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FORCES Leading to WORLD WAR III

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ON ALL fronts Hitler's legions are falling back before the overwhelming power of Allied arms. Again and again we say "Thank God, the war is nearly over." And, with the fervor of a prayer, "I hope there'll never be another war."

Dare we believe there may be an end of wars? We may, but only as we are willing to face facts and act upon them.

Let us look at Germany, for Germany and war are synonymous. Why did Hitler push Germany—and the whole world—into the bloodiest struggle in history? How was he able to barbarize the Fritzes and Fredas, the kind of people who, when they live next to us in America, are among our best citizens?

Hitler sold the German people on a policy of aggression through their need for Lebensraum, or "living space." That was the more vital of the two main principles of National Socialism, or Nazism; the other was the theory of Aryan superiority. The civilized world recognized this theory as pure

rot, but many of us sympathized with Fritz and Freda, cooped up in their teeming (?) land. *Our sympathy was wasted.*

Germany's density of population is greater than that of the United States. So what? England's is twice the density of Germany. Malta, with 2000 inhabitants to the square mile, boasts five times Germany's density. And Malta's living is chiefly from agriculture and fishing, not manufacturing.¹

That gives us a further lead. What about Germany's agriculture? There's a big difference between farming as Fritz practices it and as our own Hiram Jones goes about it. *Lebensraum?* Well, then, how much living space *does* a German farmer need?

Dr. Franz Oppenheimer, noted German economist, comes up with the answer. The German farmer manages nicely, on the average, with but 12.5 acres. A family might require up to 25 acres in the poorer eastern parts, or as little as five acres in more fertile West Germany.² Incredible? Only if you have in mind farming in the United States, where a farm may comprise a quarter, half, or whole section.

The German farmer is largely self-sufficient. Intensive gardening, plus the keeping of live stock, secures him a good living from a few acres of land. Without hiring help he and his family can handle no more than 25 acres. This is the "independent" family unit.

Now, just how many families could Germany support on the land? Pre-war Germany comprised 135,000,000 acres. Forests took up 42 million

acres. Farmlands, including pastures, vineyards and gardens, made up 80 million. The remaining 13 million acres were poor pasture, wasteland, water, and municipal areas.

Divide 80 million—the number of strictly good farm acres—by 12.5, the acreage needed to support the average family in abundance, and you have 6.5 million. That's how many independent farm families could live well in Germany. Say, in all, roughly 32 million people. This, without resorting to forests or poorer lands.

But there are in Germany only 17 million farm people, and fifteen-hundredths of 1 per cent of the population owns 40 per cent of the arable land.

Before this war and when he was at the height of his power, Hitler could have arranged so that every farm family in Germany could own or control all the land it needed for a comfortable living. Only half of the soil now under cultivation would have been required, leaving one-half of Germany's best land as a reserve of resources for millions of farmers yet unborn.

DID THE German people understand these facts? Certainly not in any fundamental way. But some of the liberal leaders did. Dodel and Lange knew them. Damaschke, Oppenheimer, Dr. Hans Kurella, Dr. Simons, Wilhelm Ostwald and others fairly well appreciated the situation. But Hitler and his crowd hated these men and ridiculed their sober preachments. For they stood for freedom.

The Weimar constitution of Republican Germany declared that land

should no longer be monopolized by owners unable or unwilling to work it. Damaschke worked out a practical plan for giving small homesteads to soldiers returned from World War I. The soldiers, learning of the plan, were jubilant. But they came home and found, as did our own soldiers, neither homesteads nor jobs. The powerful landed class of Germany—the war-making Junkers—had got in the way of the proposal.

The Junker landlords have ruled Germany for hundreds of years. They rule Germany now, and they came near ruling all of Europe—even looked forward to ruling the Americas. The Junkers pushed Germany into World War I. For years their propaganda mills worked night and day to prepare the people for *this* war. Their police, their troopers stamped the fear of their wrath and the seeds of their hatred into every Fritz and Freda. Three thousand of these conniving Junker “noblemen” own 6,500,000 acres of German lands. They are the backbone of Nazism, and they placed Hitler in power.

Do you know the real story? Out of a plan promoted in pre-war days to provide government housing for needy German families, a great scandal developed. The Kaiser’s House was involved—as was Marshal Von Hindenburg, president of the Republic. For a promise to whitewash the Marshal—also a Junker leader—Hitler was raised to the chancellorship.³

The picture is now roughed in. With the choice between slavery at home or conquest abroad, Fritz and Freda were

slapped about and propagandized until they showed eagerness to rally to the Junker war cry.

Under Nazi banners of conquest, German troops were first marched into Czechoslovakia. Why Czechoslovakia? There were, of course, some military reasons, but it was also because the Czechs—an independent people—had accomplished some important land reforms. They had taken more than half of the great estates from their feudal lords and had made a quarter million tenant farmers owners of their own land. They had changed thousands of paupers into free farmers, and, in addition, had given some 300,000 land grants to the most needy.

But, alas, for Czech reform. The Nazis took the land from the small farmers and restored it in part to the former feudal owners. The rest was parceled among the German Junkers.

This is the outline pattern of the Junker-Nazi program for all conquered territory. But it does not stop there. It completes the pattern by murdering or otherwise liquidating the more intelligent and stronger portions of the subdued populations. At the same time it greatly increases the population of Germany by fostering millions of illegitimate children, using either German women as mothers or the women of conquered lands. The fathers are, of course, depraved German soldiers. These babies born on foreign soil are taken to Germany and reared according to perverted Nazi principles. They are taught, first of all, to be soldiers and to look upon the

rest of the world as their rightful prey.

The Nazis are thus definitely preparing for World War III.

WHAT ARE we and other Allied Nations doing to circumvent this disastrous scheme? Of course, the Allies are militarily freeing the peoples of conquered lands from the Nazi yoke. That is necessarily the first step. But what about the second step? Will internationalization of the Ruhr solve the basic European problem? It may be the means of safely continuing the employment of trained workers in the well established German industries. It will not aid in getting the masses of people back onto the land.

Allied leaders declare that we must re-educate the Germans, beginning almost with babes in arms. But the question is: What shall be the basic plan of education? If we intend to superimpose a veneer of culture upon a condition of economic servitude, we might as well prepare for another war. If we induce the German people to attach the label of democracy to a centralized governmental bureaucracy and allow it to be supported by oppressive excise taxes and import tariffs, the next war will be hastened.

If we begin by educating them to the ideals of freedom, then we shall have to teach them how to be free.

But teaching a despoiled and poverty stricken nation how to acquire and maintain freedom—a nation now made up largely of depraved youth and millions of orphaned and illegitimate children—is a task for which only exemplary nations are fitted. Which nation among the Allies is guiltless enough to show the way and to take the lead?

Economic conditions similar to those prevailing in Germany are to be found in Japan and to lesser degree in Italy, Spain, Argentina, Peru and Bolivia. We need no soothsayer or crystal-ball gazer to inform us that these countries are the focal points of future continental and global conflicts. For like reasons China will long be a hotbed of civil strife, while India and Iran will keep the fires of revolt at white heat until substantial measure of freedom is given to these oppressed peoples.

REFERENCES

- 1—*Bowen and Rusby, Economics Simplified*, p. 58.
- 2—*The Freeman*, July, 1942: p. 204.
- 3—*The Freeman*, July, 1941.

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