

**INSIDE THE GERMAN  
EMPIRE IN THE THIRD  
YEAR OF THE WAR**

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Inside the German Empire in the Third Year of the War by Herbert Bayard Swope & James W. Gerard

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**HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE & JAMES W. GERARD**

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# INSIDE THE GERMAN EMPIRE

IN THE THIRD YEAR OF THE WAR

BY

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE

WITH A FOREWORD BY

JAMES W. GERARD

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UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA

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## FOREWORD

THROUGHOUT the world there is, and should be, deep interest in the conditions—economic, political, spiritual and military—under which Germany and her allies are sustaining themselves after more than two years of war.

The facts and impressions contained in this book, gathered first-hand by the author, whose friendship I value and whose professional equipment I admire, form an important contribution to contemporaneous history and possess a referential value for the future. No subject to-day is more vital or worthier of serious attention.

JAMES W. GERARD,  
American Ambassador to the German  
Empire.



## INTRODUCTORY

WHAT of Germany to-day? How does she stand? How are her sons maintaining her far-flung battle-lines? Are her people despairing? Do they expect victory? When do they think the end will come? Do they starve? What of her allies? What is her attitude towards America—her dreams of peace—her fears of defeat—her plans for the future?

These are a few of the questions I seek to answer in this book. They are vital to an understanding of the condition of the world to-day and even more vital to speculation as to the status of the world to-morrow, for Germany is the key to the future. It will be her hands which will set the clock of peace, according to her strength or her weakness. So an examination of her position to-day becomes an inquiry as to the time that peace shall come.

“Inside the German Empire” is an effort to set forth objectively the things I saw during a three months’ trip to that country, which I



made in the latter part of 1916. I was fortunate in being afforded unusual opportunities for observation, and the information I gained as a trained reporter I am presenting here, keeping always in mind the duty of a reporter—to be impartial, to be open-minded, and to find the truth.

Because the Kaiser's realm is becoming more and more difficult for foreigners to enter, because the rigidity of the censorship has become extreme, because the Allies have interrupted mail and cable correspondence, Germany and the truth about the Germans become less and less known to the world. Therefore these pages may possess a double value: first, as offering an insight into the workings of the Germany of to-day; and second, in correcting certain of the evils that have arisen through misunderstanding caused by the lack of free communication, for nothing is so productive of distrust and suspicion as ignorance.

I hope that these papers may prove not without value as a contribution to the record of the last phases of the Great War. Not that the end is near—no one but a prophet could make such a pronouncement—but it is evident that Germany and the Central Powers have settled down in plan and preparation to the

final lines on which they will march to victory, compromise, or defeat. They are approaching the ultimate of their resources and in the utilization thereof, and come what may, their mental, spiritual, and physical attitudes will not be much changed when the end is reached. That is why it is proper to say that Germany to-day is in her last phase. She has called to the fighting line all her material and moral resources and now she awaits the successive moves of those alined against her.

I was in France and England at the outbreak of the war, and in Germany during the first four months of the struggle, in the service of my paper, the *New York World*. The earlier visit gave me a standard of comparison that enabled me to contrast the picture of the wild exaltation of 1914 with the serious, sombre Germany of to-day.

Together, the two trips left me, I hope, truly an American and a neutral, but one who, without leanings toward either side, has deep sympathy for both, after having seen, heard, and felt the black tragedy that is blocking Civilization's path with millions of dead and wounded.

Within this book I have tried to tell the story of German energies in the fields most interesting and important to America—the story of the

empire spiritually and politically, financially and industrially, of her food, of her military, of her subject peoples, of her heroes, of her attitude toward herself, toward her enemies and toward the rest of the world—in short, the story of her strengths and weaknesses. And I have added scattering notes of fugitive impressions and random facts that may help to give life, colour, and detail.

This volume is based upon a series of articles I wrote for *The World*, and I am grateful to Mr. Ralph Pulitzer of that paper for permission to use the material in this form, and for the encouragement that he and others of my friends gave me to believe that the work has value as a record of the present and a reference for the future.

My especial thanks are due to Lewis Stiles Gannett for his assistance in the preparation and revision of the manuscript.

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE.

NEW YORK,  
*January 1, 1917.*