

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Union Now. (Preliminary title!) Tentative Story Line for a Motion Picture by Klaus Mann, in collaboration with Erika Mann and Clarence K. Streit.

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Was the present war inevitable?

That is the question millions of people in Europe, in America, in fact everywhere in the world are asking today. Even more imperative is their question: what will become of Europe - what will become of the world, once this war is over? A definitive solution of these problems is being demanded - and eagerly awaited: a genuine solution, once and for all. This is felt distinctly everywhere, strongest possibly in America. Millions of Americans are asking themselves today: Why did we send our troops to France, in 1917? Why did we decide the issue of the last war? Was it all in vain? Will Europe never settle down in peace? - Such doubts are today assailing numberless people. More important than anything else is the formulation of positive, constructive plans for a new organization of the world.

The purpose of this picture is not alone to depict the confusion in European conditions; nor to prove, once more, the guilt of some individual or group who may have been primarily responsible for such a state of affairs. Our film will strive to give dramatic form to a concrete suggestion for a Federation of European States, representing a basis and prerequisite for a later, more comprehensive international organization. Technological development has long

since stamped European nationalism and the institution of petty European states as anachronism. Moreover, they are highly dangerous anachronisms, for they inevitably lead to war after war, and eventually must bring about the self-destruction of Europe. This has long been comprehended by the majority of rational and civilized Europeans, as well as by the majority of Germans the German people, who today are suppressed and abused by the Nazi dictatorship.

We intend to show that this realistic ideal - the ideal of a European Federation - was actually on the verge of becoming a reality at a definite moment in history. But this moment, which was necessary and right, was grievously disturbed by the strengthening of German nationalism and the establishment of a Nazi dictatorship. At the same time, the best Germans have always known - and know more clearly today than ever - that the Third Reich can merely be an interlude, an ignominious episode in the history of the German people.

The action of the picture starts with a short Historical Prologue representing a condensed survey of a family's history through the centuries by showing some significant moments. -

First picture: At the end of the Thirty Years ^{- around 1650} war, when Germany is in a deplorable state of impoverishment and complete ruin, one member of the family decides to emigrate to the United States, "Land of the Unlimited Possibilities", while his brother prefers to settle somewhere in East Prussia, near Königsberg. They say goodbye to one another. They want to start a new life.

We follow, with a few parallel scenes, the different developments of the American and the Prussian branch of the family, (always recognizing the relationship between the estranged cousins thanks to some minor corporeal character - the peculiar form of the lower lip or the nose.) - We may watch the representative of the American

branch, in the early 17th Century, settled in New England or New Jersey, striving for liberty, making with his fellow-citizens his own state - while the Prussian cousin serves some petty German prince as a officer. Fifty years later, we see the American as he reads aloud to his family the Declaration of Independence; his Prussian relative has become a soldier of Frederick the Great. (The pictures of that Prussian king and George Washington may be shown as contrasts.)

- Another parallel (or contrast) scene: The American cousin is shown as one of the soldiers on guard when Lincoln gives the Gettysburg address. The Prussian, meanwhile, ~~as~~ has made his career as a lieutenant of Prince Otto von Bismarck. (Contrast: Lincoln-Bismarck; the American and the German Constitutions.)

The next historical "parallel scene" presents the two estranged cousins in 1914. The Prussian cousin, Herr von B., is enthusiastic about the outbreak of the War; sings patriotic songs ect. - while his remote relative at New York, Mr. B., seems worried and sorrowful. In 1917, however, the situation has changed. Mr. B. has gone to Europe, as an ordinary soldier, "to make the world safe for Democracy." Captain von B. is at home, for some days on leave. We see him playing with his two little boys, Bruno and Ernst, and talking with his wife, Marie-Luise, an ~~amser~~ austere Prussian lady, daughter of a general. The Captain, after two-and-a-half years of active war service, begins to question the necessity of war in modern times and the truth of nationalistic slogans. His wife, however, an ardent patriot, contradicts. She firmly believes in Germany's mission "to rule the world." There is a rather violent discussion between the Captain and his wife. Bruno and Ernst watch the frightening scene without understanding it - Ernst is sitting in his mother's lap, while Bruno stands close to his father.

The discussion of war and war aims goes on, some weeks later, between Captain von B. and his comrades, somewhere on the Western front. The Captain declares that, in his opinion, Germany has lost the war since the United States has joined the Allies. His fellow-officers keenly contradict. He moves away from them. Seated on his camp stool, he starts to jot down a few notes in his diary. His comrades laugh at him; but he justifies his scribbling by saying that his diary means a lot to him.

"I want my two boys to read it when I am no longer here. For I have a feeling that I shall never get out of this gruesome war alive..."

Shocked at the vehemence of this outburst, the other officers warn him against putting on paper the confused, fantastic, even seditious ideas he occasionally utters. Otherwise, he might get into trouble... To this the Captain replies that he is no longer afraid of anything. More essential to him than anything else is that his sons should be informed of his thoughts and ideas after his death. In his opinion, this war is a ghastly anachronism, a European civil war. This insight has come to him, a Prussian officer, through his horrible experiences at the front.

"From now on," he declares to his amazed colleagues, "any sacrifices we make can only be purposeful if the war leads to a unification of ~~all~~ all European states, to a closer collaboration between Europe and America, and, consequently, to a permanent peace." He adds that the United States of America should serve as a model for a torn Europe...

While he is talking, the infernal artillery fire starts up again and drowns out his pleading, warning voice. As a momentary vision, we see, on the other side of the front, the Captain's unknown American

cousin, Mr. B. , among the soldiers of the American artillery, shooting against the German lines...

Two years later: Berlin, 1919. We are in the home of Captain B. who has met a hero's death. In the living room his picture, framed in mourning black, occupies a prominent place on the wall. We watch Frau von B. reading her late husband's diary. She is shocked, puzzled, disgusted. She considers to burn the rebellious notes; but a remnant of natural piety prevents her from doing so. She hides the diary in the desk. Then she calls her sons, Bruno and Ernst, two half-grown lads. She explains to them, in a solemn little speech, that they always must venerate their father's memory; that the Captain ardently believed in the final victory of the Fatherland, up to the last moment of his life; that Germany did not really lose the war but was meanly betrayed by "the red criminals" who have made this horrid revolution; and that it is the boys' sacred duty to revenge their father's death and Germany's humiliation upon the diabolic enemies, "inside our own country and abroad."

The older son, Ernst, obviously is convinced and inspired by his mother's appeal. Bruno, however, reacts quite differently. He, too, had idolized his father and had loved him dearly. But he asks himself: Was his death inevitable? Did it have to be? And he takes an oath: It shall never happen again!

The developments of the contrasting tendencies and temperaments of the brothers is shown in a few short, characteristic episodes. First we see them as pupils in a reactionary Prussian military academy. There, the instructors preach the gospel of revenge upon the French, the "arch-enemy", and upon "perfidious Albion", "faithless Italy", and America, "country of the dollar-crazy business men, ruthlessly exploiting the European tragedy." The cadets - most of

them are sons of officers - enthusiastically approve of these preachments. There are only two among them - young Bruno and another lad with whom he had made friends - who feel doubts and qualms. This other boy, Karl, is the son of very poor people, and cherishes vague though vehement revolutionary ideas. The two friends have lengthy, secret conversations, discussing with a great deal of naivité and passion the fundamental problems of Peace, Social Justice ect. One of the instructors surprises them at one of their nocturnal meetings. He has to chide them; but he turns to be a nice enough, very understanding young fellow himself. He comes from the French part of Switzerland, and is active in the military academy as a teacher for the French language. The two lads explain him what they were discussing, and the young teacher gets interested. He asks them to have hot chocolate with him, on Sunday afternoon, and in a little Konditorei, all three of them - Bruno, Karl, and the young Swiss teacher - continue the interrupted discussion. As for the young teacher, he firmly believes in the idea of the United States of Europe. He thinks, little Switzerland - where people of four different nationalities are living and working together peacefully - may serve as a pattern to a Europe that is exhausted, almost ruined by a senseless war. Both his young listeners agree, although Bruno feels the future international organization should be more comprehensive, world-wide, not limited to Europe alone - while Karl emphasizes the principal significance of the social angle. Before they separate, the young teacher implores them not to repeat anything he had said to their fellow-~~pe~~ cadets. "You know how reactionary and narrow-minded people are in this institute! I would lose my job if they ~~know~~ ever find out what I'm thinking about their nationalistic slogans..."

Bruno and Karl conceal their new friendship with the young instructor. But one day, in a sentimental mood, Bruno confides to his

brother the thrilling secret. (They have just received a letter from ~~her~~ their mother, with a photo of their father's enclosed.) Ernst, however, denounces his brother, his friend Karl and the Swiss instructor to the Colonel, ~~the~~ highest authority of the military academy. This is the scandal. The two boys as well as the teacher have to leave the institute without delay.

Frau von B. is furious. This means shame and humiliation to her dignified family - ect. She intends to punish her wicked son by sending him to a much more severe school, somewhere in East Prussia. The boy, however, escapes; reaches Hamburg - and gets a job as a dish washer on one of the German liners. He did not succeed in ~~establishing~~ finding out where his friend Karl had gone. The last word he received before sailing, comes from the Swiss teacher, who wires him from Geneva: "~~Don't courage~~ Courage! The world is open to you..."

At New York, the Statue of Liberty welcomes him - and then, a bench in Central Park; poverty... He walks around, looking for a job; we see him starving, almost in despair. Finally he meets a fellow of about his own age, and makes friends with him. He has the same name as Bruno, and turns out to be his remote cousin: the representative of the "American branch." (They two young men also have in common the minor family-character - ~~lower-lip-lip, or~~ the peculiar form of lower lip or nose.) - Tom B. introduces his new friend, Bruno von B., to his family. Through Tom's father, Mr. B., - whom we have seen, many ~~eyers~~ years ago, on the Western front - Bruno gets a job. He falls in love with Tom's sister, Florence, who is a bright girl, attending sociological and political courses. She intends to become a journalist, and as time goes on we can watch, through the medium of her conversations, her ~~me~~ reading and observations, the major developments of worlds affairs during those post-war years. Florence disapproves

of the Versailles Treaty and foretells a new and threatening increase of German nationalism as a consequence of the defeat. Mr. B. asks: "Why, then, did we go to Europe? We hoped for a better world, at the end of this horrid war..."

Bruno, meanwhile, has re-established certain contacts with his European friends. He has even made peace with his mother and his brother Ernst, who praises in his letter the "new patriotic spirit" of German youth. We see a few characteristic episodes of Ernst's development. After having finished his training in the military academy, he joins various semi-military organizations, such as the "Black Reichswehr" etc. Though he is only a youth, he takes part in the battles in the Baltic. Later he participates in the anti-French sabotage acts in the Ruhr, and later - with other young nationalists - becomes mixed up in a murder plot, the victim of which is Minister Walter Rathenau. The mild judges of the Weimar Republic, however, condemn Ernst von B. merely to one year in a fairly comfortable fortress. - As for the young Swiss teacher, he has become a devoted and active follower of the Pan-European movement. He gives special courses to propagate his ideal. We see the young instructor passionately and thoroughly expounding to his students the idea of a Federation of European States. By means of maps he shows that European frontiers were never stable, never permanent demarcations, but were always in a state of flux and change. - "It is the special mission of a conquered, guilt-laden Germany," - he says - "to set the magnificent example of renouncing its own national egoism in the interest of a far more comprehensive goal." - The zealous speaker then quotes from several German classics to prove that the greatest minds have always occupied themselves with the idea of a League of European States.

He welcomes the League of Nations - and, especially, Germany's

~~joining~~

joining this institution - as a first step toward a more comprehensive organization. He attends some of the great meetings at Geneva, where he listens to the conciliatory speeches of Aristide Briand and Gustav Stresemann. The final overcoming of the traditional antagonism between France and Germany seems to be well under way. There are good reasons for being hopeful and optimistic...

Karl, on his turn, has become a militant, radical communist. He, too, is in correspondence with his old pal Bruno. Karl assures, in his letters as well as in his speeches, that the only possible solution must come from the Bolshevistic revolution. The class struggle is the one decisive factor in world history, while the political rivalry between "imperialistic states" means only a secondary consideration. Karl worships Lenin and his follower, Stalin, as Ernst von B. and his comrades worship the leader of German nationalism and racial intolerance, Adolf Hitler.

In Germany, after the death of Gustav Stresemann, the nationalistic, anti-European movement steadily becomes stronger and more menacing. Hitler's star is in the ascendant. The friends of civilization, peace and freedom sense the seriousness of the situation. They fully realize: Now is the time to act - or everything will be lost! Union now - or the catastrophe cannot be averted!

Bruno's Swiss friend and several other men in political and intellectual spheres organize a large meeting at Berlin to publicize the idea of a European Federation and to make it comprehensible to the masses. They keenly invite Bruno and his young American wife, Florence, to join this conference. They especially want Florence von B. to appear as a representative of the American youth. Her presence at the Berlin meeting would prove - the Swiss teacher writes - that the young people in the U.S. realize the crucial importance of the

European problem and are willing to collaborate on its solution.

The young couple hesitates: Can they refuse so urgent an invitation? Florence has a nice position on a big New York paper. But her boss flatly declines to send her as a special correspondent to the Paneurope conference: the event, in his opinion, does not have enough "news value." Bruno, however, urges her to accept. As for him, he is willing to give up his job for the sake of this trip which seems most important to him. He feels that, just now, very much if not everything is at stake, for Germany, for Europe, for the world. He declares, emphatically: "I cannot go on living here, and making some money and having a good time, while 'on the other side', in my old country, matters of decisive significance are going to be decided..." Florence agrees. Her father, however, definitely disapproves of their plan. His great disappointment of the European developments have led him, more and more, to a strictly isolationist attitude. "Those European troubles are not of our business!" etc. He thinks America should not get involved anymore in European affairs. "They have fooled us once -: that's enough! May they make their Pan-europe - if they can - , or may they go to the dogs. I am not interested ..." Florence has to remind him of the fact that his own family, too, came from Germany, centuries ago. Finally the young people succeed in persuading him. He agrees to their voyage - although half-grudgingly - and even gives them some money; for he wants "the children" to make a nice tour through Europe, - : "since you insist on visiting that crazy, doomed continent..." Brother Tom sees the young couple off. He would like to come along with them. But his sense of duty - and his father's will - oblige him to stick to his job. He is a sober, realistic, average young American, who hardly shares the keen interest his sister and brother-in-law are taking in world affairs. Yet he admires his sister, and defends her point of view against the father. "I guess those confused European matters really are pretty important to us..."

The young couple tour Europe on a sort of belated wedding trip. Bruno shows his wife London, Paris, Vienna, and Rome; the beauties of Southern France, the Swiss mountains, and the Bavarian lakes. They visit Holland and the Scandinavian countries before going to Berlin. The grandiose, immeasurably rich and vari-colored panorama of the European scene passes before our eyes. Bruno says enthusiastically:

"All this multiformity is really an historical, a cultural and a geographical unity. The various parts of Europe would not lose their national character if they were united. But if unification is postponed much longer, all the nations of Europe will collapse in a common catastrophe. The mortal enemy of European civilization is rigid, egoistic, anachronistic nationalism."

Bruno and Florence arrive ~~in~~ at Berlin, just in time to attend the great meeting. We witness, in their company, several gatherings; hear delegates from various countries; see the joyful reaction of the Berlin crowd. The French speaker assures that there are no bitter feeling towards Germany anymore in his country. The spokesman of a group of Scandinavian workers declares that the social problem can only be solved within a framework that includes all Europe. This is an opportunity for Karl, the communiste - who is among the listeners - to heckle the speaker, emphasizing his own point of view, the class struggle... The intelligent workingman, however, insists on the primacy of an international organization which should precede any attempt of creating a new social order.

Florence's appearance and the warm, honest speech she delivers, make the strongest impression. She brings the greetings and ardent wishes from her American friends, and assures her audience that ~~the~~ progressive, intelligent circles in the U.S. are very keenly concerned with European affairs and the crucial problem of European unification. A speaker from the audience wants to know why America

has failed to join the League of Nations. Florence tries to explain the American trend toward Isolation, created by bitter disappointment about the moral failure of the World War. "But a younger generation tries to overcome this sterile bitterness," she exclaims. "We believe in international solidarity as we have grappled this essential truth: that Peace and Civilization are indivisible. A new catastrophe in Europe would inevitably produce political and social chaos all over the world. We have realized that the inspiring principle of Union Now is the only possibility to save civilization - this principle understood in its double sense: meaning that 1.) the European States must establish some sort of Union among themselves; 2.) that the United States of America and Europe have to come to a closer collaboration.

Florence's message has a stimulating and encouraging effect upon the participants of the meeting.

What goes on behind the scenes of this Congress is even more significant. Conferences on the establishment of a European customs unions, a strong international judiciary, and a supra-national army have already gone much further than the public is aware of. The initiators of the Congress are in discreet communication with certain members of the German Republican government and with representatives of the progressive elements in the army. Delegates from other governments and religious organizations arrive; (the religious angle, the Christian element in this internationalistic ideology may be strongly emphasized.) Experts confer. We see airplanes come and go; approval given to this and that; telephone conversations between different European capitals; negotiations carried on at the conference table; maps, statistics, figures... The great idea seems near realization; the dream is about to be fulfilled. Utopia becomes almost reality.

Florence, meanwhile, has a phone conversation with the chief editor of her New York newspaper; (the very man who considered the Paneurope

meeting "poor news.") Now, however, Florence's inspired eloquence - and the imposing facts she has to offer - convince him that this is really "a big affair", and deserves not merely all kind of great publicity but even the actual help of the American people. He comes in contact with other influential men in New York and Washington. Bankers, senators, labour leaders, bishops, the presidents of great clubs and organizations get interested. The joyful, hopeful excitement in the European centers seems to be contagious: It swiftly spreads over the Atlantic...

Suddenly, the frightening picture of the "Führer", of the nationalistic agitator, breaks in upon the scene. He does not agitate for Europe, but for an autarchic "Greater Germany", and for the revenge for the lost war. He incites and lies and bewitches the masses. Many of the youth, especially, are intoxicated by his fantastic promises. Among the most enthusiastic followers of the "Führer" is Ernst von B. We recognize him in the black uniform of an S.S. trooper.

Under Ernst's command, a group of S.A. and S.S. troopers brutally up the last, solemn meeting of the Paneuropean Conference. Paradoxically - and yet logically enough, Karl and his communist comrades join the Nazi mob in disturbing the gathering. The orthodox left wing - radicals and the Nazis fight side on side, against those who stand for the ideas of Peace and Democracy.

Thereupon, the brothers, Ernst and Bruno, have a violent quarrel. Their words and their voices express their mutual hatred and contempt. In the course of Ernst's long, passionate tirade - (he is by no means to be presented as a dumbbell or a brute) - , he brings forth all the arguments and ~~all~~ slogans in favor of his nationalistic ideology. No less passionately does Bruno advance his convictions and hopes. At length, Florence gets mixed up in the quarrel. Her brother-in-law, Ernst, insults her and the land of her birth. "Those greedy business

in the United States," - he shouts - , "have only one interest in Europe's tragedy - to make money out of it..." His outburst of hate reaches a climax when he applies to her what Hitler said about America in "Mein Kampf." He finally dares the prophecy that in America, too, matters will change, and the idea of the totalitarian, authoritarian State will come out victorious, all over the world. "We have our agents everywhere, even in the United States. Powerful organizations, such as the Bund, are constantly working, agitating for us. Your rotten, decadent Democracy is doomed. The future belongs to the Germanic race and to Adolf Hitler."

Florence is shocked, disgusted, bitterly disappointed with the Germans. She had come to Germany with the best intentions ~~in~~ the world, and then - this reception! (Frau von B. even refuses to meet her daughter-in-law: "Americans have killed my heroic husband. I don't want to shake hands with one of them...!") - Florence, in a spasm of bitterness and grief, finally cries out: "They're nothing but Huns - that's the truth..." Bruno earnestly defends his country. Not everyone is like his violent brother and his ignorant mother; and even they act from sincere conviction. But millions of others are politically more mature. "Don't you remember the radiant faces, the enthusiastic shouts at our Congress? And by patient work, millions of others can be educated to espouse the rational and the good. Especially in Germany we must campaign for our ideals..." And he persuades her to remain with him in Berlin. She obtains ~~the~~ her chief's agreement to work in the German capital as a second correspondent of the New York paper - while Bruno finds a job as a minor, poorly paid secretary of the Berlin branch of the Paneuropean Organization. He specializes himself as a public speaker, addressing, above all, the poor and the youth.

They remain in Berlin while the fate of Germany is disastrously

sealed. Tirelessly, the young people warn German workers, German students German mothers that "National Socialism" will spell their doom. We witness crashes between them who courageously preach their pacifistic, international gospel, and the incited adherents of aggressive nationalism. Florence has a vehement argument with her own mother-in-law, whom she in some women's club she addresses. Frau von B. first ignores that the target of her bitter attacks happens to be her own daughter-in-law. She weeps with shame and horror when she finally finds it out.

- As for Bruno, he has ardent discussion and fights not only with his Nazi foes, but also with left opponents. His old friend Karl chides him as "a traitor of the revolutionary cause, a dangerous reactionary, a wicked semi-Fascist," etc. "Would I get a job through your wonderful Paneurope?" shouts Karl. Whereupon Bruno calmly replies: "Probably you would." Karl, however, insists that radical socialism, "the dictatorship of the proletariat" is the only sound and lasting solution. And, using almost exactly the same words Ernst von B. had used, he promises: "We shall change the world! Rotten, decadent Democracy is doomed..." Instead of the "chosen Germanic race" he considers "the proletariat" is the coming ruler. He loathes the Nazis; however, he shares with them the furious hatred of Democracy. Occasionally, Nazis and Communists fight side on side, as they did when they tried to break up the Paneurope Conference. On other occasions, however, they are fighting against each other. Florence's cables to her New York paper become increasingly sorrowful and alarming. The cruel truth is that Germany is on the edge of a civil war... Old Mr. B. cannot help feeling a sort of embittered satisfaction and gloomy triumph when he studies his daughter's pessimistic Berlin dispatches. "Didn't I tell her things would turn this way? There it is, her magnificent Paneurope! A dirty mess - that's what Europe is, in reality. Fortunately, we Americans have nothing to do with it. ~~Handa 2221~~" And we better keep out when they get into trouble again, over there..."

Finally, on January 30, 1933, Florence has to cable the decisive news of Hitler's sensational rise to supreme power. Brother Ernst, in his attractive black uniform, is radiantly happy as he marches along in the torchlight parade in order of the new Chancellor. Frau von B. shouts "Heil Hitler", with millions of other German men, women, and children. She is exceedingly proud of having a son "among those brave lads of the S.S." For the first time since 1918, she is really happy.

Sonn thereafter - at the very night when the Reichstag burns - the wave of terrorism begins. Bruno's name appear on the black-list. His brother, in a sudden mood of generosity, warns him that he is to be arrested. (Bruno has left the United States just a year before the date of his becoming a citizen. Consequently he is still considered a German subject. ~~He came~~ This is true also for his wife, who has become a German citizen "by marriage.") At the last moment, both of them manage to escape. Karl, however, is arrested by Nazi authorities; with utmost courage and patience he stands tortures and scorn from sadistic ruffians. In all his agony, he thinks of Lenin, Stalin, the Third International, the future dictatorship of the proletariat - as a Christian martyr, tortured by Roman soldiers, may have thought of Jesus, the Mother of the Lord, the Saints, and the promised paradise.

Bruno and Florence are homelessly errant through the countries of Europe. Bruno could return to America, and his wife very urgently wants him to do so. But he feels that his place is near the frontiers of Germany, where so many of his friends are suffering the concentration camps. He wants to watch and - if possible - to influence the events and developments within the Third Reich. He is eager to keep his contacts with the German anti-Nazi underground movement. It is Karl who smuggles out of the camp some sensational and horrifying news about Nazi methods and Nazi aims. Bruno and Ernst have seemingly found

a new moral ground for political collaboration. The profound abhorrence of Hitlerism they have in common, connects, once more, the former friends, the former foes...

Florence has lost her job with the New York paper, as her boss had decided: "There are too many horror stories in the American papers. It becomes a bore, in the long run. No news value." - They are poor. For a while, they enjoy the hospitality of Bruno's old friend, the Swiss teacher. They happily live in his little house on the Lake of Geneva, near that Palace where Briand and Stresemann used to discuss a better future of Europe... They are not allowed, however, to stay in Switzerland longer than a few months. We see them in Prague, in Amsterdam, in Paris, doing humble work, sometimes even starving. Florence shares, without ever complaining, bitterness and hardships of exile. Her father ceased to send her money, after having implored her to come back. Even Tom, her brother, is upset and angry about her stay in Europe. He advises her: "Come back, and bring Bruno along! There is plenty work for both of you in this country. We have our own difficulties, our own hopes. Why do you waste your time and energy in Europe?" But she answers him: "I understand - and I appreciate your point of view. I realize the tremendous significance of American affairs. I cannot believe, however, there will be peace on earth and a solid hope for a decent life, unless we succeed in establishing peace and lasting order in Europe."

Finally Bruno finds a job in a provincial French university, as a teacher for the German language. Florence is active in the same institute, lecturing on English and American literature. They make friends with several colleagues; especially with a young Frenchman, professor of history; an Italian exile, and an Englishman. These four representatives of the major European nations and the American woman form something like a miniature league of nations. Sometimes, the Swiss teacher shows up, and participates in their zealous discussions about the future

European State, its relations to America, the most promising means to avoid the war, to fight Hitler ect. Again and again, Bruno has to hear and to answer this question: "How is it possible that the German people accept and tolerate this monstrous régime?" Bruno tries to explain that many Germans, if not the majority of them, suffers under the Hitler dictatorship; but that any attempt of revolution is doomed - as long as Hitler has and ruthlessly uses the actual power, the weapons. But the others insist: "Those men who wear the uniforms and use the weapons - they are human beings too, after all. What do they feel, those S.A. and S.S. men, those Reichswehr soldiers and boys from the Hitler Youth, when they get orders to persecute helpless Jews, to commit atrocities against political, religious, or political minorities?" Then Bruno hardly knows what to answer. For he is puzzled, alarmed, perplexed himself -: What do they feel? - And he thinks of his brother...

Ernst has made a nice career in the Third Reich. At the same time he has begun to see things as they are. The first joyous intoxication is over. We see his disappointment and dissatisfaction gradually and steadily mounting. His only comfort is that the "Führer" himself doesn't know about all the evils that exist. That is why, in ^{Summer of} ~~August~~ 1939, he is still convinced there will be no war. For Hitler had promised to achieve by peaceful means everything that a "Greater Germany" may need. Yet he goes through a crisis of doubts and qualms. In the company of Karl - who had been released from the concentration camp as he faked being converted to Nazism - he listens to the illegal news broadcast by the "Freedom" radio station - which he had never bothered about previously - , and learns a number of things. Frau von B. , however, surprises the two young men while they are hearing the forbidden news. She definitely disapproves of such dubious doings, and reminds

her son of "what he owes to the memory of his heroic father." The legend of the Captain's ardent patriotism and military glory still dominates the family life...

The Berlin-Moscow Pact comes as a tremendous shock to Frau von B. and her son as well as to Karl. They are depressed and bewildered, though for different reasons. Karl, for the first time in his life, feels certain qualms about Stalin's supreme wisdom and reliability - while mother and son, for the first time, begin to waver in their faith in Adolf Hitler's mission. For Frau von B. had regarded the "Führer", above all, as a formidable bulwark against the "red danger", that "Jewish-Asiatic conspiracy of beastly murderers" - Bolshevism... How can she grasp the confusing news of the Soviets, all of a sudden, being the Reich's friend and ally?

While the German troops are on the march to Poland, Ernst and his friends think it is merely a "policing expedition", not a European war. The declarations of war ~~from~~ ^{by} France and England are at first concealed from the German people. The realization that Nazi-Germany is at war with the civilized world belatedly reaches the people and strikes home like a thunderclap. Ernst von B. is ordered to the West Front to fight against the French. He obeys without enthusiasm. Even his patriotic mother feels sorrowful. She recalls certain utterances she had heard, many years ago, from her husband when she saw him, for the last time... She regrets having told so many lies to her sons about the father's attitude and convictions. Perhaps he was not so very much mistaken, after all... What did he really believe in? Wasn't there something like a diary or last will, found among his belongings? She searches the dusty drawers. She finds the diary. And she reads...

The night before he has to leave for the West Front, Ernst surprises his mother in the Captain's studio - which was not used for

for a long time. She tries to hide the compromising document - :too late; he has seen it. He spends his last night at home reading his father's warnings and ~~the~~ prophecies.

This is the beginning of Ernst's transformation.

In France, meanwhile, Bruno is in an overwhelming dilemma. As a pacifist and Pan-European he despises war; as a German, the idea of fighting his own country-men is almost unbearable. Yet he also realizes what the war is about and what must be its aims. He has long known that lasting peace in Europe and the world cannot be organized so long as Hitler remains in power. After a few hours of painful wavering, he makes up his mind and leaves his modest home to walk to the city hall: He has decided to put himself to the disposal of French authorities, as a soldier or for any other sort of job they may consider adequate for him. While he rushes through the streets of the small French town, however, some people recognize him, and they ~~seem~~ shout at him: "Sale boche! Voilà le sale boche!"

This is too much, he can't stand it. He spent his life by fighting German nationalism - and this is the response! He collapses, cries, speaks of suicide. This time it is Florence who has to comfort him - as he comforted her when she was insulted, in Berlin. "You have to take it," she says. "It's just a misunderstanding. They are ignorant people, and they are embittered, furished because they must go to the war. They wanted no war - they loathe it. But German aggressiveness forced them to leave their wives and children... They forget that there is another Germany, and that people like you represent it." She reminds him of the promise he once made her, that Europe must be free and united like the United States of America. "That is the severe path that leads to our great goal."

Encouraged and comforted by his wife, he remains calm and quiet, even when the French officials appear to arrest him. There is order from Paris - they explain - to arrest every German citizen in France, at least for the time being... But his friends from the university succeed in liberating him, already after 24 hours. They have given their words of honour to the authorities that Bruno is a reliable, liberal man, *and* not a German spy. Moreover, the French professor, who has good connections in Paris, ~~has~~ obtains a special permit for Bruno to join an International Legion in the French army, where Germans in principle are not admitted. We see Bruno in the uniform of a French poilu; Florence in the white costume of a nurse.

He is seriously wounded in a battle with the Germans. With a few comrades he takes refuge in a bullet-riddled peasant hut hidden in a small thicket. The little group is an International Society of motley types. There is a Frenchman, an Englishman, a Czech, an Italian, a Pole, a Spaniard, a Russian - all volunteers. Some of them are wounded; all are exhausted,

They welcome enthusiastically the arrival of Florence, who has succeeded in finding out her husband's hiding place, half by good luck, half led by the instinct of love. The soldiers greedily drink the tea and the wine she offers them; while they are relaxing and chattering - in many different idioms - Bruno is busy reading the letters Florence had just received from "home" - from America. Her father, this time, seems to be impressed and touched by his daughter's courage and determination - although he still disapproves of her opinions. Yet he wishes her the best - and so does brother Tom, who adds that he admires her and fully understands her point of view. "Perhaps you are right," he writes. "I guess ~~perhaps~~ there is really something at stake, in this war, which concerns all of us."

One of the soldiers suddenly sees a troop of Germans approaching. He and his comrades are about to shoot when the Germans wave a white flag. They are deserters. Ernst and Karl are among them.

The hostile brothers, the estranged friends meet again; and for the first time in their lives, they understand each other. They talk - and it is Ernst who says things his father has thought and written twenty three years ago. Bruno asks him: "How did you discover these truths?" And the brother shows him their father's diary, which he has cherished as a talisman. The brothers crouch low on the shell-torn earth, and they start to read - slowly at first; each to himself; then their voices are heard in unison. About them crowds the groups of international soldiers. Fundamentally, they ~~are~~ all have the same hopes, the same aims, the same future. For their aims and their hopes to be fulfilled, tyrants and demagogues must be destroyed. Karl declares

"I confess that I was mistaken. It is not one class or one country that ~~should~~ ^{can} lead mankind to happiness; but the good will, the peaceful collaboration of all countries, all classes." - Says Ernst von B. :
"I was mistaken. There are no chosen races or chosen leaders. There only are human beings. They should stick together..."

Towards the end of the picture, we see a vision of a happier future, emerging from a flood of tears and blood. The reasonable, necessary Union finally is established, between the different European States and between Europe and America. For mankind is undoubtedly destined to advance towards ever larger, broader, more comprehensive groupings: from jungle hordes to a World Republic.

The late Prussian Captain quoted in his diary a striking word he once found in a book by the English author H.G. Wells:

"Nationalism as a God must follow the tribal gods to limbo.

Our true nationality is mankind."