

By WINSTON CHURCHILL

ONCE translated into action, the ideas of Von Treitschke and of Bernhardi have been repudiated by the civilised world. These ideas are peculiarly repugnant to Americans. Militarism, and monarchy which has in it any touch of absolutism, have always incurred on this side of the Atlantic suspicion and dislike; a growing, enlightened portion of our population perceive an added menace to the world's peace and true prosperity in that militant, nationalised commercialism which has been so deftly woven by the Germans into the monarchical principle, in the hope of prolonging the life of that principle. This nationalised commercialism, moreover, is a logical consequence of the economic doctrine of enlightened self-interest, the adaptability of which to modern conditions is being seriously challenged. In this mongrel code of modern Germany not only is Nietzsche misrepresented—but even Christ. It is a code in which the finest spirits of Germany find no place; nor does it contain any hint of that new economics of human needs for which the world owes so large a debt to Germany herself.

For the German people the people of America, like the people of Great Britain, have a sincere affection. The obsession of such a nation is difficult to understand. We can only hope that the time is not far distant when Germany will awake to her better self.

The British Empire is fighting as truly for the German people as for her own. Under the circumstances, our pity and sympathy for the Belgian people, and our indignation at what we must deem the ruthless destruction of that nation to satisfy German militarist, commercial, and monarchical ambition are overwhelming.

I can conceive of no greater rebuke to this ambition than that manifested by the contributions which to-day are being poured out by the world at large to care for those Belgians who have so ruthlessly and so needlessly been deprived of their homes and possessions. No aid was ever given more willingly. We give it, indeed, as a just debt to a gallant people to whom the world owes, and will ever owe, more than it can pay—to a people who have sacrificed their all in the cause of progress and liberty.

The name of their heroic sovereign, King Albert, will henceforth be written with those of the great liberators of the world.

*Winston Churchill*