

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

"France". (Radio Speech.)

Mann, Klaus

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"F r a n c e" (Radio Speech)

Does Herr Adolf Hitler really b e l i e v e in everything he utters?
- This a somewhat involved question, and a very complex psychological problem - which happens to be a political problem of great importance, as well. However, the Führer and Chancellor of the Reich has, at least, two absolutely honest and consistent feelings: he hates the Jews, and he thinks that there ^{room} isn't ~~space~~ enough, in Europe, for France and for the Greater Germany. - In his highly instructive - although badly written - autobiography "Mein Kampf" ("My Struggle") he expresses and explains all his political beliefs and ambitions, without any kind of false modesty or caution. Everybody who is interested in the future of Europe - which actually means: in the future of the world - should read "Mein Kampf" - in a complete edition. You couldn't get ^{get much} ~~out very~~ out of a version arranged for foreign readers. In the French edition, for instance, the most fanatical outbursts of a deadly hate against France are carefully omitted. What a pity for the French readers! They should know, what Herr Hitler is really thinking about their nation, and what his aims really are, as far as France is concerned.

Hitler's basical political conception was from the beginning - and always will remain - the following one:

We must destroy France - this is our historical task. - He doesn't say: We should weaken her; nor; we should make friends with her. He emphasizes, again and again, in his Confession and Bible, "Mein Kampf":
We must destroy the French Nation. We ~~must~~ have to be clever and patient in order to reach this most important, most necessary aim - the ~~the~~ total destruction of France (Hitler goes on.) We have to isolate our Western neighbour - to begin with. We have to undermine her international friendships, we must ruin her entire system of international pacts and agreements with other countries. This has to be done, before we may risk ~~an~~ open attack. We must try everything in order to separate France from

Above all

England, ~~above all,~~

~~All this is emphasized, again and again, in "My Struggle" - the book containing the Führer's whole political program, which he certainly is going to carry out, unless somebody will stop him.~~ - Of course, Hitler's boundless aggressiveness is not directed against France exclusively; not only against the West. He has his ambitions and aims in the European East, as well. But he feels, and says, that Germany couldn't gain the various territories she wants and needs in the East, as long as France goes on existing as an independent power. The outspoken anti-Russian policy of the Nazis started only when the defensive agreement between the ^{vi}Soviets and the French Republic was made - a fact which is not known enough, although highly significant. - After the Munich Agreement, ⁱⁿfrom September 1938, the Franco-Russian Pact actually doesn't exist any longer. It may be worthwhile to mention the fact that Hitler, in his last so-called "Reichstags"-speech, avoided carefully every kind of rhetoric attack on Russia - which means: on Russia as a national power. He never would renounce his anti-Bolshevist slogan, which served him for such a long time, in such an efficient manner. However, this is a different ^cmanner. ^cAttacking Bolshevism doesn't mean, necessarily, to ^cattack the Red Army. As a matter of fact, the Nazi government seems to be definitely less interested in Russia, since the relations between Moscow and Paris have become so much cooler.

Czechoslovakia used to be the most reliable, most faithful ally of ~~the~~ French Republic, in the European East. Since Hitler didn't succeed in destroying the friendship between Czechoslovakia and France, he felt, there was just one thing left to do: to destroy Czechoslovakia herself; to ruin and to humiliate the government of President Benesch. - So he did, using the problem of the Sudeten Germans as a most convenient pretext. Was he really interested in the so-called sufferings of the so-called "German Brethren", in Czechoslovakia? - By no means. He was ful-

filling his dreadful, dangerous program, step by step. - France has to be isolated; her allies have to be separated from her, or else have to be ruined.

When Monsieur Daladier, the French Prime Minister, returned from his tragic trip to Munich, in September 1938, and showed up in Paris, the French people cheered him, as the "saviour of Peace". They danced, laughed and cried on the streets of the Capital: War was avoided - everybody seemed to be happy...

The honest friends of the French Nation - and every good Democrat, every cultured man has to be devoted to this generous, brave and most highly gifted people - were deeply moved, when they watched these spontaneous outbursts of naive happiness. Peace was saved - the Peace in Honour, the Peace in our Time! French pacifists sang the Marseillaise, drank Champagne, and told each other: Isn't he a swell fellow, our Daladier? And Hitler and Mussolini, after all, are not too awfully bad, either.

~~The Crisis~~

A few months ~~later~~ after that "happy day" - which really was the most fatal, most tragic day in the ^{later} ~~newer~~ French history - people don't laugh or dance any more, on the Parisians streets. As a matter of fact, they are looking, ~~by~~ rather depressed, rather dreary, by now. And they have good reasons to be sorrowful... The "Peace in our Time" - greeted with so much ignorant enthusiasm - seems to be endangered, ~~seems to be threatened~~, once more. - This time, for a change, Mussolini is playing the rôle of the Public Enemy Nr. 1 - of the wild man who is threatening safety, dignity and possessions of France. But could Il Duce dare to challenge the Democracies, as he does, if he wouldn't be backed by his powerful German friend? Hitler emphasized, the other day, in a quite provocative manner, that he would fight side by side with Italy, if the latter should be involved in any kind of an international conflict.

Even without such a declaration, it would have been obvious to everybody that Mussolini couldn't go as far as he did, without very definite German guarantees and promises. It is not likely at all, that the Totalitarian States really wish war, at this moment, or that they would be in the position to risk war. They hope to gain what they want, once more, by threatening the civilized world with war - which simply means: by black mailing - as they did before, with so much success.

However, it seems that, this time, France is not willing to surrender. Daladier solemnly promised the Republic would stand firm against the Italian demands, against the threats of the two Fascist powers. The move France has made, just yesterday, in East Africa, proves that the nation is really decided and prepared to resist and to defend its vital interests. Consequently, war is not likely to come, in the near future. Hitler and Mussolini have to realize that they did not succeed in isolating France completely. Chamberlain declared, the other day, Great Britain even would risk war, in order to protect the "vital interests" of France. The question is, what the British Prime Minister really meant, when he spoke about "vital interests."

Wasn't it very much in the "vital interest" of France to defend the independence of Czechoslovakia? Wasn't it of vital importance to her, also, to save the national independence of Spain? Who believes seriously that Mussolini and Hitler honestly intend to withdraw their troops from Spain, after having paid so dearly for General Franco's dreadful victory? - Illusions are extremely dangerous - especially, if one has to do with the most ruthless, most clever enemies.

The Totalitarian States will keep their aggressive attitude, as long as the Democracies will try to make friends with them, by making concessions to them.

The French people shouldn't be afraid, and they shouldn't be ~~waery~~. What they need, above all, is self-confidence. The main reason for the fall of the German Republic was its fatal lack of self-confidence. The French Republic is not isolated, by any means. It has the reliable friendship of the two great Anglosaxon Democracies, and it has got its own strength, its own force - which is more important.

France has made very tragic mistakes; but, still, nothing is lost. Her situation is dangerous; but it is not hopeless, by any means. She has the sympathies of the civilized world - which means: of the civilized Germans, too.

The leading men and the people of France have to understand, that a firm - and even a daring attitude is necessary, at certain historical moments. The "vital interests" of France are: her dignity, her safety, her independence, her national and social freedom.

A weakened and weary France - a France without self-confidence - would mean - war. A France - prepared not only to defend her colonies, but her national honour, means - Peace. ~~In our time~~. Fascism may vanish like a nightmare, if it has to meet, for the first time, the enthusiastic and serious determination of a great Democracy to defend herself.