# How Dictators Will Seize Power in Europe

For Decades, I have predicted World War III would begin in the economic arena; that trade war would usher in a global economic collapse, a great depression. Like that of the early thirties, such a depression would result in violent overthrow of governments and emergence of military dictatorships to restore order.

Chilling events in Germany, directly linked to joblessness and a depressed economy, should be a clear warning to the United States of what lies ahead. Yet, government seems oblivious, and the populace asleep. How soon, now, will dictatorships emerge in Europe? How many years before "democracy" in Europe is but a farcical facade—a grand experiment that didn't work?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

A uslanders AUS! So goes the hoarse-voiced chants in dozens of German cities as "skinheads" and other neo-Nazis scream their anger at Turks, Vietnamese, and other racial minorities.

Today, the thuggery is taking on more than mere demonstrations, desecration of Jewish synagogues and graveyards, graffiti, and public insults. Now, in a wave of violence, foreigners in former East Germany are being murdered.

Why?

The answer can be found in the current economic situation in formerly communist East Germany. German Reunification was supposed to bring prosperity to the poor brother to the east. It hasn't. Instead, as massive economic duress plagues the former Soviet Union; as many Eastern European countries struggle with ancient ethnic, religious and political animosities, powerful Germany finds itself an attractive haven for tens of thousands of refugees.

Because of liberal German immigration laws, the influx of foreigners in search of a better life has become a steady stream. They come from Southeast Asia, from torn and bleeding former Yugoslavia. They come in search of jobs from Portugal, Turkey, Spain, and from many neighboring eastern European nations.

Two decades ago, with thousands of jobs begging to be filled, minorities from other countries flocked to West Germany to take menial jobs Germans didn't want. Service-type jobs, like maids, janitors, dishwashers and busboys went to minorities.

Now, some minority communities are coming under increasing attack by virulent neo-Nazi groups who illogically blame foreigners for "taking our jobs."

Staggering under the massively expensive problem of attempting to absorb their poor relatives to the east, Germany finds itself faced with growing political unrest. Will such unrest unravel Germany's post-war democratic institutions?

Stung by increasing media attention from abroad and counter-demonstrations at home, the German government has begun a crackdown on neo-Nazi groups. Arrests have been made, jail sentences handed down. However, polls have shown shockingly high percentages of the population, particularly in former East Germany, are sympathetic with the skinheads and other far right groups.

Remember, Hitler, too, was jailed following his abortive "Putsch" in Munich. Will democracy prevail in Germany? Will democracy prevail throughout post-Cold War Eastern Europe?

### Will Democracy Prevail in Europe?

Few Americans understand Europe. For that matter, few know anything about European history, and a shocking number know almost nothing about European demographics and geography.

Naive, largely ignorant people blithely assume that since communism has failed, all the former Warsaw Pact nations, including the fragmented Soviet Union, are getting about the business of changing over to a free market system, establishing democratic reforms.

Those who expect to see shining new democracies emerging in Eastern Europe and Russia are in for some very ugly surprises. Events in central Europe today are poignantly reminiscent of the late 1930s, when an everexpanding Germany began swallowing up neighboring nations.

Remember, it was a "democratic" Germany who voted for increasingly large numbers of Nazis in the 1930s. The world expected, after World War I and the dismantlement of the feudal monarchies, that Europe would embrace democratic institutions. But the world looked on passively, as democratic elections finally swept away the last of the inept Weimar Republic, and Hitler came to power. Free elections in Austria resulted in Anschluss, as Austria became a part of the greater German Reich.

Military governments came to power in Poland and Hungary as the Austro-Hungarian empire was dis-

Thus, the stage was set for World War II after nations in central Europe freely went to the polls to elect leaders of their choice.

Once Hitler deliberately scrapped the tattered remnants of the ill-fated Treaty of Versailles, post-World War I boundaries were immediately in dispute. The "Sudeten" Germans in Czechoslavakia, Hitler said, were being persecuted by the Czechs. Violent propaganda from Germany and rabid speeches by Hitler clearly signaled the vacillating Western powers, Britain and France, that they needed to take some sort of political action if Czechoslavakia, whose borders were set by the Versailles Treaty, was to remain intact.

Neville Chamberlain, Britain's prime minister, and Edouard Daladier, his French counterpart, met with Hitler in Munich on September 29, 1938, with Benito Mussolini, Italy's dictator, as a mediator. The Sudeten German population sprawled, like a horshoeshaped ring, around the Czech-



Economic and political circumstances today are frightfully similar to those which propelled Hitler into power.

oslavakian border with Germany. As a result of Hitler's bluster and lying promises, Chamberlain returned to London having joined Daladier in signing the infamous "Munich Pact," which gave Hitler virtually everything he wanted, and which ceded a huge slice of Czechoslavakia to Germany.

Chamberlain, believing he has appeased the Nazi dictator, waves his "white paper" before cheering crowds and announces it is "peace in our



Some 1,800 attacks against foreigners and Jewish synagogues and cemeteries have been perpetrated this year. Neo-Nazi demonstrations like this one held at Dresden enjoy surprising public support.



One glimpse of the devastation to life and property wrought by the racially and religiously motivated civil war in Yugoslavia.

time." Historically, "Munich" came to mean blind appeasement; betrayal.

The pact allowed Hitler to occupy the Sudetenland, with its three and a half million inhabitants (2,800,000 of them German speaking) during the first ten days in October, 1938.

The military government in Poland then pounced on hapless Czechoslavakia, demanding the cession of 650 square miles with 228,000 inhabitants. The Hungarians followed suit, as each neighboring country pointed to ethnic majorities as an excuse for further partitioning. Hungary swallowed up another 7,700 square miles and 772,000 inhabitants.

The small portion of what had been Czechoslavakia, now called "Slovakia," was led by a pro-German, Monsignor Josef Tiso. Fearing Hungary and Poland, and moved by his admiration for Hitler's rapidly-growing power, Tiso declared Slovakia independent from Prague, the capital, on March 14th, and under the "protection" of Germany. The very next day, Hitler, obviously completely prepared for such an event, sent German troops into the new "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia," while Hungary annexed the sub-Carpathian Ruthenia, the extreme eastern part of what had once been Czechoslovakia.

Thus, as the big powers appeased and compromised, hungry neighbors devoured a multi-national democratic state. Today, the newly-elected democratic leaders of Czechoslavia, restored as a nation by the victorious Allies in 1945, are bent on once again partitioning the nation. Czechoslavakia is slated to split in half by the end of 1992—this time, however, the destruction of this "arch of nationally divided Europe" is being sliced up by its own newly-elected democratic leaders

The rape of Czechoslavakia in 1938 and 1939 proved a major catalyst to the outbreak of World War II. Will the disappearance of Czechoslavakia in the months ahead result in newly-revived ethnic and political disputes—perhaps in another war in Europe?

## Czechoslavakia—About to Disappear Again?

The borders of modern-day Czechoslavakia are the same as those agreed upon by the Allied powers after World War I. Because of their repugnance toward the three and onehalf million ethnic Germans in the Sudetenland, the leaders of Czechoslavakia expelled these people, with approval and even supervision by the Allies, back to Germany in 1945. There they have remained, embittered, remaining clannishly together, representing a significant voting bloc in Germany. As such, they have continually clamored for their lost homes and farms; have incessantly

urged regionally elected landers to fight for their cause in the Bundestag.

One sees a similarity here between the Palestinians in Arab countries around Israel, their former homeland. The Palestinians have not been absorbed by these countries, but kept separate, in "refugee" camps, for decades. Who does not know about their ongoing struggle to return to their homeland, and set up their own state?

By the same token, former Sudetenland Germans form a large and vociferous group, demanding a return to their homeland in what is a now-dividing Czechoslavakia! Who will hear their cause? Not the new Czech republic. Not Slovakia. Why would present-day Czechs, living in former Sudetenland, or Bohemia, cheerfully vacate their businesses, homes and farms, and ask three and one-half million Germans to return?

Forming the significant voting bloc they do, however, there is one major power who is listening to them. The Bundestag, or Parliament, of Germany! Will Germany soon move into Czechoslavakia to "keep the peace" between various warring factions?

But why should the "velvet divorce" of the newly-forming Czech republic and Slovakia cause strife; perhaps regional wars?

First, see how the simple need for economic development could bring about major changes:

The government of the new "Slovak Republic" intends to increase its energy supply and political prestige by bringing a new hydro-electric project on line, a disputed dam in the Gabcikovo region. This will be done by diverting the flow of the Danube River. The Hungarian government claims this will alter state borders, however, and the dispute is growing ever sharper, turning into an open war of words.

Here's how such disputes spill over: The nationalist movement in Hungary, already posturing about "the sacred struggle for the rights of the oppressed brethren" (meaning the 500,000 Hungarians living in what is now Slovakia, the poorer, eastern part of former Czechoslavakia), may well ride

to power on precisely this issue. Presto! A new ultra-nationalistic (read: military?) government arises in Hungary.

Then what?

The United States has indicated it is prepared to abdicate its global responsibilities. Various senators, toplevel White House advisors, many in the media have continually bleated about the huge costs involved in such adventures as the war in the Gulf; have whined about how Germany and Japan should "contribute their fair share." For many years, I have known such pressures would eventually bring about changes in both the German and Japanese constitutions, permitting both nations to shift over from purely defensive military forces to offensive ones; to send German and Japanese troops abroad.

Noisy debates are under way in both countries. Constitutional changes are very much in the offing, finally permitting both Germany and Japan to utilize political and military strength commensurate with their economic power.

The United States will foolishly welcome such changes. The presidentelect, Bill Clinton, has stated he wants to see Germany and Japan given full membership in the Security Council of the U.N., without realizing this could spell the end of the U.N., and the creation of some alternative "new world order" by the Germans and Japanese.

Obviously, the United States is finished with its' "peace-keeping" role in foreign wars in which it has no particular interest; where U.S. interests are not directly threatened.

There is no oil in Sarajevo. Instead of a U.S. sponsored "coalition," operating under the guise of a "new world order" (President Bush's term for such multi-national forces' role in carrying out U.N. resolutions), the United States government has relied wholly on the U.N. to provide ineffective, token "peace-keeping" forces in former Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, thousands die.

Will Czechs and Slovaks and Hungarians soon resort to a shooting war like that raging in Bosnia, forcing Germany and other European nations to react? Possibly. Here's how it could happen:

Since the borders of Czechoslavakia were determined by the victorious Allies following World War I, and reimposed by the Allies following World War II, but since the new "velvet divorce" between the two new republics is partitioning the country, and since the diversion of the Danube is causing a dispute over political boundaries, the strident voices of the Sudeten Germans may finally demand the renegotiation of the western borders of Bohemia. Then, the Slovak republic, the poorer, eastern portion of former Czechoslavakia, will have its

You are living in a time of volatile *change*, and it will not always be a change for the better.

hands full with the Hungarians, who will claim that all treaties signed with Czechoslavakia were signed with a nation which "now no longer exists," and therefore should be renegotiated, thus renewing ancient territorial demands. Probably the Romanians and Ukrainians will bicker over the annexation of Ruthenia. Romanians will want to get rid of Hungarians living in Transylvania. Probably, Serbia and Hungary will seek mutual aid and protection, and Serbia will demand the expulsion of Islamic Albanians living in Kosovo.

No doubt, some weak attempts by the various parties to solve the growing religious, racial and political tensions. Local and regional violence will ensue—perhaps small regional wars, with larger-scale war threatened as provocation produces response, which produces counter-response.

In the event of widening war in the Balkans, who will step in to fulfill the role of peace-keeper?

Not the United States. Not Great Britain. Not France. Perhaps not even the U.N.

If newly-elected Bill Clinton has his way, Japan and Germany will soon become full members of the Security Council. However, he probably does not realize this would bring strident demands by other developing powers, not the least of which would furor over the permanent members' veto power.

It is likely Indonesia, India, and Brazil would also demand permanent membership. If India made such demands, Bangladesh would follow suit. A complete re-write of the U.N. charter would be required, and the organization as presently constituted could fragment.

What would replace it would be regional security and defense arrangements, or larger scale security pacts, depending on the economic and military power of the nations involved.

In the early 1990s, Mitterand and Kohl shocked other NATO nations with a bold new proposal that France and Germany should "take greater responsibilities in the fields of security and defense."

"Joint action" was proposed by the two EC members, including the upgrading of a symbolic Franco-German joint army to perhaps 50,000 men to form the nucleus of an "independent European defense force."

The proposals were met with alarm by Britain, Italy and the Netherlands. British Foreign Secretary Hurd called them at the time "useless and dangerous," pointing out that they "overlapped NATO." France is not a full member of NATO.

But Kohl was undaunted by this temporary rebuff. In February of 1992, the London Daily Telegraph editorialized, under the headline "Germany's Duty," how Kohl's hands were tied in his attempts to "reshape German military forces so they can

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## VISION

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with an assertion that, "The unknown attackers want to re-establish a National Socialist dictatorship in Germany." It's not clear whose side the federal prosecutor is on. Newsweek reports he has declined to handle any cases against the right-wing attackers.

One of the most frightening aspects of the accelerating neo-Nazi movement in Germany is that it's difficult to know for sure just how much of the population is sympathetic to the goals of the skinheads. Certainly the government recognizes that most Germans are uncomfortable about the fact that refugees have flooded in from trouble spots all over Eastern Europe, the former southern Soviet Union and elsewhere.

As economists project zero economic growth for the year ahead and Germans are reeling from high interest rates and the spectre of increased taxes to cover the absorption of former East Germany, the neo-Nazi movement is fighting (murdering) for a cause with which most agree.

Chancellor Helmut Khol seems to be straddling the political fence. He turned out at one of several large antiracism demonstrations and has branded violent skinheads as terrorists, while voicing an understanding for the need to revise the country's unusually lax asylum laws. Keep in mind that president-elect Clinton has voiced his intention to pull U.S. military servicemen out of Germany.

Further complicating American foreign policy planning, Europe is grappling ineffectively with the issue of economic and political unity. The formal document know as the Maastrich Treaty detailing the terms of economic and political unity was rejected by the Danes, hotly contested

by the French, and faces an uphill battle throughout the continent.

Europe will unite. But a carefully worded legal document with numerous opt-out clauses may ultimately not be the method by which unity is achieved.

And finally, all the fuss over Arab/Israeli peace negotiations was for naught. Tensions are once again rising along the borders, and the Israeli government has fallen back to its position that it has no intention of returning the strategic Golan Heights to Syria. Nor will there be any autonomous Palestinian state in the West Bank. Those stark realities of and by themselves should be enough to convince Americans that we cannot now, and never could afford the luxury of isolation and introspection, where debates over the rights of homosexuals, the semantics of "trickle down economics" versus federal "investment," abortion, and health care reform blind us to the truly serious global challenges which threaten this nation in its new role as the world's only Mark Armstrong superpower.

# Europe

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play a greater role in upholding world security." How tied? By the post-war German constitution!

Said the Times, "Last week his [Kohl's] government pledged it would press for an amendment to the constitution as part of an overall reform of the Bundeswehr [German Army]...In the new flexible format the German ground and air forces will be the most powerful and effective in Nato after America."

Like so many American leaders, short-sighted British leaders were urged by the paper to see that "the time has come for them [the Germans] to face up to their responsibilities as a world power. They cannot expect to call the tune (sic)—as they did so noisily over Yugoslavia—by merely offering to contribute to the piper's purse. They have to be prepared to provide the players as well" (emphasis

mine).

With the newly-elected U.S. president pledging to drastically reduce the U.S. military, bring Americans home from Europe, who remains on the field as the dominant power? Who would be the most likely to send troops to "keep the peace" in the event of Yugoslavia-type civil wars in former Czechoslavakia, Hungary, Romania, or elsewhere? Germany!

A Washington Post commentary, published in October, 1992, said, "As always in the history of Central Europe, the key role will be played by Germany. The Germans at the turn of the millennium are not insulated from the infection of nationalism simply because they are part of the European community, or because a democratic majority today acknowledges Germany's guilt for instigating two world wars. The Germans are passive

in the face of mounting anti-democratic nationalism in the same way that Britons and French were passive in the face of Nazism 50 years ago—something that the West does not care to remember."

Will democracy continue to prevail in Germany; in all of Eastern Europe so recently struggling to convert from a totalitarian, communistic system to free market economies?

Said the Post, "If Germany is left to deal with post-Communist Europe on its own, it will sooner or later be dragged into the nationalist chaos. Germany will be forced to take over first economic and then political responsibility for the region. Central Europe, once again abandoned by democracy's plurality, excluded from transatlantic solidarity and European minded co-responsibility, will face the incalculable consequences."

The Air Force Times published an article in October, 1991, under the headline, "French-German Plan May Set State For European Force." France

is not a full member of NATO, remember. Though President George Bush has continued to call for a viable NATO, it is obvious that the collapse of the Warsaw Pact has rendered it obsolete. Though the German government continues to give lip service to it, they cannot help but watch happily as the U.S. cuts in half our 300,000 man European NATO force.

Said the Air Force Times, "...the idea of a European Defense Force may be more welcome in Congress, where members have been calling for several years for Europe and Japan to shoulder more of the burden of their own defenses.

"With tight budgets at home and a declining threat from the Soviet Union (sic), the United States has begun cutting in half its force...stationed in Europe. The Department of Defense is closing 79 military installations in Europe.

"... 'The Europeans are taking seriously our request [to pick up more of their share of the defense burden],' said James Blackwell, director of political-military studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies... 'But we might like the answer they have come up with.'"

No, we might not. But by the time our leaders wake up to see the Frankenstein monster they have created, it will be everlastingly too late.

### Why the "Cold War"?

For forty-four years, the United States maintained large forces in Europe, spent itself into the poor house, going from the wealthiest nation in the world to the world's biggest debtor, in order to prevent Europe from being swallowed up by totalitarianism.

Containment was the catch-phrase behind both the Korean and Vietnam wars. Containment of communist expansionism; prevention of a catastrophic nuclear bomb World War III by "conditioned response" militarily, while maintaining a massive nuclear deterrent. Such policies cost uncounted American lives, hundreds of billions of dollars, and, in the case of Vietnam, so deeply divided the nation that it

hovered on the brink of anarchy. Over a period of time, sixty-five American cities were battling flames and rioters, insanely angry over government policies during the Vietnam War. Goldwater had been rejected at the polls. The American electorate was afraid Goldwater would get us into a war.

The Cold War was about preservation of human rights; about the protracted struggle between the concepts of freedom, free choice, free markets, free nations choosing their own leaders, as opposed to the brutal abolition of those rights; despotism, a military dictatorship which rules at the point of a gun.

Today, millions of Americans turn inward. The Cold War is over, they say. So there are no more enemies out there, no one to fear. No reason to spend all that money maintaining U.S. troops abroad, nor producing any more nuclear submarines, nuclear-powered aircraft carriers; no reason to maintain armed forces at anywhere near their present levels.

So has the triumph of democracy and freedom guaranteed the millions of Romanians, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Bulgarians, Italians and Greeks; the Dutch, French, Belgians and Danes, yes and millions of Germans, too, that their rights will be protected?

What about the rights of the Islamic inhabitants of Bosnia-Hercegovina? What about Sarajevo? Who protects them? Who prevents the horrors of concentration camps, mass murder, starvation, brutality the likes of which the world has not seen since Auschwitz?

Is the U.N. powerful enough to stop it? No. There have been dozens of "cease fires" to allow food shipments to the beleagured inhabitants of shattered Sarajevo; most were broken as soon as they began.

In the months and years ahead, what about former Czechoslavakia? Who will maintain democracy there?

As a former Czechoslavakian political leader sardonically observed, "Today the concern of Western Democracy goes not to the two million

war refugees who might have been regarded (in times when nothing was at stake) as citizens of a democratic Europe. The concern goes not to the destroyed villages and towns and the thousands of dead. The concern goes not to the consequences for European peace. What concerns the West is the next round of elections. A Kafkaesque repetition of what happened in the 1920s?"

How poignantly true!

Today, millions of Americans turn inward. They want more: more jobs, more money, more leisure time, more of the good things in life. Blithely ignorant of world affairs and geopolitics; stupidly asleep to the very real dangers in the world which could destroy our very way of life, millions went to the polls to seek "change." Special interest groups, minorities, all were eestatic. Now, we can save the spotted owl. Now, we can have nationalized health care. The government will take care of us from the cradle to the grave. Now, we will all have jobs.

Now, poverty will be wiped out at the stroke of Bill Clinton's pen. Now, tens of thousands of gays can mince into the recruiting offices, as thousands of career military men quit in disgust. Now, we can pull all our troops out of Europe, cut our military forces by at least twenty-five percent, insist that Germany and Japan "pull their fair share of the load," and demand they be given full membership in the U.N.

Now, we can become isolationist once again, leaving "Europeans to fight their own wars," just as we did prior to World War II. Now, we can become protectionist again, and smartly slap Europeans on the hand when they get out of line, like threatening huge taxes and surcharges, or outright embargoes, on some of their most important exports, like fine French wines. So who cares if tens of thousands of French farmers take to the streets, burning both French and American flags? What difference does it make to us?

Who cares if some Turks, or Vietnamese, or Greeks, or Spaniards, are burnt, or shot, or beaten to death in Germany—don't we have enough to worry about at home?

A repetition of the 1920s? An almost painfully accurate comparison!

If change is what the four out of ten voting citizens wanted, change is what they shall get. Watch.

### **How Despots Will Seize Power**

As the United States withdraws into isolationism and protectionism; as Americans elect leaders who seem ignorant and inexperienced about geopolitics and the very real threats to future American security abroad, a power vacuum is created.

The linchpin of NATO has been the powerful U.S. presence in Europe. As that presence is withdrawn, and as U.S. leaders vacillate over committing troops to regional foreign wars, it is obvious the major powers in Europe, principally Germany, followed by France, will be forced to compensate.

For decades, the U.S. has favored a "United Europe," feeling a friendly, docile, ally and trading partner would be the best "bulwark against the East," as a containing force against communist expansionism. But the collapse of world communism changed all that.

For decades, nations like Yugoslavia and Czechoslavakia; indeed, many other emerging nations in the former Soviet Union, like Khazikstan, the Ukraine, and Georgia, somehow managed to rock along on a fairly even keel, avoiding massive ethnic riots and civil wars because of the all-pervasive dominance of the Red Army.

In 1972, for example, massive violence by Croat separatists in Yugoslavia caused police and military intervention, and a change in government. It was fear of Soviet intervention that gave the new government the backbone to outlaw political and intellectual dissent, and to clamp down on the press, and public meetings. Who did not remember how Premier Nagy, of Hungary, had attempted agricultural and consumer reforms in the mid-1950s, only to bring about a huge Soviet invasion, called in by Emo Gero, the Communist Party secretary?

Russia sent in 2,500 tanks and armored cars, and 200,000 troops. About a half million people fled the country, and the Russians executed Nagy. From that time on, Soviet troops were continually stationed in Hungary.

As the Soviet Union has disintegrated, and as all Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the Balkans have struggled to throw off the communist yoke and effect "democratic" reforms, dozens of age-

Joblessness, lack of hope brings political unrest, despair. Extremists are quick to take to the streets, seeking to bring about change. In Germany, young neo-Nazis and "skinheads" brutally beat and kill minorities and Jews. In Bosnia-Hercogovina, Serbs kill Islamic Bosnians because they hate the concept of another Islamic fundamentalist state in the Balkans. As Czechoslavakia pulls apart, you can depend on old territorial demands, old



Paparazzi/SIPA PRESS

Anti-racist demonstrators took to the streets of Berlin to express outrage at federal reluctance to pursue acts of racially motivated violence.

old ethnic, religious and political animosities have flared.

Change is what everyone wants: a settlement of old grievances; an expulsion of minorities and unwanted races and religions; resettlement on old lands.

As nation after nation writhes in ethnic and religious violence, who will be responsible for the protection of helpless civilian populations? Who will come to the aid of Islamic Bosnians? Of Albanians living in Czechoslavakia, or in Hungary?

Today, much of the old Soviet Union, much of Eastern Europe, and especially former *East Germany*, now reunited with its wealthy big brother, are in the midst of grinding economic distress.

ethnic and religious hatreds to emerge.

As violence topples governments, as military forces are seen rolling through the streets of one major European city after another to quell massive riots, despots will seize power. Little dictators will call upon bigger dictators to help them.

Make no mistake. You are living in a time of volatile change, and it will not always be a change for the better. Do not think for a moment that peaceful democratic change is the wave of the future for Europe.

If you want a breathtaking view into what Bible prophecy says about developments in Europe and around the world, write immediately for your free copy of my article, "New Order Coming In Germany."