

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Propaganda.

Mann, Klaus

Nutzungsbedingungen

Bei zahlreichen Dokumenten auf monacensia-digital.de sind die Urheberrechte bereits abgelaufen. Sie sind gemeinfrei und dürfen ohne weitere Rücksprache mit der Monacensia weiterverwendet werden.

Bei den Dokumenten, bei denen noch Urheberrechte bestehen, müssen für eine Weiterverwendung stets die Rechteinhaber*innen angefragt werden sowie eine Publikationsgenehmigung der Monacensia eingeholt werden. Das Zitatrecht bleibt hiervon unberührt.

Zur Erteilung einer Publikationserlaubnis wenden Sie sich bitte an:

Monacensia im Hildebrandhaus
Literaturarchiv
Adresse: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München
E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

Terms of use

The copyrights for numerous documents on monacensia-digital.de have already expired. They are in the public domain and may be reused without further consultation with Monacensia. In the case of documents for which copyrights still exist, the copyright holders must always be contacted for further use and publication permission must be obtained from the Monacensia. The right to quote under copyright law remains unaffected by this. To obtain permission for publication, please contact:

Monacensia im Hildebrandhaus:
Literaturarchiv
Address: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München
E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

Propaganda.

The British are going to spend £1,560,000 on a "Defense Publicity Plan" - which sounds promising, and certainly is a new significant fact. Apparently the gentlemen in London begin to realize, although astonishingly late, that it might be advisable to refute the Nazi-Fascist propaganda tricks by the means of a clear, effective, realistic counter-propaganda. The fate of Europe does not depend, after all, merely on the inspirations of two individuals. Führer and Duce are nothing but a couple of dreary clowns, when and if the German and Italian masses eventually will grasp that they were fooled by professional liars. The difficult task of enlightening and influencing the Italian and German people, has become as important as the building of cruisers or the signing of political pacts.

I would like to believe that the Earl of Perth is the fit man to manage the foreign publicity bureau, recently established by the British Foreign Office. I sincerely hope the former General Secretary of the League of Nations and retired Ambassador to Rome, may possess all the constructive imagination, the daring wit, and the intimate knowledge of the German character which he certainly needs to perform his delicate task. A mere routine official of the old school may be unable to meet the cheap but impressive manoeuvres of Doctor Göbbels.

Let us take an example that happens to be of crucial importance, at this historical moment. The "official German reaction" to Mr. Chamberlain's recent statement on Danzig, was not only impudent but also fairly smart, in a primitive and effective manner. As the Prime ~~Min~~ Minister's utterance happened to be somewhat embarrassing for the Nazis, they promptly and calmly declared "it neither ⁴clarified nor changed the situation in any way". In the opinion of the "Wilhelmstrasse", however, it was "surprising" that the Premier failed

to recognize, or to give expression, "to the wishes of Danzig people themselves". Herr von Ribbentrop feels this attitude to be "typical of the British who never paid much attention to self-determination".

This sort of shamelessly demagogical talk is not likely to impress the "world public opinion" any longer. Even the most ardent friend of the "self-determination" principle cannot fail to remember what happened with Czecho-Slovakia. But the German "man on the street" - does he realize how cynically his "Führer" misused the "self-determination" slogan, during the September Crisis? The average citizen of the Third Reich, ignorant and confused as he is, might be inclined to admit: 'Well, this time our old Doctor Göbbels is right, for a change. Danzig is a German city, and should belong to the Reich. And, besides, what has England to do with the whole matter? Why don't they mind their own damned business? I guess, after all, we really are encircled....' And after a while, the ignorant citizen will get pretty excited with angry patriotic feelings. What a triumph for Doctor Göbbels!

There is a very simple and effective way to demonstrate to the world and, above all, to the Germans that Hitler is lying, once more, and doesn't care whatever for "self-determination". The British, French, and Polish governments should come out with this statement:

"You insist upon the principle of self-determination, Herr Chancellor? All right, you can have it! We promise you a plebiscite in Danzig, provided that you allow us to arrange another plebiscite in Prague and the other Czech cities, at the same day. Both of these plebiscites, of course, must be watched by international troops and controlled by neutral officials. Since you feel the Danzig people themselves should decide their future, you cannot refuse the same right to the millions of Czechs. 'Self-determination' is a principle; you can decline it,

or you can accept it. Make up your mind, Herr Chancellor! Plebiscites in Danzig and Prague, the sooner the better! Or no~~x~~ self-determination at all!"

I keep asking myself why the London "publicity bureau" hesitates to suggest such a gesture to its government. The ~~s~~*l*o~~g~~*a*n "Equal right for Danzig and Prag!" could not fail to impress the German people. The "Wilhelmstrasse" might declare, once more, that such a "ridiculous offer" "neither clarifies nor changes the situation". But the German "man on the street" certainly would admit: "This time, the British are fair, for a change..." It would mean a most embarrassing blow for Doctor Gëbbels, and a ^{first} victory for the Earl of Perth.

Klaus Mann.