

# **GERMANY'S SWELLED HEAD**

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Germany's swelled head by Emil Reich

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# GERMANY'S SWELLED HEAD

By

EMIL REICH

(DOCTOR JURIS)

Author of "General History," "Foundations of Modern Europe," "Atlas Antiquus," "Atlas of English History," "Select Documents," "Success among Nations," etc., etc., etc.

SECOND EDITION  
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on Sept. 4, 1914, by Andrew McIrose, Ltd. Reprinted  
six times in September, and again on October 5.



## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE late Dr. Emil Reich, author of the trenchant volume here reprinted, was a Hungarian born, and was educated at the Universities of Prague, Budapest and Vienna, where he had ample opportunity to study the German Empire and interpret its thought and aspirations from a close and critical standpoint. Latterly he lived for many years in England, and came to identify himself entirely with Britain's welfare and interests, but he was able to claim, in a short preface, that his book was "based on a full and sympathetic study of German history and literature, both in the past and in the present."

The motive which inspired the author to put pen to paper in 1907 derived from an apprehension, only too well founded, that the British nation was by no means fully awake to the nature of German aspirations, although these were, in his opinion, fraught with menace to the peace and well-being of the British Empire. To-day, Germany, running amok in Europe, has justified his prognosis to the utmost, and Britain has been forced to face the "supreme struggle" which he foresaw.

Dr. Reich's startling exposure of the Kaiser and the governing classes of Germany did not immediately achieve its object. Indeed, the book passed almost unnoticed, for in 1907 the average Englishman still refused to believe that the Kaiser and his subjects were inspired by bitter enmity to the British Empire. Then, too, Dr. Reich's plea for the creation of a huge standing

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army was calculated to prejudice him in the eyes of the large mass of people whose tradition is that the nation is secure while it maintains command of the sea, and that the burden of naval expenditure is heavy enough in its drain upon the public purse, without the addition of tremendous sums to the annual army estimates. Add to this the fact that the book was published by a provincial printer, and it is possible to account for the neglect which was the portion of the first edition.

Although the book missed the public for whom it was intended, it made an impression on a few discerning minds. That astute watcher of European politics, the late King Edward, read it and was so much impressed that he recommended it to a distinguished soldier, as will be seen from the striking letter of the Bishop of Durham which appeared in the *Times* of August 17. We quote the opening paragraph :—

“About seven years ago, I was a fellow guest at Trinity Lodge, Cambridge, with a distinguished soldier, who showed me, before we parted, a book to which his own attention had been called by King Edward. It was *Germany's Swelled Head*, by Dr. Emil Reich.”

No doubt the distinguished soldier was duly impressed, and no doubt he passed the book on to other distinguished men in both services. Probably it is not straining the point to suggest that the state of preparedness in which Germany found us at the opening of the war may have been not a little due to the valuable information concerning her intentions given by Dr. Reich.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION vii

In order to bring Dr. Reich's work up to date, there has been added an epilogue, by another hand. This, it is believed, will make it clear that the omens which were already above the horizon in 1907 have, in the interval, been reinforced by sundry dicta and data since observed by those who have kept an eye upon European politics and on the things that were being written, said and done in Germany.

In revising the text of Dr. Reich's original work, an attempt has been made to eliminate some of the matter that is irrelevant to the present issue ; but it has been thought unnecessary to correct or qualify the author's statements as to the naval and commercial situation in the summer of 1907. These have still a certain historical significance, and in themselves form part of the case upon which Dr. Reich based his exposure of the Kaiser's dreams and the seeming apathy of the advisers of the British Government. There has been steady development in the British naval policy since 1907, and none could rejoice more than would Dr. Reich, were he still alive, in the fact that war, sudden war, has found the British navy fit and ready.

If it were necessary to justify the republication of Dr. Reich's masterly summary of German pretensions, sufficient reason would surely be found in the immediate desirability of making absolutely clear to the ordinary citizen the nature and objective of the Kaiser's policy, and the swelled-headedness of the German people which has made possible the present insane campaign.

*August, 1914.*