

Graphic
Section

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Review

The Road to War!



Steps That Led America Into World Conflict

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THE FOURTH OF JULY, 1914, fell upon a Saturday. This meant a double holiday, and the nation gave itself to the pleasures of patriotic observance—to the speeches and the firecrackers, the parades, the ball games, and the amusement parks—with nothing more arduous before it than the Sunday papers.

Yet foreign affairs on that Sunday morning were a matter of the most active interest. The papers were full of special articles on the urgent and difficult problems of Mexico and the Caribbean, and it was to our foreign policy that the chief speech of the day before had been devoted. Standing in Independence square in Philadelphia, President Wilson had chosen to explain and to defend his singular attempt to introduce idealism into international relations.

For over a year now the country had watched its development

Foreword The world has seen few stranger spectacles than that of a great peace-loving democracy swept headlong into the first World war. Diplomatic records cannot explain it. The clew lies elsewhere. It lies in the ideas, prejudices, ambitions, and hidden motives of the statesmen, politicians, and other leaders of the times. With dramatic intensity "Road to War" recaptures the atmosphere of those times. To read this story is to live again through those breathless years of passion and perplexity when event followed event in rapid crescendo. Looking back with more than twenty years' perspective upon this frenzied sea of emotion, we can at last learn what actually happened.

with surprise and with less than complete enthusiasm. It had given us already the Panama canal tolls repealer and the attack on "dollar diplomacy," the Bryan peace treaties, and "watchful waiting." It had produced as well such contradictory and exhilarating manifestations as the taking of Vera Cruz and the dispatch of the first army expeditionary force to land on foreign soil since the Spanish-American war.

As he stood in the July sunshine the President, with his tall figure and determined face, sounded again the lofty note, evoked the high vision in which he had almost taught the populace to believe:

What Really Happened Two Decades Ago

"If I did not believe that the moral judgment would be the last judgment, the final judgment, in the minds of men as well as at the tribunal of God, I could not believe in popular government. But I do believe these things. . . . My dream is that as the years go on and the world knows more and more of America it . . . will turn to America for those moral inspirations which lie at the basis of all freedom; that the world will never fear America unless it feels that it is engaged in some enterprise which is inconsistent with the rights of humanity; and that America will come into the full light of the day when all shall know that she puts human rights above all other rights and that her flag is the flag not only of America but of humanity."

The address was but a natural reflection of the peculiar backgrounds against which it was delivered. Sixteen months before an age had died. The Democratic party had returned spectacularly to power, and even British newspapers had pro-

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On Pages 6 and 7—Beginning "The Guilty Bystanders," a full-length novel in pictures