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Between Hitler and Mussolini. The Memoirs of Prince Starhemberg.

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BETWEEN HITLER AND MUSSOLINI .
.....

The Memoirs of Prince Starhemberg.

(Harper & Brothers, New York. Oct. 15th. \$ 3)

Reviewed by
Erika Mann

There is nothing wrong with Ernst Ruediger Prince Starhemberg.
He is a plain, ^{clear and} downright, ~~honest to good~~ Fascist, and that is that.
Of course, it would have been difficult for a man with his
record to hide the fact of his fascist past. But ^{even concerning his} ~~present the Prince's~~ ^{heart} ~~parading as a servant~~ ^{attitude} his Memoirs don't betray ~~even~~ the faintest change of ~~attitude~~ ^{on the part of the Prince}. There is not as much as one pro-democratic
anti-fascist line in his whole, poorly written book. In fact the
frankness with which Ernst Ruediger presents himself as an active
militant arch enemy of Democracy is almost gratifying. Not quite,
though. For, obviously, he thinks very little of our pride, our
faith in our own cause, our sense of self preservation, our
fighting spirit. Or else he lives under the ^{apprehension} ~~miscomprehension~~ that
Fascism is something well beloved and esteemed with the United
Nations, something indeed, we are ~~rather~~ ^{rather} fighting for, ~~than~~ against.
Unfortunately, his American publishers haven't done a thing to
straighten matters out ^{in his} ~~for their~~ befuddled ^{head} ~~author~~. In their
introductory note to the "Memoirs" they report that "After the
first world war Prince Starhemberg was a member of the German
Free Corps, those illegal military organisations which were res-
ponsible for many political assassinations. In 1923 he marched
with Hitler in the famous Munich Putsch. Later, in Austria, he was
the organizer of Austrian Fascism..... regarded by many as one

Starhemberg is already annoyed at Herr Hitler ^{and} throws himself into the arms of il Duce, there is still "somewhere deep in his heart a remembrance of the Hitler of 1923" which prevents him from speaking harshly about the man; ^{if only, the let a Fuehrer would have let} ~~who wouldn't~~ ^{him} create his own Nazi-Austria. ^{was all} ~~Not that~~ what the Prince wanted, a Nazi Austria, which, however, would "always maintain the closest relations with a National (Nazi) Government in Germany"; a Nazi Austria under his, Ernst Ruediger's, ^{was as the head of a private army, formed after the} Supreme leadership. While striving for this goal, he well remembers ^{he had} ~~the lessons~~ ^{H. Hitler's} ~~learned from Hitler. The Fuhrer~~ "Power" ^{S.A.} ~~the Fuehrer had~~ ^{been} taught him " must first be seized by legal methods; once that is

accomplished, nothing can prevent that power from being used illegally." ~~So, he enters the~~ ^{Austrian} government as Minister of the Interior, ^{but} "with the object of bringing about a coup d'etat". He doesn't succeed, though ^{Hitler-} and soon find himself confronted with a ~~demand~~ ^{the} to acknowledge the Fuehrer as the supreme head of a national front in Austria. The ambitious Prince refuses. "To gain time" he ^{informs} ~~tells us,~~ "I raised an objection which I fully realized was trivial..." "I

should consider it disloyal to Chancellor Vauguin to accept your proposals!" He ^{told Hitler's man: And} ~~said~~ ^{his own} "Trivial" he calls ~~an~~ ^{an} objection to the idea of ^{the representative} ~~conspiring with a foreign power~~ ^{appears the Nazi-Fuhrer} behind the back of the Austrian Chancellor and ^{or} ~~acknowledging the head of that government~~ ^{Fuhrer Hitler} as the ^{Supreme} ~~leader~~ ^{head of Austria's national front} of Austria. But, then, he really wouldn't have minded. ^{it only Hitler} ~~if only Hitler~~ ^{would have had the sense to} ~~grant~~ ^{ed a measure of} ~~independence~~ ^{for his own dictatorship}, he would have ^{the Fuhrer} ~~accepted~~ ^{as an} been delighted to ally against Austrian Democracy. ~~As it went, things didn't work at all. It is true, Prince Starhemberg well succeeded in acquiring more and more "legal power", and nothing prevented him from using quite a bit of it rather "illegal~~

As

In Duce

As it went, he decided to rely on Mussolini's aversion to having the Germans on the Brenner and fight Hitler with Il Duce's help. All went well, as far as Democracy was concerned, all the better, since Prince Starhemberg succeeded in accumulating ever more "legal power" as Chancellor Dollfuss' right hand man. With pardonable pride he describes the "Austrian terrorism" established according to his advice and even though he does not consider the shootings and hanging of workers in February 1934 too fortunate a venture, he most actively participated in it. It has never been established - and probably never will be - whether Prince Starhemberg also actively participated in the murder of Chancellor Dollfuss. He says he didn't, but his alibi is far from perfect. For while he was not present when the crime was committed, his man, Major Fey, ~~his~~ Secretary of State for Security, was very present indeed. In an effort to whitewash himself, the Prince endeavors to whitewash Fey as well unsuccessfully though. Nor does he succeed in hiding his disappointment in President Miklas' choice of the new chancellor. Wouldn't he, Ernst Ruediger, have been the only logical successor? But the President, he tells us, "failed to read the signs of the times". Schuschnigg headed the new Austrian government, and Prince Starhemberg's star began to set (sink). For his final break with Schuschnigg he gives us two ^{main} reasons. The chancellor, he says, wanted to strengthen the regular army at the expense of the Prince's "Heimwehr" and, of course, the Prince, didn't like that. Schuschnigg, on his part, didn't like a telegram the Prince had sent to Mussolini "congratulating him on his victory in Abyssinia which contained a sharp criticism of democratic policy".

Abyssinia

for the first time in their
 was a great allied victory
 is in the making, that ^{the D. ~~was~~ through the} ^{Esper} ^{and} ^{24 1/2}
 is to be a benevolent
 H.C. victory and that
 slide may be fact ^{weak} ~~represented~~
 the hegemony of H.C. ^{with} ^{the}
 end, is dating ~~and~~ to the highest
 degree and he ~~are~~ ^{may} ~~added~~ to
 feel respect and confidence in
 him of H.C. 1942. —
 He ^{may} ~~is~~ not entitled, though to
~~above~~ ~~however~~ feel unpleasant
 and relaxed, but ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~always~~
~~universe~~ that the last
 do.

So, they parted. ~~THE~~ Austria ~~THE~~ to which ~~THE~~ Prince
Starhemberg had so greatly contributed, ~~HE~~ caused him to take residence
in Switzerland, while the outbreak of the war caused him to join our
ranks. He enlisted ~~as a volunteer in the Free French Forces, which~~ ^{along in this}
^{Long & others} Harper Brothers, in their introduction to his memoirs call "the most
passionately democratic army in the world".

^{Now, it may be or may not be too}
~~THE~~ If it is "most" passionately democratic" to admit an
~~ardent enemy of Democracy to Democracy's fighting forces; this statement~~
~~makes sense. Otherwise it does not. And if it is "most" passionately~~ ^{But it certainly it is not sufficient}
democratic" to ^{view} the history of the past decade through fascist eyes,
~~Prince Starhemberg's book should be read by all good Americans. Otherwise~~
~~it should not. In fact, it shouldn't even be reviewed at such length,~~ ^{Prince Starhemberg's book} ^{but by any good demo-}
^{disturbingly symptomatic} were it not for its ~~symptomatic~~ significance. In reviewing the Prince's
memoirs one ~~THE~~ reviews ~~THE~~ a piece of enemy-
propaganda, ~~THE~~ for which royalties are being paid to the enemy who
wrote it. That this enemy ^{resents} dislikes and at present even fights our enemy
Hitler must not confuse us. He dislikes and fights him for reasons ^{which} ~~THE~~
have nothing whatever to do with our cause. By permitting him to act as
our ally we not only acquire an odd bed fellow indeed; we also ^{indebt} ~~oblige~~
ourselves to a man who will not fail to present his bill at the earliest
~~THE~~ Nor ⁱⁿ
possible moment. ~~THE~~ will there be anything wrong ~~THE~~ his doing so,
For there is nothing
~~THE~~ ^{heinous} wrong with ~~THE~~ Ernst Ruediger Prince Starhemberg.
^{great} The ~~only~~ question being ~~THE~~ whether all is right with us.

* first with the regular, ~~and~~ then
with Free and Fighting
French forces

62/22
123/79

1

~~Let me start by telling you that~~

Today happens to be my birthday
and I also happen to hear I
recently remember my this
morning I received a cable from
an English friend; asking
how do you like H. G. as a birth-
day-present? And do I like it?
In fact I ^{you and I had} received it
^{as a gift} ~~personally~~ with other barbarian
objects, resources, Danes
and all, I wouldn't be happier
than I would please me less
than does the arrival of
American troops in Algiers
Casablanca and Oren.
That the war of colonization has
started on canvas that