**"Hope Rises from Ashes of World War I"** William Merrill, Church Peace Union, 1919

*Andrew Carnegie devoted the later portion of his life to attempting to bring about world peace. He created the Church Peace Union (CPU) in February 1914 with the belief that church congregations could become the basis of a grass-roots movement to outlaw war.  In a terrible irony, a few months later, WWI began.*
*This excerpt from* *Chapter X of*Christian Internationalism *(1919), by William P. Merrill, president of the CPU, explains the mixture of despair and hope with which the trustees of the Church Peace Union reacted to the outbreak of World War I.*

"[WWI] may seem the sudden and violent end of all faith and effort in the cause of internationalism. Germany has cast international morality to the winds. She broke the treaty safeguarding Belgium, the law of safety and search at sea, the custom of respect for neutral rights, her own agreement not to use poison gas in warfare, the ancient understanding that trees at least were to be spared—embodied in the old law of the Hebrew people. 1 It seemed as if she had thrown international justice in the scrapheap.

And the other nations followed her lead, compelled to do so in order to meet her attacks. It is a relief to know that, in the matter of the use of poison gas at least, America is technically guiltless, and Great Britain only less so. At the first Hague Conference, proposals were made that the nations agree not to use poisonous gases in warfare. Admiral Mahan [U.S.] put forward a strong argument against such an agreement, and America and Great Britain declined to join in such an understanding. Other nations, including Germany, entered into a positive agreement, however, to abstain from the use of gas. Later Great Britain gave her adherence to the agreement; but the United States never did so.

But the plain fact is that international law and understanding have been violated and broken very generally in the stress of this merciless war. Reprisals have been made, mines sown at sea, vessels illegally held, blockades declared in violation of the common law of warfare; and it might well seem as if international justice and order had suffered like the invaded territories, the damage being beyond hope of restoration.

But this is only a surface view of the situation. *Certain great facts stand out which lead us to declare that this war is, in reality, the greatest forward step ever taken toward internationalism."*

1 CF. Deut. 20:19 ff.

**1. "Certain great facts stand out which lead us to declare that this war is, in reality, the greatest forward step ever taken toward internationalism." Explain Merrill's reasoning in this statement.**

**2. Thinking of the post-WWI world, do you think Merrill's prediction about WWI and internationalism is correct? Why or why not?** \**Internationalism in the context of this piece refers to "international good-will, justice, and order," which includes but is not limited to international law*

**3. What other policies, outlooks, or international orders changed as a result of World War I? What stayed the same?**