The Nazis at War

Materials on Germany
Designed to Aid the Study of Men, Affairs, and Trends

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The material here presented is concerned with facts recent and remote, bearing on the present world crisis. Both substance and details are gathered from authentic German sources

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The Nazis and Japan

Nordic Disdain

On the occasion of the conclusion of the German-Italian-Japanese Pact, it may be of interest to search the Nazi literature for testimonies of German-Japanese friendship. Although undoubtedly such testimonies are to be found, it is surprising to see that many statements are frankly anti-Japanese. Herr Hitler himself refers to Japan in MEIN KAMPF, and the following passage on the sterility of Japanese civilization will certainly not please his new allies:

MEIN KAMPF "If, starting to-day, all further Aryan influence upon Japan should stop, and supposing that Europe and America were to perish, then a further development of Japan's present rise in science and technology could take place for a while longer; but in the time of a few years the source would dry out, Japanese life would gain, but its culture would stiffen and fall back into the sleep out of which it was startled seven decades ago by the Aryan wave of culture.

"Therefore, exactly as the present Japanese development owes its life to Aryan origin, thus also in the dim past foreign influence and foreign spirit were the awakener of the Japanese culture. The best proof of this is the fact that the latter stiffened and became completely paralyzed later on. This can only happen to a people when the originally creative race nucleus was lost, or when the external influence, which gave the impetus and the material for the first development in the cultural field, was lacking later on". (pp.318/19; quoted from the American translation, New York 1939, p.399)

"Insidious and Cruel " The Führer's opinion is obviously shared by other Nazi writers. Race specialists, more particularly, do not seem to think much of the Japanese. Professor Dr. Fritz Lenz, one of the foremost German authorities on Race, says: "Thinkers, inventors, & discoverers of genius in the European sense are scarcely to be found among the Mongols. ... The metaphysical needs of the Mongols are as negligible as their scientific needs". ("Menschliche Erblehre", by E.Baur, E.Fischer, and F.Lenz; Munich 1936, p.723)
Albert Heeft, another Nazi expert, characterises the yellow race as follows: Enduring and tough, patient, frugal, of high intellect, they live in a strange emotional world, which we shall never understand. They are feared because of their insidiousness and their cruelty. ("Die Nationalsozialistische Erziehungsidee im Schulunterricht; Rassenkunde, Rassenpflege und Erblehre"; Osterwieck, 1936)

The "Yellow Peril" The official monthly of the Reich Committee for Public Health and the German Society for Racial Hygiene, VOLK UND RASSE, publishes an article in its April issue 1938, on "Nordic Elements in Central and East Asia", in which it says: "In the character as well as in the behaviour of many Japanese, and more especially of the Samurai, there are so many familiar features that we are forced to put the question whether Nordic influences have here been at work. This question can be answered by a clear Yes".

This is the opinion of the well-known Nazi historian Professor Dr. Heinrich Wolf ("Angewandte Rassenkunde", Berlin 1938; p.346): "By the 'Yellow Peril' I understand primarily the impending biological and economic victory of the Chinese and Japanese. There is only one way out: we must be conscious of the high value of our Nordic race".

General Ludendorff and his wife have written a book entitled "Europa den Asiaten-Priestern?" ("Europe to the Priests of Asia?"). There we read: "We have to sound an urgent warning because the very best of our people are dangerously exposed to the conceptions of Asiatic occultism". (Munich 1938; p.33)

"Our German Colonies" under Japanese Rule All the German books on the colonial problem include the former German territories which are now under Japanese jurisdiction (though, in theory, still League of Nations mandates) in the list of "Our German Colonies". Herr Hitler himself has asserted that "what we have a moral right to in the question of colonies is that which belonged to us before the war" (see THE TIMES, 13/9/1937).

The book "Deutschlands Koloniale Vermächtnis", by Dr. Lothar Kuehne, officially approved by the Party Committee for the Protection of National Socialist Literature, insists that "there can be no talk of equality of rights until every inch of our colonies to which we have a righteous claim, has been returned to us". (p.95)

"Deutschland Braucht Seine Kolonien!", a school book, by Paul Schmidt-Breslau, sponsored by the official Nazi Teachers Union, mentions the South Sea Islands mandated to Japan in a chapter headed "German Land in Foreign Hands". The succeeding chapter is entitled "Everything Which Has Been German Shall Become German Again".

"Kolonialpolitisches Quellenheft" is the title of a book published in 1935 with an introduction by the President of the German Colonial League. Under the heading "Islands Mandated to Japan", we find the following passage (p.168): "40% of the 5000 Japanese who have immigrated to the South Sea Islands under the Mandate, have to be treated for venereal diseases. On the island of Yap there is tuberculosis. The Japanese Government has taken no measures to combat it".
The popular pamphlet "Was Müssen Wir Von Unseren Kolonien Wissen", by Lt. Col. Lessner (Leipzig 1938), complains that the former German colony of Kiautschou has obviously regressed during the period in which it has been held by the Japanese (p. 43).

The same territory, which the Japanese returned to China after some years of occupation and now again held under their control, is called "the favourite colony of the German people" in the book "Deutschlands Kolonialweg", by Walter von Schoen (Berlin 1939; p. 90).

Japan in Awe of the U.S.A. In a school book entitled "Vom Weltkrieg zum Dritten Reich", by Dr. Heinrich Schnee (Paderborn 1934), which is intended as a supplement to every history book in German secondary schools, we find the following passage on Japan, which certainly throws a strange light on the now German-Japanese Pact:

"In East Asia, Japan has become the dominating power. She is, however, unable to pursue an independent policy towards the United States because she is unprotected in the rear".

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INSIDE GERMANY

Young Nazis' Hope for the Colonies

"In talking with young enterprising men between 20 and 30 in Germany and discussing with them the possibilities after the war, you will hear again and again, 'Well, I shall go to the colonies'. The course of the war up to now makes it appear certain to these Germans that Germany after the end of the war will again have colonies. The fact alone is sufficient: they do not ask which colonies or where, although they probably think of the former German possessions in Africa. The courses for African languages which are held in all the larger towns in Germany, and which are well attended, are evidence of this. They learn Swaheli, the vernacular of former German East Africa (Tanganyka), a territory with a big future. Now in the middle of the war, they learn the language of East Africa, in order to start at once at the end of the war for the expected German colonies". (DER BUND, Bern, Switzerland, No 375; 12/8/1940)

Black-Out Offences in Small German Town

The BODENSEE RUNDSCHAU, official Nazi daily of the Lake of Constance area, (No 192; 15/8/1940) learns from Singen, a small town in S.W. Germany with just over 30,000 inhabitants, that 59 persons were reported or fined for inefficient black-out, either at private residences or business premises.

MEIN KAMPF for the Troops

How the circulation of MEIN KAMPF, from which Herr Hitler draws royalties as author and profit as publisher, is artificially increased, is shown by a news item in the BODENSEE RUNDSCHAU (No 192; 15/8/1940): "A few months ago a proud report was published in our paper that the Constance area had collected some 23,000 books for our soldiers. Only a short while afterwards we were able to state that 2000 copies of the Führer's MEIN KAMPF had been sent to our soldiers".
Nazi Approach to the Balkans

"JOY and WORK"

The ancient Drang nach Osten, now re-enacted, has been carefully prepared by the peculiar arts of Nazi ingenuity. In 1936 a German-convened "World Congress for Leisure Time and Recreation", held at Hamburg, decided to set up a German-Inspired "International Bureau JOY AND WORK". Its President was Dr. Ley, Chief of the German Labour Front, and its programme, according to Herr Hitler's message of welcome, an "endeavour for the physical and spiritual advancement of the workers of the world". It was Nazi propaganda by way of Kraft durch Freude on a vast scale.

The "Bureau" published, in 6 languages, a monthly review entitled JOY AND WORK, which is made up with all the artifice of photography, printing, and heraldry, exuberantly coloured, and displaying an abundance of divers entertainment, calculated to woo good will abroad, and at the same time, spread the more effectively the message of Nazism. This journal, sold or given away at the rate of 115,000 copies per month, ever since the Anschluss 1938, turned the full lure of its appeal towards the Balkans.

"Bolshevism - the World Enemy" It was the accompaniment as it were to a campaign of Social Exhibitions launched by Dr. Ley who made an extensive tour of the Balkans in October 1938. A "South East European Touring Exhibition Joy and Work", e.g., was held on 5/5/1938 in Athens. Dr. Ley took the opportunity of addressing Greek workers: "Joy in work is the surest defence against the disease of Bolshevism". (DER ANGRIFF, 8/5/38) From Athens the Show moved to Sofia where Dr. Ley "urged the nations to whom this Exhibition will be taken, to live up to the ideal of Joy and Work, as this will help confound Bolshevism, the world enemy, who is even now seeking to advance across the Balkans towards the West" (DER ANGRIFF, 7/10 1938).

On both occasions, JOY AND WORK presented the countries concerned with a lavish Special Edition. The Greeks were complimented on their "smart soldiers" and "model social institutions" (JOY AND WORK, No 5/38), and the Greek Minister of Labour was prevailed upon to contribute a message saying that "the joy of life has replaced Communist hatred by the love of work and the belief in a national present as well as a national-social future" (No 5/38). Use is also made of classic Greeks, special attention devoted to Greek Youth; skirted peasants are seen trumpeting forth "Unforgettable Co-operation Athens-Berlin", and in November 1939 JOY AND WORK published a letter from a member of the Greek Ministry for Press and Tourism, relating "how beautiful Germany is and how happy your people are to be Germans because the Third Reich will ever be new to them".

"Undying Fellowship " with Bulgaria With all this the Germans do not seem to be interested in Greece as much as in Bulgaria. Indeed there is hardly an issue of JOY AND WORK but makes profuse reference to that country. There are impressive photos of King and People, essays on Bulgaria's art and artists, on her press, her peasants, her "gallant soldiers and proud men of the Labour Service" (No 10/1938).
"German-Bulgarian Cultural Relations", "nearly one century" old, wore "strengthened & fostered to an even greater extent since the advent of National Socialism in Germany" (No 11/38). They actually, in July 1939, reached the degree of "undying fellowship". Indeed in the caption across some particularly attractive photos, Bulgaria is "Seen with the Heart" (No 8/39). Honeyed words make out "the manifest will of the German people to stand united behind the Government of Adolf Hitler. Why, therefore, should not the Bulgarians too cherish an inward desire to follow this example? ... For the national aims of Bulgaria ... are factors of vital interest for the very existence and further development of the country".

Bulgarian Fruit and Rumanian Oil

Of course the economic aspect is thoroughly appreciated. Graceful females gathering apples and harvesting tobacco, are presented under the caption "Fertile Bulgaria" (No 1/39), and lusty swines treating each other to bulging grapes are evidence of "Bulgaria - the Fruit Grove" (No 1/1940).

The economic issue is even more vital in the case of Rumania. Here a workers' exchange was suggested by Dr. Ley during his stay at Bucharest in October 1938, when he made a point of inspecting the oil wells. The Exhibition was held there shortly before the outbreak of war, in June 1939, and again JOY AND WORK published in riotous colours a lavishly illustrated account of Rumanian life - brilliant photos showing the King performing ceremonious duties, a fest of photography so appealing that it was reproduced in the Bucharest daily ROMANIA with grateful acknowledgment to the Nazi journal. Prince Michael is shown driving the motor launch he had received as a present from the then Czech Premier M. Hcedza (No 9/38).

Again attention is directed foremost to the Youth organisations; social services are presented in picked fine pictures, "proud Rumanian artisans" and "leisure time of the farm workers" are described by native experts, and prominence is given to national costumes, Rumanian Opera, and the Royal Cultural Foundation. One full page is dedicated to the "German Training Ship for Rumania", and 2 articles deal with the Italian Pavilion at the Bucharest Exhibition.

Yugoslavia - "Close Co-operation & Friendship"

Signs of Axis co-operation are of course ubiquitous - a fact to none of the Balkans perhaps of more ominous significance than to Yugoslavia. That country too has been wooed intensely. In July 1939 JOY AND WORK displayed a banner fluttering before a Nazi bomber squadron over the Brandenburg Gate - "Friendship with Yugoslavia", and the German Minister at Belgrade in a special statement says: "German-Yugoslav relations have to-day reached a stage fully corresponding to the feelings of sincere friendship & mutual respect which exist between the two nations; this is ... the natural expression of political and above all economic conditions which in the interests of both countries indicate close co-operation & friendship" (No 2/39). JOY AND WORK reinforced this message with a series of photos of the Royal Family - "King Peter Distributing Gifts among Poor Children" - also articles on Yugoslav youth, art, and with a certain emphasis, Yugoslav women - fashions and "between steering stick and saucepan" (No 8/39).

The achievement of JOY AND WORK is summed up by its Editor-in-Chief, Herr Walter Kiehl: "The abundance of the material we receive, serves to show that the programme of our journal has not only now come to be appreciated in Bucharest, Belgrade, Sofia, and gorgeous Athens, but that it is being welcomed there with striking and widespread sympathy" (No 6/39).
Occupied Territories

Dutch Contempt of Nazi Invader

These are extracts from a Special Report written for the Berlin midday paper "B.Z. Am Mittag" (No 202; 22/8/1940) by Dr. Karl Scharping, member of a party of German journalists who visited Holland in August

"By No Means Grateful" The inhabitant with whom we talked at our hotel table, rejected our invitation. Our questions he answers only briefly and to the point, contrary to the Dutch habit of long-winded conversation. During the following days we shall notice everywhere the most scrupulous reserve towards us Germans. Nevertheless this does not deter us from finding out what we want to know - how the Dutchman sees the world to-day.

The traces of war are hardly visible any longer in Holland, with a few exceptions, particularly in Rotterdam. The journey through Holland is like a journey through peace. Only the people who live there have not noticed it yet. They are by no means grateful to the German soldiers for having treated their country with great consideration. On the whole they reject everything German, unless they are able to make money out of it. This opinion is confirmed by the Secretarius of Maastricht who shows us the town, by the engineers who guide us through industrial works, and it is emphasized by the words which the Colonel of the Dutch General Staff uses who guides us through the Grebbe Line.

"His Idol Remains England" Even the workmen in Holland's northernmost port, Den Helder, share this attitude. They report punctually for work, but demand to be fetched in the morning in cars and to be driven back in the evening. This opinion is shared also by the capitalist in Rotterdam, who has opened a restaurant in the middle of the destroyed harbour district 'in the only big building which has not been damaged.

This same rejection is to be found equally in all circles of merchants, the Church, the nobility, and though to a lesser degree, among the whole people. The municipal official who accompanies us through Maastricht, though an officer, has already forgotten the war and thinks only of his hobby, the study of bats. He is more interested in that than in the rebuilding of Europe. The Colonel does not believe in a free Europe. His idol remains England. The economic leader still mourns his illusions which the success of German arms has blown to pieces, instead of devoting his work to the future. The merchants' attitude is a waiting one. The whole country apart from few exceptions, waits at the moment.

Scoffing at Royal Allegiance Towards the end of the 16th Century, the General States overthrew their legitimate King. The King, they said then, broke his agreement, and therefore he must be dismissed just like any other unfaithful servant. From them the Nordic nations took over the idea of the responsibility of kings towards their people. More than 300 years ago the Dutch already knew what to do with a king who failed them - a question from which they shrink today. Why do they forget their historic tradition? What bonds still bind them to their fugitive Queen?
Evidence of both the Nazis' true feeling towards the French and the suppression, by order, of what kindness may still be found among some Germans, is forthcoming from a notice in the 
BODENSEE RUNDSCHAU (No 194; 17/8/1940):

"Comrades! Black solders fought during the Great War against the German solders. France invaded the Rhineland in peace time with niggers, & coloured people from all continents fought in this war against our solders. They were to occupy Germany under French command, and to disgrace our homeland.

"The 'comrades' of the black beasts are the French soldiers who a few weeks ago faced our brothers, sons and husbands in a life and death struggle. Now, as the conquered, they have to bear the well-merited lot of captivity, just like the Poles.

"Remember! It is undignified to have anything to do with war captives, to talk to them, or to show them any kindness. Anyone who gives them refreshments or other presents, commits a punishable offence. Again - Keep away from war captives!"

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UNITED STATES of AMERICA

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German-American Nazis and Mr. Willkie

THE FREE AMERICAN, the paper of the American Nazi organisation "Deutscher Bund", supports Mr. Wendell Willkie's candidature for the American Presidency. As Mr. Willkie has been fairly outspoken in his anti-Nazi views as well as in his demands for full aid for Britain, the Nazis are hard put to it to explain their policy. THE FREE AMERICAN writes (No 11; 5/9/1940):

"Whoever expected, as we did, no more of the Republican candidate for the Presidency than that he would prove to be the lesser evil, has not been disappointed by his speech of acceptance. On the contrary, taken as a whole, if read carefully, the speech is cheering ...

Making the Best of It. "It is a matter of course that Mr. Willkie had to talk on the basis of the general mortality created in this country by propaganda. If he were not ready to do so he need not have bothered at all. Thus for instance, he thought it necessary to say some friendly words about the Jews and to condemn their treatment on the other side of the Atlantic. Mr. Willkie knows of course ... that the Jews govern almost completely the newspapers, the wireless, and the films, the most important means of political propaganda. We do not say that he spoke against his convictions; we have no means of knowing about that; but he would have had to speak as he spoke even if he thought quite differently.

"That with regard to foreign policy he declared himself in agreement with Roosevelt is also no surprise. He considers it right to grant England every possible aid. He would have had to say so even if he agreed with Lindbergh ... and considering the tone of his statements, we cannot help having a suspicion that this might really be the case".
1. NORDAMERIKA UND DEUTSCHLAND ("North America and Germany")
By Professor Eduard Meyer
Berlin 1915 pp. 116

"We must give up all attempts to win over the Anglo-Ameri-
cans. There must be an end, now and for ever, to that woo-
ing in which we have ceaselessly indulged thus long. ... There are however two sections of the population which do matter to us very much indeed, from whom we may even expect a decisive influence upon the policy of the Union, the Ger-
am Americans and the Irish. (pp.20/21) ... There you have that effeminate soft sentiment in the Americans ... that frantic delight in fraternising among the nations & eternal peace, in the Hague Peace Conference and such like Punch and Judy shows. (p.17) ... Nor must be forgotten that as a result of the wild bustle of business life & the im-
moderate striving after success, the Americans have had their nerves overstrained, and have become an unhealthy nation, both physically and mentally. (p.37)

2. DER TECHNISCHE KRIEG IM SPIEGEL DER KRIEGSERFAHRUNGEN UND DER WELTPRESSE ("Technical Warfare in the Light of War Experience and the World Press"), by Karl Justrow
Berlin 1938; pp.12;

"Once the element of surprise has been missed or overcome, once the population has got used to the air raids, and is trained by the right kind of ARP to endure the ordeal with fortitude, then it must seem rather doubtful whether there is any truth in the phantastic descriptions of aerial suc-
cesses in a future war between two equal opponents. (p.28)

3. DER KRIEGSKAMERAD ("The War Comrade"), 1937, 1939
DER SOLDATENFREUND ("The Soldier's Friend"), 1936

Three Austrian Army Kalendar, containing short stories, military information of a general character about new arms, training, military affairs of foreign countries, data on the Austrian Army, etc. The 1936 volume makes reference to the abortive Nazi Putsch in Austria in July 1934, when Dr. Dollfuss, the Austrian Chancellor, was as-
sassinated: "In that dreadful week in July, the Army was confronted by a well equipped strong opponent, who often fought like trained soldiers; his tactics were never want-
ing in ruthlessness and perfidy". (p.104)

From KRIEGSKAMERAD 1939: "The Navies too expect poison gas "to be used in the naval encounters of the future. ... All "are agreed that the gas attack from the air by means of "deep living 'planes has substantial prospects of success. "... This kind of gas attack is considered particularly ef-
"fective". (p.55)

4. HUNDERT FAMILIEN BEHERRSCHEN DAS EMPIRE ("A Hundred Families Rule the Empire"), by Giseler Wirtinger; Munich 1940; pp.101

"Germany's recovery meant to the plutocratic caste an ele-
ment calculated to endanger its own future. For this was a case of achievement of world power in conjunction with new revolutionary social ideas which were indeed totally oppos-
ed to a plutocratic order of society. (p.56) ... What is this war? It may well be described as a world revolution of the young Ge-
at Powers against the English Plutocracy. Is this caste of a few hundred families again going to come out of this struggle as the exploiters and profiteers? It is impossible". (p.99)