

CURRENT OPINION

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Deutschland Unter Alles

A SONG the Germans liked to sing in 1913 was "Deutschland Ueber Alles" (Germany Over All), which, had it been confined to the mere expression of a proper racial pride, would have been no worse than "Vive la France," "The Stars and Stripes Forever," or "Britannia Rules the Waves."

But into the German mind fell the fatal microbe of Conquest, the heresy of a belief in Force, and a strong delusion that Fierceness is efficient.

They believed a lie. The end has been what the end of such belief always is.

Now it is Deutschland Unter Alles.

From her place at the head of the caravan of nations Germany has been relegated to the rear.

From her pinnacle of glory she has descended to the pit of shame.

An event recently took place off the coast of France which was symbolical. The German U-boat "Deutschland," anchored out about seven miles from Cherbourg, was used as a target by French cruisers, was blown to smithereens and sent to the bottom of the sea.

This is the same craft that five years ago surprised the world by suddenly popping up at Norfolk, Virginia, having made the trip across the ocean 4,000 miles under her own power and without escort.

She was a type of Germany's new and ruthless arm, of that monstrous ferocity that was to send many a ship to destruction, "spurlos versenkt."

And now herself is gone to join her victims.

It is a dramatic passage in the drama of nations.

Germany, once a first-rate power in the council of nations, now invited to no world convention.

Once the youth of the world attended her schools; now her intellectuals, who prostituted their influence to defend the degraded Junkers, have alienated the world, whose students seek other institutions.

Her fleet of passenger liners, in 1913 by far the most elegant and comfortable craft that crossed the Atlantic, all gone.

Her colonial possessions stripped from her.

Her huge fortresses dismantled.

An alien army holding the Rhine.

Her finances in confusion, her currency degraded, her workmen underpaid.

The Germans are a great and capable folk, but they believed a lie, the lie that Safety lies in Military Power.

Other nations still believe, or half believe, that same lie.

What shall be their end?

They may well consider the sad example of Deutschland Unter Alles.