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Germany must perish.

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"GERMANY MUST PERISH"
(by Theodore N. Kaufman -- Argyle Press, Newark, N.J.)

by

ERIKA MANN

Who is Theodore N. Kaufman? Is he a German refugee, an American anti-Nazi (as he would have us believe), an American fascist, or simply a German "agent provocateur"? One is torn by conflicting reactions while reading this amazing little book, yet in the end one holds nothing but circumstantial evidence.

First impression: "GERMANY MUST PERISH" is Nazi tripe, written and distributed in order to bring to the attention of the Germans and friends of Germany all over the world what would happen, what is "planned", should Hitler lose this war.

"Today's war," the author asserts in the beginning, "is not a war against Adolf Hitler. Nor is it a war against the NazisIt is a struggle between the German nation and humanity...."

The only means of settling this struggle definitely in favor of humanity, he says, is to sterilize all Germans, male and female, to prohibit the use of the German language, and to divide the Reich among its neighbors. Prussia would go to Poland, Bavaria to France, Saxony to Czechoslovakia, etc.

One can imagine the map which is appended to the book being exhibited in all public places, schools and barracks of Germany as a horrifying warning, and Dr. Goebbels himself effectively taking it up. "That is how they will deal with us," he might say. "These are the true plans of the Jewish world conspiracy against

Germany and her people. They want to exterminate us, extirpate us from the earth. Listen, Germans! It is not Hitler, it is not our Fuehrer whom the Hebrew plutocratic war-mongers hate and with whom they want to do away. It is you whom they hate. Look! They say so themselves! You are to be done away with! Fight, Germans! Fight like madmen! As they have fiendish and vile plans in store for you, you need not shrink from fiendishness and vileness yourselves. Dressed in English uniforms, jump in parachutes among the English; let yourselves be killed as spies; for see, it is worth the sacrifice. This map here, this devillish product of the Jewish Anglo-saxon will for destruction, is my best proof."

Such talk would have an understandable, horrible and telling effect on the Germans. Moreover, it would also give food for thought here and elsewhere. How, for instance, should the German-Americans go to war against Hitler if they have the fear that in the end, after his defeat and overthrow, the Kaufman Plan might be put into effect and everything German be extinguished for all time? The mere existence of the Kaufman Plan might provoke ~~the greatest~~ uneasiness in many a man who loves Germany although he hates Hitler, and make him lose faith in the integrity and superiority of our - the democratic - cause.

First impression while running through the book: it is just this very faith which is meant to be destroyed.

Second impression: this cannot be the case. Too much true, burning hatred against the German will to dominate the world speaks from every sentence of this work; too much good, irrefutable

material against Germany has been mustered; too forbidding is the picture of Germany painted by this Kaufman. And so, he must be a refugee, a victim of Hitler and his hordes, or at least an American Jew whose mind has been deranged by the horror of Nazi villainy; he is obsessed by a desire for revenge which can readily be understood. He is right in many things. ^A ^{does not} ~~the~~ Nazi ^{write} so.

Third impression: A Nazi does write so and only a Nazi can write so.

The work is replete with stylistic and grammatical errors. In long stretches it reads like a bad translation from the German. But not just from the German -- much rather from the Nazi German, from Hitler's language. The pompous, flowery, bombastic, hysterical, solecistic "German" of the Fuehrer -- one seems almost to hear it while wading through Kaufman's "English". The Fuehrer's maniacal fondness for repetition, for berating, and braggadocio; his long, inaccurate modifying clauses; the Nazi "dynamics"; their preference for the apolyptical; the Nazi "thoroughness"; their bureaucratic manner even in the sphere of phantasy and barbarism so peculiar to all Nazi enterprises -- all ~~ix~~ this is here, easily detectable.

In order to sterilize 48 million Germans (the others are old people and incapable of reproduction), the work of 20,000 doctors would be required, T. N. Kaufman assures us blandly. Each doctor would take care of 25 cases a day and in less than a month, the German army would be sterilized. The rest would follow in quick succession. The whole work would be completed within about

three years and there would be no more births where formerly was Germany. Inasmuch as two percent of the sterilized would die each year, we would be rid of a million and a half of them annually and, after only two generations, everything German would be -- zip, zip! -- thoroughly and mercilessly eradicated in a manner true to the Nazi principle that 'all is right that serves us'.

At the outset, T. N. Kaufman proves that it would benefit mankind to proceed thus; therefore, he continues, mankind is justified in doing so; and, he concludes, it is in a position to do it.

"GERMANY MUST PERISH" is interesting and striking in at least three spheres and from three different standpoints:

1. Much of what Kaufman brings forth to prove to the Germans that Germany is considered by the world an incurable pestilence which can only be wiped out in the germ, is really convincing. The material is by no means new though, and not always proven beyond refutation. Sometimes it seems as if the author were purposely negligent in giving his sources and quotations so as not to endow his song of hatred with too sweeping an effect. At any rate, they are substantial enough and he who considers Hitler an affliction which the Germans have neither deserved nor earned might profit from T. N. Kaufman's portrayal and learn that Hitler is the representative of the basic German kind; not of all its characteristics, but of some of them which are ineradicable.

2. T. N. Kaufman has created much propaganda for his book (or was it the Argyle Press that did the work?) Booklets and

announcements have been sent out; we received Kaufman's map of Europe gratis; university professors and liberal intellectuals discussed this "peace plan" shaking their heads.... "This goes too far," they said, and some of them concluded that a "negotiated peace" would be far preferable to this horrible peace. We do not know whether Mr. Dies and the FBI have also been reached by the publicity agents of the Argyle Press. But it seems to us that they should not withhold their interest from the book "GERMANY MUST PERISH".

3. If, as we only guess, "GERMANY MUST PERISH" is the offspring of a Nazi brain, then it is truly the most perverted, unsavory and morbid piece of work which has come before us to date. Fumes rise from the abyss of this intellectual and mental depravity, fumes which would make us gasp for air had we not for a long time been provided with mental gas masks against this oncoming poison. (If, however, T. N. Kaufman means what he says, if we are mistaken and this man is nothing worse than a confused anti-fascist, then we beg his forgiveness although, even so, damage has been done.)

If he is a Nazi, one can visualize this God-forsaken man as he wrote his shameful book. The unprecedented cynicism with which he relates the evil deeds in German history; the cynicism with which he portrays himself while feigning, with pro-Nazi purpose, to insult the Germans; the masochist joy which must have filled him as he wrote; the cowardly satisfaction in ridding himself of some of his inner resentments against his superiors (for surely he must hate them from time to time) and yet doing his duty; the prickling pleasure he must have felt in his own impudence and double-dealing;

the sinister intoxication on ^{lying} ~~lies~~, on distorting things into their opposite -- an intoxication which brings the greatest joy to all that is Nazi; the triumph of organized madness; the infection and destruction of brain and heart -- all this is the offspring of criminal pathology -- all this is Nazi.

For what reasons did Rudolf Hess take off in his Messerschmidt 110 and land in the enemy camp? What were his motives? Did he come in good or bad faith? Sent by the Fuehrer or against his will? Be it as it may, he came as a "Nazi", for he is a Nazi and could come as nothing else. Whatever may take place in his confused and corrupt brain, whatever he may do or leave, the mire from which he springs remains his sphere. And while somewhere in England he makes his notes, the same feeling of joy may flow through him as that Kaufman must have known -- if he is a Nazi. Perhaps one might be able to learn from Hess' notes as one can learn from Kaufman's ^{is} tripe. But we must not lose sight of who the man/who writes it and never forget that one devil will not be exorcised by another, nor a Hitler by a Hess.