

TWO WORLD WARS

Beginning on page 778 in Langer is the section "International Affairs, 1870-1914" which continues to p. 805.

For this period it would probably be better to read this integrated section on the inter-twining international relations rather than the internal affairs of the individual nations during this time (1870-1914). This section provides a very good guide and summary of this crucial pre-war period.

Something Had to Give!

If you go over this material you will understand that perhaps for 20 years people realized that something had to give somewhere on the world scene!

There was the colonial struggle in two areas—Africa and Southeast Asia; the struggle of Russia with Japan (p. 794 fd.); the problems in northwest Africa over Morocco (p. 795 fd.); the Berlin to Baghdad Railway crisis (p. 794); the struggle between Austria and Russia for the control of the Balkans with the drying up of the Turkish Empire (p. 798 fd.)—Turkey at this time was considered the "Sick Man of Europe."

This conglomeration of touchy problems presented the need to blow off the accumulated steam—and this is exactly what the First World War was! The spark that set it off was the assassination of the Austrian Archduke, Francis Ferdinand, at Sarajevo in the Balkans on June 28 in 1914 (see page 803).

President Wilson's Solution

The world did not solve its problems after the conclusion of World War I. The nations soon began to get restless again. It is easy to see why: The British, the Germans, the world accepted the concept of the self-determination of nations—that each country had the right to determine its own form of government. Later on we found out how the Germans viewed this!

The point is that nobody ever raised the question, "Well, does any people know enough to choose the right form of government?" But this thought never entered in.

The liberals of the Western world thought that Woodrow Wilson had the right solution to the problem. They thought the solution was that if we had only given the people of the Balkans, the Serbs let's say, independence and the right to have their own form of government—complete self-determination—then there would never have been a Sarajevo, the Archduke of Austria would never have been assassinated, and we would have all lived like happy democrats! (Self-determination was embodied in President Wilson's famous Fourteen Points, page 974 in Langer.)

The Problem Prior to W W I

Their analysis was a little off. What happened in Sarajevo in 1914 when Francis Ferdinand was murdered was incidental! We have incidents like this quite frequently today but it doesn't set the world on fire. The fact is that the brush, the timber, the trash had been accumulating for decades on the international world scene.

The French and the British had come to some amicable agreement after struggling over colonies. And the British and the Russians had come to an agreement even though they didn't like what was going on mutually in the Balkans. The British thought it might be better to tolerate the Russians a little than to let the Germans get a colonial area. The idea of supporting the Turks had gone under when they abused the Armenians and Christians were being persecuted (see the section on the Ottoman Empire on pp. 767-777). Most of the problem with Russia had been settled in the sense that they had forced China to agree to certain things in the Orient, to force Russia to accept certain limitations around Afghanistan.

But the struggle was essentially imperial. You can sense this immediately. In the end it turned out to be a basic struggle between France and Germany on the continent and between Germany and England in the colonies and on the sea. Basically that was it! Anybody who misses that point has missed everything in his understanding of World War I.

It was an attempt to, let's say, maintain the status quo by those who had. It's the old idea that those who have must be sure that those who have not don't get anymore! This is the policy—because if they do, they will take it, they will have, and then you won't have! This is essentially how every nation views it....

The point to bear in mind in terms of the problems before the First World War was that various nations were analyzing one another and making alliances and making secret deals in order to aggrandize themselves so they could perpetuate what they had already acquired.

Italy Sides With Britain, France, Russia

Now the Italians had decided that temporarily it was better to join with the Austrians and the Germans because it was mutually beneficial not to have any struggle in Italy between Italy and Austria. So this is what was called the Triple Alliance—Germany, Austria, Italy. Meanwhile England, France, and Russia formed the Triple Entente.

At the same time the British—who say one thing out of one side of their mouth and another thing out of the other—had made a secret deal with the Italians that, if anything happened in Europe, Italy would not join with Austria even though their mutual pact called for it. Now, in actuality, I think this was perhaps the most important event that occurred before the war in determining its outcome. If you analyze it I think you will see this is the case. [I do not know if Dr. Hoeh is referring to the secret treaty of London here, discussed on page 953 in Langer, which took place early in the war—spring of 1915—or to another, earlier secret agreement. Whatever the chronology of the event, its importance is in no way lessened.]

If that secret agreement had not been made—if the British had not been shrewd enough to perceive that Italy was the key—Italy would have been at the back of France! Italy this time was not. Italy would have been at the back of Austria as an ally and not as an enemy; and therefore Austria would have only had one front, the Russian front. Thus, instead of the Austrians and Germans having the Russian front on the one hand, and a Western Front in two parts—in France and in Italy—it would have been altogether different: France would have had two fronts—Italy and Germany—and there would have only been one front for the Austrians to handle, the Eastern Front!

This made no small difference in the story! In reality, I think, it was the most important secret event that took place.

This was the era of secret diplomacy. Now maybe diplomacy is no longer secret—it can hardly be kept that way today—but, in reality, there are many secret things going on, secret plans, most of which I think are in fact centering at the Vatican today when you really look at it.

The Slavic Fate

The nations were unprepared for the outbreak of the First World War. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand may have been backed by foreign money. The Serbs in many cases certainly wanted independence from Austria—the Austro-Hungarian Empire, you see, occupied the region of Czechoslovakia and most of Yugoslavia. And the Russians had been stimulating the idea of pan-Slavism; and now the Slavic nations can see how pleasant it is to have such an idea come to fruition.

You know, every nation that stirs up trouble actually finally reaps its penalty! We see it today. All these Slavic nations had the grand idea that if they could only be free and join in with Russia and have one glorious Slavic world, then they would be satisfied. Well, God has given it to them now and they see what it is really like! In other words, when you let Slavs dominate Slavs you have what it is like behind the Iron Curtain!

When the Germans Dominate Europe

On the other hand, when you have all Europe dominated by the Germans you have a situation that cannot be compared to anything! Even Revelation 13 shows this. Here in verses one and two a political system is pictured that cannot be compared to any wild animal! It is a conglomeration of creatures!

A lion, you know, doesn't go around devouring other creatures when it's not hungry. But unfortunately the German lion, if we draw an analogy here, just keeps eating! You look and see if that has not been the case.

Every time the Germans have dominated Europe it has been a Dark Age! That's what happened when the Roman Empire collapsed. That was dark enough, but at least the light of history shone; but when the Germans took over Europe from the barbarian invasions on through the Middle Ages it was a Dark Age for centuries! That's exactly what happened when this same system of the French and Germans under Napoleon got control (the 5th restoration of the Beast Power). This revival may have had French enlightenment to go along with it, but it was a very unfortunate period. Then when Hitler took it over it was another Dark Age. Certainly that was the feeling, that the lights had gone out in Europe!

I don't think we can realize what that regime was like. We have our J. Edgar Hoover who runs the American Secret Service, but in Germany there was a chicken farmer whose name was Himmler. I really think that Hitler chose him because he must have viewed humanity as most farmers view chickens! Now you look and see if that is not the way Himmler viewed Europe—as one vast chicken coop! That's right! And every chicken had to be imprisoned. And when the state needed the bird, it was merely removed from the coop and sent to some other chicken house labeled "Krupp", or whatever it was, and that's where the chicken worked! In reality, that's the way the masses were viewed.

Then, as you know, the chicken is finally taken to the butcher shop to have its head cut off. Under the Nazis, Himmler just simply assigned them to the various sites in Germany and Poland—Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau. When you hear these names sounded they do have that undertone that something is wrong! "Buchenwald" literally means the "Beech Forest", beech trees. These are very strange names to a foreign ear. And they symbolize something today—something in human experience that can never be forgotten! Or maybe, like the first Exodus, they will be forgotten in terms of what is coming!!

"God Knows Everything—But the Kaiser Knows Best!"

Now, more on the background of World War I: The nations, and the British in particular, sensed the problem. The German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, was the grandson of Queen Victoria of England; his mother was the daughter of Queen Victoria (also named Victoria, she had married a German prince, Frederick III). This Kaiser was like a little, strutting peacock! He felt inadequate, without a doubt, because he had a withered arm (which had been wrenched from the shoulder socket at birth—his mother had a long, difficult labour and the German doctors had gotten quite frantic!). So he liked to strut. There isn't any doubt about it. He had, I think it was said, a thousand different suits (uniforms) which he wore on various occasions. /From The Kaiser by Virginia Cowles (New York, 1963) we learn: "The Emperor's delight in uniforms was a joke of long standing. The Berliners said that he would not visit an aquarium without putting on admiral's attire, and had been known to climb into the uniform of a British Field Marshal to eat a plum pudding. The Princess of Pless wondered if anyone, except the Empress in the privacy of the boudoir, had ever seen the Sovereign in mifti (civilian clothes), and someone retorted that he obviously climbed into undress uniform for bed" (p. 281)./

He was a man who regarded himself as one consistency with God in the political realm. A common saying was, "God knows everything, but the Kaiser knows best!" These expressions were very commonly used and understood in Germany and there were all kinds of private jokes going around, just as there were under Hitler.

The man himself was a dilettante. "The Kaiser was not a statesman, but a brilliant dilettante. He was much more like his mother than people imagined, for he had the temperament of an artist rather than that of a Prussian prince. He painted, arranged ballets, occasionally wrote poetry, and was an expert in archaeology." (Cowles, The Kaiser, p. 280.)

Everybody Knew War Was Coming

My grandfather came to the United States after the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71) because any German knew that if you take a piece of territory from France, the French would be back after it in another generation! This was a foregone conclusion! So every German knew that the French would sooner or later find an excuse for another war. It was inevitable!

Every Englishman knew the only reason the Germans were building their fleet was because, sooner or later, somebody had to get possession of somebody else's colonies. That's all there was to it! Either the Germans have the right to colonize the world or the British do. The question was, Who does? The Germans went back to the fact that the Pope chose the Franks—that is, the French and Germans—early in the Middle Ages, and he didn't choose the British, to be God's chosen people. And this tradi-

tion has gone on far longer than most people realize. I have discussed this before so I will not dwell on it now. (Note chapter one of vol. two of the Compendium.)

The War Came Unexpectedly

It all led up to an unexpected outbreak of war when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated; and the Austrians sent an ultimatum to Serbia making about 20 severe demands. The Serbian reply was evasive, so the Austrians went to punish the Serbs and declared war on July 28, 1914 with Belgrade being bombarded the next day. Then the Russians came to the aid of the Serbs!

Now, in reality, it was not all that simple. The Czar of Russia did not intend to get into that war! But his uncle—"Longneck" as he was commonly called then—changed the telegram to read "mobilize". And this tampering with the fate of the world sent Russia into the struggle on behalf of Serbia against Austria!

Now the inevitable situation was that by agreement each nation felt it had to support the other nation—there were all these inter-linking alliances. And so the Germans immediately supported the Austrians; and the French immediately supported the Russians. And the British tried to mediate!

And at the time, the German fleet—let's say, merchant fleet—was on the high seas; the war was not planned for August, 1914. Europe just suddenly blew up!! I think this is made plain by many historians: It just came so fast that no nation, really, could stop it. (See pages 803-5 in Langer for background.)

Austria Lost Out

Now you can look back and analyze it. It would have been much wiser for the Austrians to let go of some of the areas in southeastern Europe but, in the vanity of the House of Hapsburg, they refused! If they had, the Germans wouldn't have gotten into any trouble in Europe. On the other hand, if the Russians had decided to keep pushing, the British would have had to stop them just like Churchill had to do with Greece.

So, in the end, the Austrians lost everything. Austria ended up, in the settlement after the war, "like a mouth without a stomach" as was commonly said! Compare maps of Europe before and after the war. Only a small area was left—Hungary was taken from them. As a consequence, Austria today is not an industrial area of Europe; it can never be by itself, it has to have more territory to make it work. This is the unfortunate thing in this part of Europe. There are areas that ought to be incorporated into other districts economically.

American Troops Saved Europe

The war itself dragged on for years! For some reason the generals were as stupid as could be on all sides in the First World War, they all believed in trench warfare—the old, traditional idea with modern methods of attrition. And the whole concept was to slay the enemy in numbers instead of grasping territory. Certainly the Battles of Verdun and the Somme (1916) will never be forgotten. Hundreds of thousands of troops—at Verdun alone about 500,000 perished on both sides (Langer, page 959).

In March of 1918 the Germans launched a great offensive. The French do not admit it but they were retreating! The Germans had, in fact, gained a victory and didn't know it! The Germans had ceased to push, the French were retreating, and

the Americans were just coming at this time (see pp. 974-5 in Langer). The French, you know, under Gen. Petain had said, "They shall not pass!" The French, however, were passing!—in deference to the Germans. The Yanks came along and asked the French what they were doing. They said, "We had to leave." The reply was, "Hell! Go back there and fight!"

Remember, by the way, that this is a quote from history!

There isn't any doubt that American troops made the difference. Now, of course, the war would never have been won if the Allies had not fought the three previous years. If the Americans had not found a place to land, it might have been different! That's right. But, nevertheless, American troops did save Europe.

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

Remember that if the Germans had knocked Russia out of the war one year sooner the outcome could have been quite different. But the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed with the new Bolshevik government on March 3, 1918—the Russian Revolution had occurred a few months before in November of 1917 (Langer, p. 971)—and the German troops were being brought back to the Western Front. But there were just not enough; too many had been lost in the war.

The real problem, however, was not just with the troops. The problem now was that though the Germans were free to occupy vast areas of Russia, it was too late to capitalize on it. Most people do not realize it—you should read a book which has been written on the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, whereby the Germans occupied vast regions of Russia in 1918 including the Ukraine, but it was too late to get the harvest in! The German crack-up in the First World War was on the home front because the people were starving at home. This is what happened.

If that had not happened, everything would have changed completely. There wouldn't have been a Hitler. The German imperial ideas would not have dominated. In the First World War the Pope was very favorable to Germany. And things would have developed quite differently it is obvious. In the same way there were—or will have been—three times that the Germans have sought to dominate Europe and to expand a people into a vast empire which could rule the world in their point of view. The second attempt was under Hitler—but it turned to nothing and ended in a shambles that this Work might develop! But the next time, of course, the attempt is going to be allowed to run its course—temporarily, temporarily only!

Anti-Semitism

Since the days of Martin Luther there has been anti-Semitism in continental Europe—there was in every country. The Roman Catholic Church fostered the idea that the Jews were Christ-killers. They were driven out of Spain and Portugal and into France. They were driven out of England in 1290 in the Middle Ages (Langer, p. 215) and not let back in until some four centuries later. They were allowed to be in Germany for a long time but there were little pogroms here and there. (The word pogrom is from Yiddish and means an organized massacre of helpless people, especially Jews.)

Anti-Semitism in continental Europe, however, did not really develop widely until it was played upon by writers in the 1920's. We must recognize that Hitler didn't start it, but he used it! Almost every idea that Adolf Hitler expounded had existed before. For instance, Richard Wagner (German poet and composer, 1813-

1883), if he had been of a later generation, would have been one of the leading Nazi lights--there isn't any doubt about it! All you have to do is analyze many of his concepts, if you realize to what extent he went right back to the old German myths—and much of his music is predicated on it. So the story then developed that the Germans needed a scape-goat.

Sheep Versus Wild Animals

Now, at the end of World War I, the German army was not expressly defeated. It merely surrendered intact. But the people, of course, had collapsed on the home front because the British had calculated the need of starving them to death. And later on Hitler used this to stir up German emotions in the 1930's; it was part of the German excuse for gearing for war again!

Now you know what's going to happen in this next war: This situation is going to be reversed! In the coming conflict prophecy makes quite clear that the United States and Britain are going to be starving to death, and we're going to collapse on the home front. The same technique is going to be used! See if this isn't the case.

Whereas other nations have been helped by us as a people, in this crisis they are not going to come to our aid! And we're going to simply be forced to submit. We're going to see the generous hand of the Gentiles! We offer other nations flour; but in the day of our need they are going to offer us the sword—point first! That's what they will do. They're like wild animals! This is just the way human nature is set up. Some nations are very good—we are a nation of sheep! That's basically our attitude. But the Gentiles are like wild animals—some like bears, some like leopards, some like lions, some like snakes. About every creature that exists—I mean, human nature is expressed in one way or the other.

Germany in the 1920's

Hitler had to play on the feelings of the people. He himself was a kind of demi-god. We're getting a little ahead of the story but I have to show this and how it relates to the Jews. The Jews, out of Poland and elsewhere, were able to buy up during the inflationary period of 1923-24 vast amounts of German shops and business. And this became an excuse for exploitation. While the Jew was away, you see, he was getting interest on what he had invested in Germany. He wasn't there working on the job; he was living in Poland on his German investment. This is what was happening.

The Germans were partly responsible, without a doubt, for this inflation (see p. 1006 in Langer for background). It was a planned inflation to destroy the German need to pay off the war debts in 1923-24. The economy was so inflated that Germany collapsed economically within. So the United States, with the Dawes Plan and other plans (Langer, 1123) went to the rescue of Germany: We declared a mora-torium on the German payment of debts—which is exactly what the Germans had planned for us to do!

In the meantime the Socialists in Germany had sold out to the military. Instead of there being a true Socialist government, it had actually made an agreement privately at the very time of the Weimar Republic (Langer, 1005) so that it ended up that Field Marshall Paul von Hindenburg, in retirement since 1919, became the President in 1925 (Langer, 1007)—and thus the Prussian military was absolutely in control! The only difference is that the Kaiser had gone. But the military was

in control and the leaders of the Western world didn't have sense enough to realize that's what had happened! Here is a statement from a college textbook for this time in Germany: "Abroad, the choice of a man so intimately connected with imperial militarist Germany created dismay; but until 1930 Hindenburg acted entirely in accordance with the constitution, to the distress of most of the nationalist groups. The domestic issues of this period"—1925-30—"all aroused great heat, but were settled by democratic process. . . . All in all, prosperity encouraged moderation and a return to support of the republic." A History of Civilization, vol. two, Brinton, Christopher and Wolff. Prentice-Hall, 1967, p. 456. But then came the depression of the 1930's and this crisis set the stage for Hitler's rising to power!

The Failings of President Wilson

Woodrow Wilson had appealed to the Germans and they had surrendered on the basis of his Fourteen Points (Langer, 974). It just so happened that most of them were not incorporated into the Versailles Treaty after the war (Langer, 978). "The German request for a peace on the basis of Wilson's Fourteen Points had been granted by the Allied note of November 5, 1918, with two reservations, but the Fourteen Points receded into the background as the conflict of views and interests developed at the Paris Peace Conference" (Langer, 977, col. one). This became Germany's excuse later, and Hitler made the most of it (Langer, 1008), that the Versailles Treaty was altogether different from the agreement which they had signed in November of 1918!

The fact was that Wilson was a college professor who was an expert on American government but didn't know anything about world politics! In reality, this was the case. He was not only a man ahead of his time, but he was a man who had such high ideals that he could not perceive what the world was really like! He had to compromise almost all of his points with the European diplomats—Orlando, Clemenceau, and Lloyd George—in order to get them to accept the League of Nations. He thought this was the ultimate answer to the problems of the world (Langer, 977-8).

Wilson's administration and life came to an unfortunate end. On a speaking tour of the U. S. to rally support for the League of Nations in 1919 he suffered a paralytic stroke. In reality, then, we had a lady President. His wife had to run the White House during his last two years in office. Most Americans don't say very much about it.

So here we had a President crippled in mind and, under Franklin Roosevelt, both in mind and body I sometimes think! At least the latter. And FDR was run by his wife. There isn't any doubt about it. Eleanor Roosevelt was the power behind the throne. Someday we're going to wake up and see that's the case. She was a remarkable woman without a doubt!

Nevertheless, Hitler played up the idea that the Versailles Treaty was a wicked agreement imposed on a nation contrary to the original surrender terms. And then, of course, the people who were responsible were considered those who stabbed Germany in the back right after the war—none other than socialists, communists and Jews! On pages 447-8 in vol. two of the above-quoted textbook we read: "Before the ink was dry on the armistice agreement, the generals, led by Hindenburg himself, were explaining that the German armies had never really been defeated. This is exactly what the public wanted to believe, and the harsh facts—that Ludendorff and Hindenburg had insisted on surrender because the armies could no longer fight—were never effectively publicized. So the legend that Germany had somehow been "stabbed in the back" by civilians, by liberals, socialists, communists, and Jews, took deep

root, and became almost an article of faith among many Germans. This legend was widely disseminated by politicians, especially by those who had a stake in the old Prussian system—the monarchists, agrarians, industrialists, and militarists."

FDR and the Depression

As long as we have mentioned President Franklin Roosevelt, we might as well continue that topic and then conclude our lecture with some interesting items on the Hitler era in Germany. One does not fully realize what it was like under the Roosevelt regime of the 1930's unless you are old enough to have lived through it. The depression was kept going for years when it needn't have! I'll be plain about it! That depression was kept going because, if we had gotten out of the depression in one or two years, the end result was that there wouldn't have been a third and fourth term for FDR to enjoy in office! But it had to go on and on. We had another planned recession in 1937—that's all it was! Finally the Second World War brought America out of the depression; Roosevelt never got us out of it! Some day we're going to wake up to realize that!

He taught the people to—well, there's a vulgar song, you know, which I won't quote now. Some of you have heard it! In other words, instead of working, he told them to sit down—that's essentially what it amounted to—and work for the government raking leaves; all kinds of things were done that could just as easily have been done by private initiative. And, in fact, in many cases they were merely being paid to W.P.A—you know, "We Putter Around"! Now he had some important projects, the C. C. C. and others, that have perhaps have done some remarkable good. I have no objection to "priming the pump". That's what he started to do. But the problem was, he never drew up anything but prime water! That was the thing.

He drove money out of circulation by promising, for the first time, to tax the rich to pay the poor. He was going to play Robin Hood; and that drove money out of circulation! So he inflated it.

You can see, when you really look back, that it was an unfortunate situation which we allowed to go on because the average American, like many church members—I've heard them say it in Spokesmen's Club—say, "Well, Roosevelt gave us a job!" That's right—and that's as far as they see! Well, so did Mussolini give the Italians a job; Hitler gave them a job; the Communist Party promises that everybody will be employed—and the Chinese employ everybody! Now you look at it: Is that the critrion or the standard on which we should judge whether or not the system is right! Just because one has a job? Every slave that works for somebody has a job! But is slavery the thing for everybody!? Well, that, perhaps, is what we are really unaware of.

Hitler's System

Now back to Hitler and Germany prior to World War II: Hitler, then, conjured up this system of National Socialism (Langer, 1008-1010). He had to appeal to the socialists—that's why "Socialism" was there; and he called it "National" because that appealed to those who were nationalistically minded. And then it had an appeal to the rabble, of course, who needed to have jobs. Unlike Communism, it appealed to the financiers, it appealed to the militarists. He had everything there to appeal to those who wanted to be important. (Note that col. two on page 1008 in Langer is a very good summary of this topic.)

Any nation that has been defeated feels humiliated and desires to be great again. So Hitler told the Germans that they were the greatest people, that they were Aryans of Aryans—that all others had lost the Aryan soul and only Germans had preserved it. All these philosophical concepts were applied to politics. It was taught in the universities and the schools. There was the little Nazi Primer which is something you ought to read. I think it really gets down to the heart and core of how they reached the German mind. It was made very simple!

It ended up with all kinds of little frustrated men who came into positions of power and authority. Recall that Nebuchadnezzar had to realize that God sets over nations the least—"basest"—of men (Daniel 4:17). However, the German generals were great men in many cases; there isn't any doubt that some of those German generals were remarkable!

Hitler's Power

And here came this little Hitler who was an astonishing speaker. If any of you have heard Hitler in his normal voice—and there are two voices; if you hear the record "Historia", which is in German (I think there may be an English version, I don't know whether there is one available), you will sometimes hear Hitler's normal tones. And I had to ask myself, "Well, who's that? Now that's a voice!" Hitler had one of the most remarkable voices you will ever hear when he spoke normally.

And suddenly it became—well, it just rose and became so different that not even the Germans as a whole could understand it. But it just seemed that he was—he was shouting, and he began to rave. That was the Devil who possessed him!

But the normal voice was exceedingly attractive! It was low and deep and resonant. And the color, one could almost say, was golden. There isn't any doubt about it!

But he would go into these rages, and the people would just simply fall for it. Mr. Schnee said in some of the meetings that he saw that, first of all, the intelligent listened to him, and then, suddenly, it was just as if everybody changed character in the audience. They were being possessed by demons, or influenced by them—what would probably be termed a form of mass hysteria.

And he promised them great things; he promised the Germans they would rule the world for a thousand years. Franklin Roosevelt, you know, only gave us 16! (Actually less than that because he died in 1945 in his fourth term.) Somehow Americans don't do things in that kind of way when you really see it.

If you ever have a chance to go to Nurnberg or some of the other great cities, you realize that the Germans built huge marble stadiums, and they had fire leaping up. It was just the old tradition. We had our "Fireside Chats" over here but they had their fire-lit parades at night! And you saw all the troops marching, you saw fire leaping up. I've been to some of those places; they are still extant. It's hard to believe; you'd have to see it to understand how it moved the people! The fires that we have burning around here are nothing in comparison to the huge bowls of fuel that the Germans set aflame. And they celebrated the old Germanic rites, the midsummer night's fire. All of the great traditions of the past were revived.

"God Let Us Down!"

In a sense, then, with the revival of these age-old, pagan customs, Christianity was deprecated. This was done to break down the will of the church. In the First World War, of course, the Germans spoke of "God and Fatherland." And they said it was just as if God let them down in that war because they were fighting a righteous war—they were God's chosen people. And when they lost the First World War they attributed that loss to God—that He had failed them!

And this is why Hitler was able to destroy Christianity as rapidly as he did in Nazi Germany!

Most people are not aware of that. The Germans felt that they were carrying out God's civilization on earth—the Kingdom of God! I have songs that were sung during that time that show that very thing. And that's why Christianity collapsed so rapidly—not only because of German rationalism but because the people felt that God had failed them!

So they went back, in many cases, to the old tradition. They called themselves not Christians any longer but "God believers." Hence they believed in God, the immortality of the soul, and the punishment of the wicked. That's what Eichmann said he was. And he ended up, you know, by saying, "Long live Austria and long live Germany!" That was his belief. So that much of Christianity they kept.

Hitler Worshipped

Then Hitler hired Joseph Goebbels who was a failure as a writer. Actually he was a remarkable writer and speaker but he had just never gotten off the ground before. He was hired to form in Germany the Ministry of Propoganda and Enlightenment. (The Catholics, by the way, have an Office of Propoganda. The term propoganda has come to mean lies; literally it merely meant explaining, and making known, facts.)

It was Goebbels who finally made the Germans believe that Adolf Hitler was a god. And that he was, first of all, God's representative; and finally he was called God! And the Germans prayed to him! That seems peculiar to us but, after all, when Jesus Christ was on earth the disciples prayed to Him—you know, asked things of Him. Now you think about it! Hitler was the saviour of Germany, and Germany was to be the saviour of the world! This was the new religion!

In fact, Goebbels addressed Hitler as "Mein Fuehrer und mein Gott"—"My Leader and my God"! That's how he introduced Adolf Hitler! And the German people believed it. Why? Because he was working wonders. (Note Dr. Hoeh's discussion of this on page 193 of vol. two of the Compendium.) First of all he got the Rhineland back. He gave them jobs. Then he got Austria. Then he got all of Czechoslovakia in two or three steps. And now Poland fell (Langer, 1012, 1135). Then Denmark and Norway and Holland and Belgium and France! I mean, you just look to see how everything just grew and grew and grew!

The Germans have had this tradition of war, of militarism, of wanting to be the chief nation in the world. But they have never realized that the way to be great is the way of peace and the way of God! Instead of that, they've done it the way of war and the way of the Devil. The Devil has used them and they have had leaders like this.

For material on the world since 1939 see pages 1135-1157 and 1296-1300 in the new edition of Langer. 4/3