

England's War Aims. Key

Restated by Aleister Crowley.

Brittania Theatre.

.. Scrap of Paper.

Farce in 3 acts.

Words by the Marquess of Lansdowne, Music by Mr. Lloyd George.

Act I.

Lord Lansdowne asks England to restate War Aims. "He is a crazy old scoundrel - we will not restate our war aims".

Act II.

We discover that Lord Lansdowne has been misunderstood - he never meant to suggest that we should restate our war aims.

Act III.

We restate our War Aims.

Time: The present. The action of the play occupies six weeks.

This little drama had gone very well at the first house. The lesson for Americans is the exact value of Mr. Lloyd George - a quarter all but two bits. We can read behind the bluster and brag and bombast. It reminds one a little of Elijah on the mountain. The Lord was not in the whirlwind or the fire or the thunder, but in the still small voice.

Oh if but people would learn to think for themselves. There would be no need for any statement (let alone restatement) of war aims. England's vital necessity is an obvious one. Let me try to put it once more as I did in the Fatherland of January 4, 1917. "Brittania est delenda" but from an even more obviously and frankly British point of view.

England is an Island Empire. All British possessions are politically islands. On the one hand, we have island fortresses: - Gibraltar (with a narrow neck of land which could be raised by war-

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England is an Island Empire. All British possessions are politically islands. On the one hand, we have island fortresses: - Gibraltar (with a narrow neck of land which could be raised by war-

ships at need) Malta, Aden (with an untraversable hinterland of desert, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and dozens of other stations varying in naval and military importance with the political importance of the neighbouring nations.

The latter possessions are also islands in a sense. India could only be invaded via Afghanistan and the whole eastern policy of Britain has been devoted to keep that country strong, independent and friendly, as a barrier against Russia.

Recently Persia has been involved in this policy. The purchase of the Suez Canal shares by Disraeli was but another defence to India by securing the shortest line of communication.

The rapprochement between Turkey and Germany, which should never have been permitted, threatened both the Suez communication and the Afghanistan front. It also, more seriously still, threatens Egypt which, occupied in the first place merely to guard the Canal, was found to be itself a possession of value only second in importance to India itself.

Colonies like Canada, British Guiana, Honduras, and most of the African possessions are also islands, either because of the difficulty of crossing the hinterlands or because of the pacific nature of their neighbors. Canada is defended on the North by the one and on the South by the other.

In Africa, no sooner is the country opened up somewhat by railways than England finds an excuse to destroy over her most peaceably neighbors. If we can't have a sea frontier or a desert frontier we must make one. At the present time there is no alternative for England but to make all Africa British with the exception of such corners as are still cut off by the Sahara or other great deserts. A railroad from Tripoli to Egypt would not necessarily mean war with Italy, as the road to Rome lies right across the British oceans, but

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it would mean war if Italy increased her military strength in Tripoli to a point where Egypt might be in danger.

Similarly, should the United States become a great military power, Canada would cease to be a political island. There would be 4000 miles or so of utterly indefensible frontier, and the answer could only be war. Can any one be surprised if British statesmen, seeing this catastrophe imminent, should prefer even an inconclusive peace with Germany? The only hope of averting the most terrible of all wars is to patch up some kind of a peace and trust to American fatuity to draw in her horns and revert to her old system.

Failing this, an alliance with Germany, having as object the dismemberment of the U. S. A., would become necessary.

Such is the inner meaning of the Lansdowne letter and the Lloyd-georgian volte-face.

How it is as useless to discuss "The Freedom of the Seas" with England as it would be to discuss "The Freedom of the Railroads" with the United States, or any other continental power. The seas and the roads are already free in the sense that any one who likes may make use of them; England is even so quixotically generous as to make no charge for the use of her oceans.

If I wanted to run my own car over the Southern Pacific I should expect a bill; but I can sail my yacht from here to Madagascar without paying a cent to the owner of the ocean highways. But England can no more consent to the existence of a fleet capable of threatening her communications than America could permit England to build fortresses commanding the main lines of the country.

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allow him to use them in a sense by working for him, but I should never permit him to affix a tourniquet. It is quite foolish to blame England for her policy; it is vital, it is forced upon her by geographical and economic accident.

Of late years the consolidation and expansion of Germany had become an indirect menace; but it was only when the German Naval Programme threatened her lines of communication that she renewed her policy of a century, and embraced Russia.

It was this fatal cast of the die which determined the withdrawal of her support of Turkey. Germany stepped in, and the Drang nach Osten, reaching to Bagdad, added a yet more formidable weapon to the armory that was being forged against her.

Once the facts were realized there was nothing for it but to be the hammer or the anvil. Either England or Germany must be smashed. Only one further detail needed consideration; how to put Germany in the wrong.

All, two of the Teutonic cousins are well mauled; it is time to think of the third and reconsider the situation. Will Germany give up the Bagdad idea, and will she offer guarantees of naval harmlessness, on the seas and under them? England cannot possibly consent to any terms which do not fully satisfy her on these two points; for they are matters of life and death. Any statesman who should make peace without the most absolute satisfaction on both issues would be indeed a traitor.

That the details of such arrangement may be must be left to the naval and military strategists. For my part, I would urge that the cession of Heligoland would block hostile progress in the North Sea, and that a new Gibraltar should be found in the Baltic. Germany must of necessity retire from the coast of the Low Countries, and these must be sufficiently

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strengthened to meet any possible repetition of 1914. France should annex Belgium.

As to the East, I am assured that the only solution is a reconstruction of the Turkish Empire. England, the greatest Moslem power, should make it her sacred duty to restore Islam.

If this be done, and if the United States will consent to beat these new swords into ploughshares, and spears into pruning-hooks - the policy which has made her in the past the most prosperous of the nations - then the lion can lie down with the lamb for a century or so, at the least.

But woe be to Britain if under stress or weariness she fail to fight to the death for the one essential condition of her political security: "Brittania rules the waves" - and her other lines of internal communication, such as Afghanistan and the C. P. R.

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AFFIDAVIT

Memorandum of My Political Attitude Since August 1914.

I

Motive.

My parents on both sides come of families resident in England for over 300 years.

I was born and educated in Great Britain.

My home is there.

My family and property (both personal and real) are there.

My business is there.

I have never been to Germany, except to pass through it on my way to or from Russia, Scandinavia or Switzerland.

I speak very little German, scarce enough to talk to waiters and guides and I cannot read even a newspaper.

I have no German friends whatever, save one with whom I correspond on religious matters.

I have met many German tourists. I dislike their manners, their habits and their language.

I have nothing to hope from Germany. I could not and would not live there.

There is therefore no possible motive for any disloyal action on my part.

II

Events Since The War.

1. I was in Switzerland on Aug. 1, 1914, and returned at once to England.
2. I offered myself to the Government, and hoped to get a commission through the good offices of my friend Lieut. the Hon. Everard Feilding, R. N. V.

3. In September 1914 I was attacked by phlebitis, which bars me permanently from active service.
4. I published a poem (English Review Oct. 1914) advocating our alliance with the U. S. A., another on the destruction of Rheims-Cathedral. A third, of a stirring character, became popular in the trenches. I also wrote pamphlets advocating various measures which have since nearly all been adopted.
5. I came to New York in November 1914, expecting to remain a few weeks ^{only.}
6. By a chance meeting I came in touch with George Sylvester Viereck, thought I was pre-German. I got the idea of keeping up that illusion, so as to qualify for a post in the Secret Service of England. He seemed to me to be the brains of the pre-German agitation. I told Lieut. Fielding of this plan, which he thought a good one.
7. I urged Viereck to defend the Lusitania, Cavell, and other atrocities, and myself wrote violent articles for him on these subjects. My object was fourfold: (a) to discredit the German cause by committing the enemy to manifest absurdities and infamies (b) to induce the Germans to give me their full confidence (c) to arouse the indignation of the Americans. (d) to warn England of certain of her own weaknesses by exposing them, ^{in that the enemy's code.} (note in particular articles on the submarine, forecasting both the improvements in the U-boat, and the ruthless campaign.)
8. I wrote to Capt. Guy Gaunt R. N. from Washington early in 1916, when The Fatherland was attacking him personally for bribing the office boys etc., a letter of sympathy and an offer of help and service. Captain Gaunt replied cordially, but as if The Fatherland were not worth notice.
9. After a conversation with Mr. Otto H. Kahn, I applied to Captain Gaunt formally for work in connection with (a) The Fatherland (b) Irish-American agitation (c) Indian revolutionary activity. I have ever since kept him informed of my address, so as to be ready if called.

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Not hearing from him, I also spoke to Mr. Willert of Washington D.C. on this matter, on the advice of my friend Mr. Paul Gayland Bartlett.

10. The only actions that can be held against me are the writing of the articles in the 'Fatherland' and the 'Irish Republic'. I have consistently encouraged the members of my Order (the O. T. O.) to enlist, and my lodges have ^{been} furnished several additions to the Roll of Honour.

I trust it will now be perfectly clear that I have throughout been actuated by a wish to serve my country.

My method may have been mistaken; if so, I am willing to accept rebuke or punishment. I am perfectly ready to do my utmost in the future as in the past to serve England.

Articles.

List of all I have written, with note of purport.

1. Humanity First.
 - "Listen to the man who sees both sides of a question."
 - "Peace must come through mutual understanding and concession".
2. Thorough.
 - "I will support any government which will commandeer all private resources".
 - "Mobilize every man, every munition of war".
 - "Do not moralize instead of fighting".
3. The whole duty of woman.
 - Advocates universal military training, and fecundity.
 - "Make motherhood on any terms honourable, and prostitution and sterility disgraceful".
 - "Drafting ----- so that in two years every man would be a soldier"
4. Honesty is the best policy.
 - Avoid cant and lies.

"Germany is a rich prize".

I considered and still consider- the hypocrisy of the English press to be bad policy.

5. The vindication of Nietzsche.
" We should have had an army equal to Germany's, and our fleet should have destroyed hers while we were three to one".
6. The attitude of America to the war. (First article for The Fatherland though they printed No. 4).
The truth, unfortunately, about the average citizen, *at that*
7. The future of the submarine.
Predicts the early partial successes would lead to concentration of brain and money on the once doubtful boat, and so to the "submarine with a coasting radius of 5000 miles or so", the "mother submarine", a "boat fitted for fighting at long range submarine transports" etc.
" It is only necessary to multiply the U-Bo t of even existing type in order to starve England etc".
A warning.
8. The End of England.
About strikes etc.
"How does the Government reply?
Not in the manly way by commandeering every man and every munition in the country, but by laying the blame on drink".
9. The Blunder of Edward VII.
Points out that the trouble has come through our Backing Russia; reversing traditional British policy.
10. England on the Brink of Revolution.
Labor Crisis.
" It is stupid to curse one's bullock for his failure at at
" The healthy reaction should have been a giant race to crush the 'barbarous Huns!'"
11. Perhaps Germany should keep Poland.
Exposure of Russian corrupt and haphazard ways of business
A warning- 1915- not to rely on her.
12. Appel au bon sens francais.
I am sorry about this; but at that time people both here and abroad- including the greatest name in contemporary French literature, convinced me that England would leave France in the lurch, and I was really angry, for I love France dearly.
13. The New Parsifal.
The Kaiser compared to Jesus Christ; A joke on the German but they did not see it.
14. The Crime of Edith Cavell.
An indignant joke, comparing Miss Cavell to Locusta.

Lucrezia Borgia etc. Von Bissing
weeping over the female Judas who had
I was simply amazed that they printed such

- 15. Sweet reasonableness.
A quite serious article on a new balance of
- 16. Kultur versus Culture.
Rebuké's English amateurishness.
- 17. The Irish Republic.
This as a mere dramatic affirmation of what everybody s
serious now assents to, in essence.
The New York Times gave us three columns. Of course
I had no idea at all that there was real trouble in Ireland;
the newspapers assured us that the Irish had enlisted to
a man!
- 18. The Occult Brotherhoods and the war.
"Fight for the right, but without hatred", is the main idea.
- 19. The Norman Conquest. *(Published in The Internationalist 1916. A study by the History Commission of England)*
A defence of the aristocratic system of government.
"Floreat Etona"
- 20. Three great hoaxes of the war.
Not a political article, properly speaking. Merely about
the Angels of Mons etc.
- 21. Leaves from a lost portfolio.
Mostly a joke. My original Ms. was much altered by The
Fatherland without my consent.
- 22. Behind the Front.
A joke. 'Orria' happenings in London: how they deported me
etc. (I was really at the San Francisco Exposition.)
- 23. Degenerate England.
Another joke; a rather naughty one, replying to a really
silly book (Werner Laurie!) on Degenerate Germany.
- 24. Delenda est Britannia.
An extravagance- but a good forecast of the 'ruthless'
warfare. I wanted to make the point that the common people
in Germany really believe this rot about 'pirate' England.
I also wanted Germany to act so that the U. S. A. would
declare war.
- 25. England's Blind Spot.
Suggests a solution of the Irish problem by good will and
mutual understanding.
- 26. Preface to "A Prophet in his own Country" by a charming prophet
named Stuart (Stuart I)
suggesting him for president of *The U.S.A.*
- 27. Sinn Fein: *To the Internationalist*

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Suggests a solution of the Irish problem by good will and
mutual understanding.
26. Preface to "A prophet in his own Country" by a charming prophet
named Stuart (Stuart I)
suggesting him for president of the U.S.A.
27. Sinn Fein. *To the International*

MEMORANDUM.

I, Aleister Crowley, am of a Breton-Irish family, settled in England since 1500.

I am a life member of Trinity College, Cambridge.

At the beginning of the war I was stricken with phlebitis, which made me useless for any active service.

I asked my friend, the Hon. Everard Feilding, Lieut. R.N.V.R., of the Press Bureau, to get me a job. Nothing doing; at that time England had no idea that men would be useful in a war.

I crossed to America, arriving Nov., 1914.

xxxxxx I had been writing articles urging the proper conduct of the war, the ceasing to fight a la fishwife, and the mobilization of the whole nation and its wealth. This was called unpatriotic; all my recommendations have since been adopted.

In New York, a man spoke to me on a 'bus, asking me if I wanted a square deal for Germany and Austria. I replied non-committally that I wanted a square deal for everybody.

He asked me to call at the "Fatherland" office. I did.

I was there recognized ~~as~~ by Viereck, who had once seen me in the office of the "English Review". My airy attitude was construed by him as pro-German. I saw a chance to be useful.

I wrote him a lot of articles, and proclaimed the Irish Republic. I pointed out the possibilities of this course to Feilding, and urged him to get me some work, officially.

Still nothing doing, but I made him reports on the activities

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of von Rintelen, and some other matters. I was much handicapped by lack of time, but did my best.

I saw Capt. Gaunt, and suggested that I could be of great use in keeping track of the Irish-Americans, and so on; but I have not yet heard definitely from him.

.....

Before leaving England, I had thought that America was a little backward in coming forward, and published "An appeal to the American republic" in the "English Review" in Oct. 1914. It advocated a formal alliance.

Viereck is a most pernicious little Jew rag-and-bone merchant, with no spine; will do anything for money. I thought it a good plan to stiffen him up to defend the worst atrocities of Germany such as the Lusitania, and the Edith Cavell murder. It seems impossible that any sane man would have published such rot as I wrote for him; but it went. I also took a tour round the coast all through the West, and persuaded him that nobody there cared about the war, except the Germans, who were ready for civil war at need.

The idea in all this was to encourage Germany to brave the U.S.A. and so force the breaking-off of relations.

On Jan 3, 1917, the Fatherland published an article of mine "Delenda est Britannia", taking Count von Reventlow to task for having let England off too lightly in "The Vampire of the Continent". I showed that geographical necessity compelled England to be a pirate, and that the only way to deal with her

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was by unrestricted submarine warfare.

I learnt informally that this article had the greatest possible weight with von B ernsterff, persuading him that the general sentiment was such that he could advise his government to take the last suicidal step. The result is history.

Captain Gaunt was of course informed by me of these matters.

.....

Apparently the Government at home have not all this information.

I am head of a mystical society, the O.T.O., with branches in every colony, and a social scheme which I believe to be the only alternative to Socialism. In politics, by the way, I am of the old school of Pitt, Palmerston, or Disraeli.

Early this year my representatives in London and Edinburgh were approached by the authorities. I have no details, but a letter of March 8. says:

"It was only on Saturday last that I learned the cause of the recent action by the authorities, and of which I was in absolute ignorance. It has come as a severe shock. I assume you know, though you could not have meant that use to be made of your stuff (I do not know what is referred to. A.C.) I learn that it is only my known probity of character etc., etc. which has satisfied the authorities, etc. Otherwise, I have no doubt that we should have been closed down."

My representative continues:

"... until you have vindicated yourself, as promised me, and can return to England, etc."

I decline to be represented as a fugitive, without some pretty

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good reason.

Hence I approach you.

My position is particularly good at this moment; I can pose as

a martyr for **Trewth**, better than ever before. *I had also the idea that having worked almost twenty years, I could be a useful publicist when the time came*
If therefore the British Government can use me, let it do so.

If not, I can at least repair the mischief done, whatever that may be; at least I suppose so. Whatever it is, it can only be something that rests on my supposed attitude, and disclosure would presumably undo it.

In the last resort, I shall go to Canada, and claim what is surely the first right of every subject, to be tried for treason.

I cannot allow the imputation to rest upon me that I am a traitor or a coward or both, unless I am under the direct orders of the Government, and so certain to be excoriated one day.

I never forget that I am the only English poet now alive; the conclusion is something obvious.

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My position is particularly good at this moment; I

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