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THE EUROPEAN WAR AND THE AMERICAN NATION.

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Whatever changes the present war may bring about in Europe, it becomes more and more evident that for us it will mean the final establishment of the American nation: neither as a colony or branch of one of the European nations, nor a mixture of heterogeneous racial elements, but a new nation, differing physically, physiologically and psychologically from all other nations.

The earliest immigration in the United States was largely British, though the Dutch in New York, the Swedes, Germans, Irish, French and Spaniards contributed. Thus when the revolutionary war was fought, probably about two-thirds of the population was still of English descent, and ethnically and temperamentally America was a branch of the English nation, or was "Anglo-Saxon" - though even England is not strictly Anglo-Saxon, but Norman French, Latin and Celt contributed a considerable part.

Since that time, English immigration has practically ceased, but stream after stream of other nationalities poured into America: the Germans, the Irish, and last the Mediterraneans and the Slavs, so that the citizens of British descent have long

become a small minority, and the components of America today are the Anglo-Saxon: English and Scotch; the Germans, including Dutch and Scandinavian; the Celts ^{or Irish} the Mediterraneans and the Slavs in probably approximately equal proportions.

The Germans and Irish, being of "kindred race" (?) with the early colonists, have been assimilated, but grave fears are expressed by many citizens today, that the present immigration, of Mediterraneans and Slavs, would not be assimilated, but would deteriorate the national character and harm the race: the same fears for the future of the nation, which the old colonists expressed when the masses of Germans arrived in the middle of the last century, and which later the Americans - now including the assimilated Germans - expressed when the Irish came, and so the Mediterraneans and the Slavs will assimilate, and their descendants will express their fear for the future of the nation due to whatever race then preponderates in the immigration.

However, while ethnologically the American population entirely changed during the last century, and the British stock dwindled to a minority, most of the immigrants endeavored to adapt themselves to the mental and moral attitude of the British settlers, and England was looked upon as the "Mother land" by the American citizen, from whatever country they hailed, with the exception of the Irish: for many decades the Irish stood alone in this country in insisting that America is a new and

independent nation, and not an English Colony. The other races accepted the "Anglo-Saxon" fiction of the American nation, as long as it did not offend their prejudices - or their old allegiances, which ever way you may consider it. But with the present European war this has changed: England still considers America as an independent British colony, which morally should fight on England's side, by special privilege is allowed to remain neutral, but naturally is expected to submit to whatever inconvenience it may be exposed by England's fighting for the common interest of all the Anglo-Saxon nations. On the other hand, the American citizen of German descent - probably fully as numerous as those of English descent - desire to be Americans, but do not want to be British, and to them England's interests are no more than the interests of Russia or any other foreign nation, and so they resent the assumption, that England is fighting our battle, and that anybody who does not believe in the moral justice of England in this war, is not a good American citizen.

The fortunate feature is, that none of the racial components ~~is~~ of America is numerous enough to dominate against the opposition of the others, that all of them, from the early Dutchmen to the last Russian ^{Jew} ~~boy~~, came here to become Americans, citizens of the new nation. The present war is gradually

showing to that majority of the American citizens, who are not of English descent, the danger and inconvenience - which our Irish citizens have long realized - of allowing English interests to control American sentiment and public opinion. The outcome of the present experience thus will be a strong opposition against allowing ourselves to be influenced in future by any foreign nationalism, whether English, German or any other, and an increasing appreciation of "America for the Americans", but not for the English, the Germans, Russians or any other nation. Thus, for America the European war - if we succeed to keep out of it - will be the establishment and recognition of our national and racial independence, the final severance of all the ties, even the merely sentimental ones, which bind us to any European nation.

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