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The First year of the War

In a few days one year has gone by since the horrible world war broke out. Are we now after such long time standing closer to a lasting peace or does the war need to go on yet one year, or perhaps even longer, to reach that peace?

One must say that during the last twelve months most of the victories have been on the German side. If we would reach a peace today, Germany would win enormous gains in population, land areas and influence based on the results. But during the circumstances peace is unimaginable today. Germany has still not won a decisive victory. The big problem is still not resolved. Can Germany win?

Here in America news media has shown sympathies for England and has received support from the same place in the reporting about the war, and they are convinced that the end result must mean that Germany is defeated. The Germans themselves are however certain they will win, and this opinion seems to be shared by most of the European countries that are not involved in the war. You ought to look at it not as sympathy for the German people but consider the facts from an objective angle. They now shake their shoulders in Europe when Germany and Germany's militarism is brought up. The only thing they dare to hope for is that stop them from further success.

It is obvious that Germany's own conviction about victory is based on reliance in the fact that Russia in a few months will be incapable to further participate in the war, so the Russian Czar will be forced to agree to a peace agreement with Germany, which probably could happen without any peace terms despite all defeats and occupation of Russian land areas. Because Germany can afford to play noble-minded and generous when considering the enormous advantage to turn their war interest to other directions. With Russia out of the way it would be easy to bring down Italy, and you can be certain that in this case no humiliation would be held back at the end of the war.

So far the unified German and Austrian troops has proven to be strong enough to keep the other enemies down both on the west and south war front, while they with giant steps forced the enemy in the east way back into his own country. But that's not enough. They have had enough troops to control Romania and stop a possible union between Romania and Russia.

This story means lots in German eyes. Each German recalls the memory of how a change in Russian interests saved Frederick the Great at the most critical moment of the 7 years war, when everyone thought that Prussia would be defeated. A similar change of mind in the Russian foreign policy led to the final defeat of Napoleon. Obviously it is Germany's intent to show how little they can trust their allies while still win victories while enemies experience crushing defeats.

When it comes to the other enemies the Germans are convinced that the French won't be able to bring about more than they already have done. They are convinced that if Russia pulls back, France soon will give up a hopeless fight, of which they need to carry all costs along with England. **** seems to be paralysed by unorganization and military incompetence. France would in that case be treated fairly well of the victorious Germans. The Germans would of course get to keep Belgium. And one can ask what plans there are if they succeed there and then conclude with a separate peace with Russia.

The only thing would be to negotiate with England. It is also possible that that invoice would be kept on undetermined time. Such are the German peace views at this time.

It may be said that this can be decided during the next few days, whether or not Germany's self-reliance and righteousness will make it possible for them to dictate peace conditions. On the first anniversary of the war the German army seems to stand as certain of victory as what they did one year ago when the war started.

But the continuation did not look like the beginning. The victories from the campaign the first couple of weeks in the west was quickly broken off and since the battle at Marne the German conquerors have been forced to stand at the same spot in the west. Nothing happened with what would have been a triumphant march in to Paris around Christmas last year. But it is well-known that the Germans attempted their best to do that.

Will they meet a similar fate on the opposite war front? If so, all the other calculations will fall down like a house of cards.

Sv.K.