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(Prussian Octopus) En 1788 Mirabeau disait déjà: La Guerre est l'industrie Nationale de la Prusse [Already in 1788 Mirabeau was saying: War is the national industry of Prussia]

Stock#: 46068
Map Maker: Neumont
Date: 1917
Place: Paris
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 31.5 x 23.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Octopus of Prussian Aggression

Rare early 20th Century propaganda map, illustrating Prussia as an Octopus attempting to capture all of Europe.

Germany is shown in different shadings of red, indicating its numerous annexations of surrounding territory since 1740, the most recent being the 1871 seizure of Alsace-Lorraine during the Franco-Prussian War. Sprawled across Germany is a large octopus in a Prussian spiked helmet ("Pickelhaube"), its tentacles extended to wrap around essentially all of Europe.

At the top right a visual graphic depicts the growing meance of the Prussian Army, representing the historical growth in the size and ferocity of the Prussian army, from something cartoon-like in the 18th-century (though that hardly does justice to Frederick the Great!) to the massive, looming ogre of the First World War.

This propaganda map uses several prominent textual elements to support the visual argument. Superimposed on France is a recent declaration from the Chamber of Deputies: "Invaded 47 years ago, Alsace-Lorraine is no different from the French departments invaded three years ago." Splashed across the Mediterranean in bright-red letters is a quote from the pan-Germanist "All-Deutscher Verband," pronouncing that "The German people must rise as a nation of masters above the inferior nations of



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Europe." In the lower margin General Petain exhorts the French people "Under attack, we are merely defending ourselves in the name of Liberty and to preserve our lives."

The map was drawn by Parisian artist Maurice Neumont (1868-1930) at the behest of "La Conference au Village contre la Propagande ennemie en France." The Conference was established in 1917 for the purpose of advancing the patriotic cause in rural and provincial France by distributing more effective propaganda and countering similar German efforts.

There seem to be at least 2 editions of the map, using 2 different printing processes. The most obvious difference is in the printing methods, but can also be seen in the font style of the imprint (bottom left) and the color of the text at the top right (Toute La France...). The other edition is in red.

Detailed Condition: