

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

1914.

Mann, Erika

bis 1938. Datierung v. Stuart D. Ferguson

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In the summer of 1914, when world war number one broke out I
I was eight years old. Up to that moment I had known nothing whatsoever
of politics. the very word politics was completely foreign to me.
But from then on we were living in the midst of politics. The Ger
man schools which had been pretty patriotic, militaristic and imperia
listic under the Kaiser even before the war although in a subtle way
now became mere institutes for war propaganda. England and France beca
our eternal arch enemies and it was only fortunate that we could
count on their being completely rotten, degenerate and idiotic. Thus
was it possible for us to win one gigantic battle after the other, -
and when we, as early as in 1914 had lost the battle of the Marne
which was to decide the outcome of the entire war, - the German people
was not even as much as told about that little incident. Our generals
remained unconquerable, - and our Kaiser, - etc.
but finally took things just as they were. We realized that England
and France had been neither too rotten nor too degenerate to win this
war against Germany, - we also realized that not all of the things we ha
been taught had been true, that Germany was not the only country on earth
and that her people had not only been conquered from the outside but
had been betrayed and lied at ~~HHHH~~ by her imperial government. And altho
all this brought about a certain bewilderment and confusion, - we were young
flexible and willing enough to overthrow whatever philosophy a child of
12 may possess and yet to accept a new creed, - the creed of progressiv, libe
ral democracy. German Youth, - immediately after the great war was not at
all ~~HHHHHHHH~~ any longer in favour of aggressive imperialism

.....

But even today this phaenomena,- the phaenomena of Mr. Hitler's blunt frankness remains one of the most startling ones for me. Has nt he announced a hundered times that he would never ~~shaply~~ try to win a war, or to invade a country by merely military means? Has'nt he prea ched the gospel of infiltration from within of peaceful penetration as he calls it,- ~~HHHHHH~~ has'nt he ~~H~~ used this method; more than once,- in Austria, in Checoslovakia,- and couldnt that have been a most useful warnings to other countries? Well,- it was not. and when in the beginning of April his Nazis invaded Norway and with ^{and the aid of Norwegian sailors} amzing swiftness took possession of almost any strategic point in that unfortunate little country it again came as a shocking surprise to the world. Yet he had in so many words announced the whole thing. Only recentlz Dr. Rauschning ⁶² ~~publishing~~ his ^{book} ~~book~~ conversations with the Fueherer of whom he used to be a personal friend ~~HHHHHHHHHHHH~~ ^{described} ~~spoke about~~ the phantastic and highly unconventional ways - to put it mildlz ,- in which Mr. Hitler was planing to conquer the world for the Nazis. The book which is ^{indeed very} of a highly informativ character cannot be recommended too stronglz to anyone seeking information about the unique charcter of ~~HHHHHHHHHH~~ Mr. Hitler. And yet,- whoever red his own book M.K.,- red it carefully and realistically,- would not even need Dr. Rauschnings book "The voice of dstruction". For as early as in 1924 and '5 Mr. Hitler was kind enough to pprare the world for what he was after. The world, bowebeer, would not listen.

As for the education etc.

Jesus Christ. But on the other hand a little story sneaked out of Germany according to which a child after having said his daily prayer and having closed with the usual phrase and above all I thank you God for our beloved Fuehrer A.H.,- asked his mother. But,- if our Fuehrer shouldnd be here any longer what will I say then in my prayer. The mother answered wll then you just say thank you,God.

These have been examples etc.

All this is horrible and it is typical I could go on for hours
quoting to you Na

thinking of
 all the horrors that are
 being committed by the Nazis in Germany as well as the numerous
 countries liberated and unprotected by them it is a consoling fact
 from the scenes of horror.
 that it has been possible for some people to escape and it is particularly
 consoling that it has been possible for many children to find new homes
 in free countries where they may grow up and face a decent future.
 For and
 But not all
 of them, - only an appallingly small percentage of them as a matter of
 fact are being taken care of, - many thousands are just being thrown
 out upon the world without clothes, without food, without a place to stay.
 There exist certain places in
 I have been told that your school as for inviting some twenty
 refugee children to spend the summer at this lovely place and I can
 hardly tell you how glad and grateful I was when I first heard of
 this beautiful and important idea. One summer spent by these unfortunate
 and innocent victims of our days might change their whole attitude

[illegible]