

## SOAR Curricular Material #1

### ***Hades* (Oct. 1914—Beginning of WWI—Original Version)**

The first shock occasioned by the turmoil in the Old World has well nigh spent itself upon our feeble intellects. Inquiry and questioning into the causes and effects of the war are taking its place. With the first news we were halted, stunned! Now, we view dispassionately the actual scenes of the greatest catastrophe that has come upon humanity. Of all the causes which are assigned as being potent in bringing on the melee, we can see only one which fascinates us. For the past fifty years the leading nations of Europe have been steadily advancing in scientific achievement. Along with the cultural and intellectual advance has traveled the commercial improvement. Krupp steel has borne with it an atmosphere of destructive efficiency. English and German vessels have furlled their flags on the high seas. Socialism, or a corresponding movement, has been making itself heard throughout France, Austria and Germany, but to no avail. All these facts suggest to us that our entire social and economic *scheme* is and has been at fault. Not that Christianity has lost its power, but that the inevitable result of militarism is “arms and the man” plus definite action. The savage principle, “prepare for war in time of peace,” is truly the forerunner of the diabolical situation in which the powers find themselves today. Causes? There are none! The fabric of the nations, selfish and exacting, has brought on this scourge! There is one cause, but many effects. War itself is not what Sherman called it, but that which brings up the rear deserves that name. Poverty, famine, starvation, cholera, disease, cold and homeless humanity are the absolute snake-like trailers of the struggle. The watchword for reconstruction should not be “Hoch der Kaiser,” but “Down with Militarism.”

~~~R. E. S.

### ***Hades* (Simplified, adapted version)**

We were unaware about the problems taking place in Europe and were shocked and stunned when we first heard about them. Since then we have questioned why these problems have taken place and what has caused the War to start in Europe. Now we must bear witness to one of the greatest events to happen in humanity. Of all the reasons that people believe caused the war to start, the most possible one deals with the scientific, cultural, intellectual, and commercial advancements in Europe that have taken place over the past fifty years. The Germans and the British have gone to battle between one another in the waters, and Socialism and other ideological movements have come to existence in France, Austria and Germany, but neither of these things has helped resolve the problem in Europe. All these facts suggest to us that our entire social and economic *scheme* is and has been at fault. We have such a strong belief as a nation that we need a strong military for our country that it ultimately leads our society to become all about the military, the president, also known as the commander-in-chief or “the man,” and action. In Europe, the powerful nations are experiencing this same thing as they “prepare for war in time of peace.” Why is this situation the case? Who knows?! National self-interests of these powers have conflicted with one another in Europe and have ultimately caused this war that they are now fighting. There is one cause, but many effects. Poverty, famine, starvation, cholera, disease, as well as the development of a cold, unfeeling, and homeless humanity are just a few of the worst effects of the war. Therefore, to hopefully rebuild Europe, we should not continue to praise the Kaiser [Wilhelm II who ruled Germany during WWI] and support this war but rather voice opposition to the war by disapproving of the military’s role in the war.

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### **Contextualizing and Analyzing the Text**

- 1) When and where was this source written?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Why was this article written? What was its purpose?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What is the author's main idea in this article?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What does the author believe caused the start of the war? How do you know this?  
Use textual evidence to support your answer.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) What experiences, situations, events, etc. could account for this author's  
interpretation of the cause of WWI?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) Do you agree with the author's interpretation of the war and their opinion on  
militarism in this article? Why or why not?**

## SOAR Curricular Material #1

**Now compare this article with this article on “Impartiality” from the Nov. 1914 issue of the *Comenian*:**

The stupendous conflict of the warring nations of Europe calls for genuine impartiality. The appeal comes especially to every American. For the blood that is being shed on either side of this, the world's greatest battlefield, is the blood that has made the real American. And if he is worthy of being called an American, he will grieve for the dead and sympathize with the wounded whether they fall on the one side or the other. And to those of us who are American Moravians this appeal for impartiality is altogether imperative. For, as true Moravians we are neither English, nor German, nor American; we are a *Unitas Fratrum*. And as a unity of true believers in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we cannot, we dare not be divided; we should, we must be impartial toward the nations at war, especially toward our brethren in the Lord who are fighting on either side, be they German or English. What, then, does it mean for us to be impartial? It certainly does not mean to be indifferent. There is every good reason why we should be profoundly interested in the conflicts and issues of the war as it continues to be waged. But our interest should be characterized by the impartiality which South so aptly has stated to be that which “strips the mind of prejudice and passion.” Now prejudice is an opinion or decision of mind, formed without due examination of the facts which are necessary to a just and impartial determination. And passion, in the sense here used, is that state of mind in which, unduly and without just cause, we become violently and abnormally excited. To be truly impartial, therefore, means that we will strip our mind of all such opinions and decisions as we have formed, or are tempted to form, without due examination of the facts which are necessary to a just and impartial determination. And it means, also, that we will divest our mind of the violent and abnormal excitement which is agitated and engendered by such unjust opinions and decisions. This, we plead, is the impartiality which should characterize our interest in the present war. ~E. L. M.

- 1) What is the main idea of this article?**
- 2) Why was this article produced?**
- 3) How is this article different from the “Hades” one? In what ways are the two articles the same? What is each author’s view of the war?**
- 4) What accounts for the differences between the two articles?**
- 5) What experience, events, aspects of the individual, etc. could account for why this author feels this way about impartiality in the war?**