized military forces of twentieth-century barbarism.

23:1.2 Every sentiment, teaching, influence, and law which goes to make up that structure which we call “modern civilization” is jeopardized by the present-day teachings, ethics, and Kultur of Prussianized Germany, and it is in recognition of this fact that, one by one, practically all the civilized nations of the earth have been led successively to declare war upon Germany. A thinking world is at last waking up to the fact that Germany—as she is taught, organized, and ruled today—is indeed a menace to civilization.

PEACE “MADE IN GERMANY”

23:2.1 But the most amazing thing to me is that any American citizen—man, woman, or child—should be deceived by these so-called “German peace plans.” Germany entered this war with no thought of possible defeat. She never expected to be called upon by any victorious tribunal to give an account of herself. Owing to her wonderful preparedness, she has been able to seize and now holds much of the territory she coveted; and she is therefore in the attitude of a burglar who has been caught with the goods on him and who proposes to the policeman who arrested him that they sit down and have a friendly conference over how much of the stolen goods he will be allowed to keep, instead of surrendering his booty and promptly marching off to jail.

23:2.2 Germany does want peace,

because she has just now, after smashing into Italy,

probably reached the highest point possible for her military conquests; but don’t forget this, the only kind of peace that Germany wants or will ever consent to, short of her military over-throw or threatened defeat, will be a peace “made in Germany.” And that this is true, let me offer in evidence the following statements by German authorities:

[*Note:* In the Battle of Caporetto (Oct. 24-Nov. 19, 1917), the Austro-Hungarians and Germans broke through the Italian lines. The Italian army was defeated and fell back on the Piave River.]

SOURCE

VII: UTTERANCES OF PARTY LEADERS (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 138)

A peace “made in Germany” (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 146)

Let us conclude no peace except one that gives Germany greater power on the sea, new coaling stations, new points of support for its fleet and new areas for settlement—a peace “made in Germany.”

Dr. Beumer, National Liberal member of the Prussian Diet, Address to the Chamber of Commerce of Bremen, October 3, 1915 (146).

[*Note:* On December 15, 1917, an armistice between Soviet Russia and the Central Powers was concluded. On December 22, peace negotiations began in Brest-Litovsk.... Asked at the outset by Germany’s foreign minister Richard von Kühlmann and his Austro-Hungarian colleague Count Ottokar Czernin to outline his terms, [Adolf] Joffe [representing the Soviets] listed six points based on the Bolshevik slogan of “peace with no annexations or indemnities”. The Central Powers pretended to accept such platform, but with the key proviso that this principle would apply “only in case all belligerents [i.e. the Entente] without exception pledge themselves to do the same.” On December 27, the Germans put the record straight by saying that Poland, Lithuania and Courland—already occupied by the Central Powers—would be detached from Russia, ostensibly in accordance with the principle of self-determination which the Bolsheviks had embraced. Joffe was stunned. His advisor Mikhail Pokrovsky wept at “this mockery of peace without annexations” (from Srdja Trifkovic, in “A Forgotten Centennial: the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk,” in *Chronicles Magazine* (March 14, 2018).]

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23:2.3 “Let us conclude no peace except one that gives Germany greater power on the sea, new coaling stations, new points of support for its fleet and new areas of settlement—a peace ‘made in Germany.’”

—Dr. Beumer, member of the Prussian Diet, address October 3, 1915.

23:2.4 The German viewpoint of peace is clearly shown in the manner and methods whereby

they sought to “put over” their deceptive peace plans on the unsuspecting Russians.

The Germans talk “peace” as a military camouflage while they plan annexation and further conquest.

SOURCE

IV: UTTERANCES OF PUBLICISTS,
MEN OF LETTERS AND JOURNAL-
ISTS (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 69)

The severest of Germany's terms (*Out of Their
Own Mouths* 113)

[Our enemies] must also pay, and
must pay a very high price, for the
injuries they have inflicted upon our
interests and upon our good name by the
lies they have spread over the whole
world.

**Germany must insist that, in the treaty
of peace to be signed by our enemies,
they themselves shall confess that they
forced the war upon us and that they
have lied to the whole civilized world.**

**So only can we stand justified before
the tribunal of history.**

“Wann wird der Krieg beendet sein?” by
“Diplomaticus” (October, 1914), p. 16 (113).

X: UTTERANCES REGARDING
AMERICA (*Out of Their Own Mouths*
197)

A claim for indemnity (1915) (*Out of Their
Mouths* 215)

. . . Naturally the war hits our oversea
export hardest.

As long as the war lasts, this export is
almost entirely suspended.

Even after the war it will suffer serious
depression.

23: LONG HEADS AND ROUND HEADS

23:2.5 [Our enemies] “Must also
pay, and must pay a very high price, for
the injuries they have inflicted upon our
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tribunal of history.”

—Wann wird der Krieg beendet sein? by
“Diplomaticus,” October, 1914.

**SHALL WE PAY AN
INDEMNITY?**

23:3.1 “Naturally, the war hits our
oversea export hardest.

As long as the war lasts, this export is
almost entirely suspended.

Even after the war it will suffer serious
depression.

SOURCE

In the countries of South and Central America particularly we shall have to reckon . . . upon a decrease,

partly because of the diminished purchasing power of these countries and partly because of the more active Pan-American efforts of the United States;

and by the right of victory and on grounds of justice we have a claim for indemnity (*Entschädigung*) at the cost of England and of the United States. . .

Prof. Hermann Schumacher, "Most Preferences and Customs Distinction" (1915), pp. 43, 45 (215-16).

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

Stepping-stones to world power (*Out of Their Own Mouths* 48)

We cannot conduct world politics on an equal basis with other Powers so long as we are limited to our present geographical position. . . .

England must no longer be permitted to cut us off from our dominions across the sea.

The coasts in every part of the world, except where, as in America, they are able to protect themselves, must be brought under the guns of our ships, just as under those of England. . . .

This means that the boundaries of the old, great and entire Germany, which are now again shining in the red dawn of war, must be permanently retained.

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SOURCE

Above all things, we must get to the Channel. . . . We have occupied Belgium against France, we need it against England.

The Channel is the most decisively important trade route of Europe; one of its coasts (since the other cannot be wrested from England) must be ours....

Prof. Martin Spahn, in "Hochland," Heft I (October, 1914), pp. 25, 26 (48-49).

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The Channel is the most decisively important trade route of Europe; one of its coasts (since the other cannot be wrested from England) must be ours."—Professor Spahn.

**WE MUST WIN THE WAR—
AND WE CAN!**

23:4.1 We must win this war! There is no doubt about it—whether it takes us one year or ten years. It is one of those life-and-death struggles for all that we can hold to be near and dear to the hearts of the American people.

"LEND TO U.S.—OR PAY KAISER"
(Anonymous)

It is stated on undoubted authority that a victorious Germany will demand billions of dollars from the United States as **indemnity** for the damages inflicted by the arms and munitions furnished by America to the entente allies. The **Liberty Loan bond** issue is the answer—

Billions for defense, but not one cent for indemnity (A).

Again and again we will have to rally to the call for the purchase of **Liberty Bonds.**

Our national slogan should be,

"Billions for defense, but not one cent for indemnity."

SOURCE

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It is even good sound business to loan money to the American government at any rate of interest it may offer, with the certain knowledge that it will be paid back, than to turn the money over to the Kaiser's representatives as indemnity, not only with the knowledge that it is gone forever, but along with it has also gone our national self-respect and honor.

23:4.2 Yes, we will support the Red Cross. We will cheerfully contribute to the Y. M. C. A. auxiliary work. We will conserve food. We will pay war taxes. We will gladly endure every hardship and shoulder cheerfully every burden incident to and attendant upon this great national business of making war upon Germany!

23:4.3 I thoroughly believe in the soundness of American patriotism. I do not permit the realization that we have a more or less undigested foreign element in our midst to influence my faith in the willingness, determination, and ability of my fellow-countrymen to carry through to a successful finish the fight we have entered upon. When I witness how willingly and with what unanimity the American people have entered into

the great—and to us revolutionary—plans of the selective draft

[*Note:* On May 18, 1917, the Selective Service Act was passed authorizing the President to increase temporarily the military establishment of the United States.... During World War I there were three registrations. The first, on June 5, 1917, was for all men between the ages of 21 and 31.]

SOURCE

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and other activities which characterized our sudden turning from a peaceful nation into a war-making power, I am convinced more and more that, as a people, we are slowly, but surely and certainly, arising from our national indifference and peace-dreaming to seize the weapons of our hasty preparation and go forth with determination to meet this international Goliath which has come out before the world as the so-called "Superman" of this generation to challenge the armies of civilization.

23:4.4 As young David went forth of old to meet the giant, so, I believe, the American army of today will go forth as the "army of the Lord" to fight for the preservation of Christian ideals and the survival of democratic institutions. I believe the American people will arise as one man to throw off the curse of inaction and the stigma of cowardice, so to acquit themselves that the frown of heaven shall not rest upon us as a nation; and, to the bitter end, to fight with such courage and valor as to earn the gratitude of future generations, and receive, as a nation, the blessings of the God of righteous battles in place of the curse of Meroz of old, of whom it was written:

"Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD,

curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty" (Judges 5:23).

"Curse Meroz!

Curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord; to the help of the Lord against the mighty!"

1. Sadler studied surgery under Sir Berkeley Moynihan at the University of Leeds (in the North of England), in the autumn of 1911.