

**GERMANY VS.
CIVILIZATION: NOTES ON
THE ATROCIOUS WAR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649593385

Germany Vs. Civilization: Notes on the Atrocious War by William Roscoe Thayer

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WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER

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THE ATROCIOUS WAR**

GERMANY vs. CIVILIZATION

NOTES ON THE ATROCIOUS WAR

BY
WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER

*And he will be a wild man; his
hand will be against every man, and
every man's hand against him.*

Genesis XVI, 12.



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

The Riverside Press Cambridge

1916

Gen 3435.216.30

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Published March 1916

NOTE

WHILE this book is on the press, President Wilson has taken a firm stand, from which, we may hope, he will put an end to foreign arrogance and to domestic plotting and sedition. My references to his policy, written earlier, reflect the grave anxiety which many of us felt during the autumn and winter, and I let them remain because they bear witness to a very important element in the crisis. The long period of doubt over the President's intentions not only stifled American patriotism, but greatly encouraged the enemies at work in the United States.

In this sketch I have purposely assembled a sufficient body of the characteristic doctrines of the shapers of Prussian policy, from Frederick the Great to General Bernhardi, to remind the reader of the essential German elements underlying the Atrocious War. These

will enable him to see that my own conclusions are based on German premises and facts, and not on calumnies invented by foreigners. During the progress of the struggle, such essentials are often forgotten, or are obscured by excitement over military, naval, or diplomatic events. Nothing is more important, however, than that the origins of this conflict, and the doom which awaits Civilization unless Kultur is crushed, be thoroughly understood.

W. R. T.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
March 6, 1916.

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GERMANY *vs.* CIVILIZATION

CHAPTER I

HUMILIATION — NOT THANKSGIVING

O, well for him whose will is strong.
He suffers, but he will not suffer long;
He suffers, but he cannot suffer wrong.

TENNYSON.

FOR the second time since the Atrocious War began, the President of the United States calls upon us Americans to observe a day of Thanksgiving, on which we shall express gratitude for the manifold blessings Providence has showered upon us.

Our harvests have surpassed all bounds. Our industries, under the unhealthy stimulus of war, have raised the wages of millions of laborers. Like the Pharisee we can thank God that we are not like our neighbors: they are at war, we are at peace.

A year ago, President Wilson bade us hold a similar Thanksgiving; and those who have the