

# HITLER IS A TRUE SYMBOL OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE

BY EMIL LUDWIG

THEY say in America that unemployment made Hitler. Had not America the same unemployment? The Germans enjoyed prosperity, the same as the Americans, from 1925 to 1928. America had the same workless and unemployment period from 1929 to 1931—10,000,000 workless men, while Germany had 5,000,000. If unemployment was the reason for Hitler's rise, why did not Fascism grow in America as in Germany?

The answer lies in this: When the visitor arrives in America his first sight is the Goddess of Liberty, and when he visits Berlin he sees the "Siege-allee"—that is, the 24 Hohenzollerns in marble uniforms, of whom two or three had some merit and the others none. In America the first symbol viewed is that of liberty. In Germany it is that of military force. In America all is allowed that is not expressed verboten. In Germany all is verboten which is not expressly allowed. When I went this morning

applause that greeted him. From that moment the Germans began to love their Fuehrer. So they welcomed him with cheers. Even the Socialists had failed to fight for the Republic.

When the Kaiser and the princes fled, three German officers—I know their names—fought and died to protect the imperial flag. Yet not one German workman died for the Republic in 1932 when Von Papen dissolved the government of Prussia. Their love of submission to authority was greater than their love of liberty. The German likes to die for the fatherland, but not to think for it. It is easy for him to obey someone else, but it nearly kills him to stand erect as an individual, or to act on his own initiative. A man with a voice like a certain American President, whose modulated speech over the radio appeals to anybody, would be impossible in Germany. There they do not like persuasion. They love a man that barks. Of him they say,

Readers will recall an article by Lion Feuchtwanger published in our issue of February 4, entitled "On Nazis and Germans," in which he points out that Hitler does not represent the true spirit of Germany. Emil Ludwig, another great German-Jewish writer, takes the opposite view in this article

to the post office the clerk said to me, "Fine weather." If you should say, "Fine weather" to the postman in Germany he would reply: "There is no weather. There are stamps here." This is because every employee in Germany is a military man. Anyone who has been in Germany knows that this is not an overstatement.

In Berlin, even in deep peace-time, the main street is enlivened at noon by military columns, doing the goose step, going through Unter den Linden. Everybody is delighted. In America, to my great astonishment, I saw not a single soldier outside the Capitol, which now, in the midst of a great war, seems to me the nerve centre of the world. The other day in front of the White House there was one lonely soldier coming and going, and there were two secret service men at the door. I could hear a Strauss waltz coming over their little radio.

## Cannot Change Him

This illustrates the difference between Germans and Americans, difference by their antecedents, their upbringing, and their psychology. The militaristic, subservient, compliant German is so steeped in the tradition of blind obedience to authority that you cannot change him. Here you can laugh with and exchange banter with your President, but you cannot do that with any policeman in Germany.

The uniform is exceptional in America, but it is the great ideal in Germany, and has been for 200 years. Every girl had only one dream, and that was to have a sweetheart in uniform. What a happy day for Germans when finally there came a Hitler, a man who brought back to them brass music, orders, uniforms, goose steps, a boss with a voice that ordered. That was what they liked.

Hitler brought them the fresh vision of world domination, that old mystic phrase which, you remember, prevailed throughout the medieval period of German history and lies deep in German mentality. On May 1, 1933, Hitler shouted to 100,000 persons in Tempelhof, asking for Gehorsam (obedience). He shouted this word three times altogether, and I heard on the radio the thundering

"That must be a strong man!" I saw in my youth intelligent and liberal scientists thrilled to hear the Kaiser speaking with his penetrant sergeant's voice.

## A New Boss

In a moral and legal sense Hitler is the true symbol of the present German nation. He wrote a big book in which every German was advised of his proposals. In that book he outlined his idea of world domination, the Great War, the persecution of the Jews, and the difference between the two classes of citizens. The whole nation, with the exception of a negligible minority, was delighted to find finally a new boss.

The barbaric acts of the Nazis were not, of course, approved by all Germans. There were some thousands, perhaps even millions, who were against the acts of barbarism. But who really opposed it? Who really fought against Hitlerism? Only a few pastors protested, as against the millions who applauded. It was not the Nazis alone who exiled the Jews—it was the great majority of the German people. We have thousands of eye-witness reports telling how German citizens, men and women, of their own free will, without any urging or official inducement, helped the storm troopers to hunt down, whip, and kill the Jews. A small minority of the people remained passive and indifferent. Nearly the whole nation cooperated with the Nazis. The whole nation is responsible for the brutalities of the last 10 years.

May I tell you that Germany has in the maximum 800,000 S.S. men and 15,000,000 soldiers. Some of those 15,000,000 Germans are seen in the pictures, and you have authentic reports of their brutalities. Who were those pilots dive bombing over France, killing fleeing women and children? Who torpedoed hospital ships? Who killed 300 children in the little town of Bath, in England, knowing the children were the target? Who devastated Lidice, in Czechoslovakia? It was the average German soldier, who is a cross-section of his people, just as soldiers are a cross-section of democratic countries.

The interesting point is that it is not a perversity that animates those Germans. The word "sadism" may be rightly applied sometimes to individuals, like Hitler or Heydrich, but no nation is sadistic. It is a perverted idealism that moves these men—the religion of violence. They have been educated in this by German books since before Hegel's time, for a hundred years. The attorney general of Nazi Germany hit the nail on the head when he said, "Right is what is good for Germany." Other peoples have been cruel in their wars—we know that; but they did not make a religion of cruelty and barbarity. They did not say, "We are dominators of the world, and whatever is advantageous for us is right." The Germans are in love with death," said Clemenceau; indeed they like all that is tragic. This is the main difference with the American observation.

This is but another example of the philosophy of Germany. They know what they are doing. So if they are responsible as a nation, they must be punished.

What we fear is what will happen on the day after the death of Hitler. The Junkers, the generals, will kowtow to you and say, "We love the democracies. We do not hate the Jews. We don't ask for colonies. Come, let us be brothers again." After this bad man is not there, and the Junkers make you any kind of friendly offer, I fear that certain elements in this country and even in this House, would say, "Now let us make peace and let us finish up this business. They are good people, those generals."

Gentlemen, they are not! They are not one whit better than the Hitlers. They have merely better manners. They are culpable exactly as the Nazis. Why did they give in to Hitler's plans, which he would never have realised with an opposed general staff? Because he gave them back their positions, power, and money, but, most of all, because they dreamed of revenge and accepted this little

## Gramophone Recital in Aid of Palestine Orchestra

THERE is no branch of human culture or civilisation which Jews have not enriched, but in the field of music they have particularly distinguished themselves," said Mr. Hans Kramer, well-known Cape Town musical authority, when he spoke to the Friends of the Palestine Orchestra on Jewish Composers and Artists, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Karnovsky, Houghton.

Mr. Kramer said that Jewish religious and folk music in the last few centuries had faithfully reflected the atmosphere of their environment. Northern Jewry had followed the German tradition, and Southern Jews drew their inspiration from Spain rather than from Palestine. Even some of our synagogue music can probably be traced back to the Catholic Church. On the other hand synagogue music has occasionally been drawn upon by Gentile composers, as in the case of Stradella, who found the setting for many of his Psalms in the Jewish Ghetto.

An outstanding proportion of the world's great performers were Jewish. Mr. Kramer said. The evening concluded with a selection of records of representative Jewish musicians.

Thanks were extended to the speaker and the host and hostess by Dr. Wulf Sachs.

## Orphanage Barmitzvahs

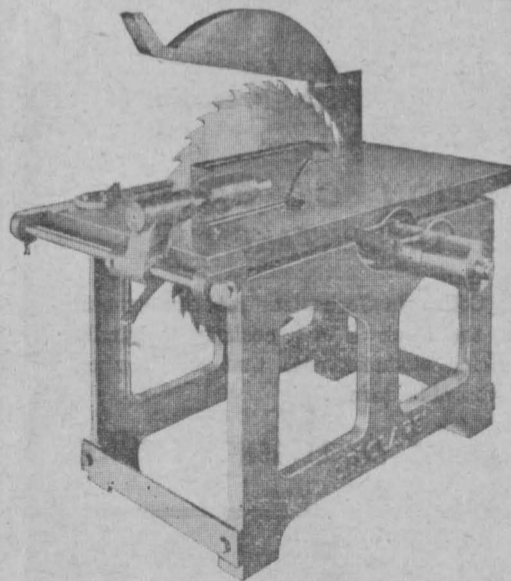
The public are invited to the Orphanage, "Arcadia," Oxford Road, Parktown, for Sunday afternoon, May 7, at 2.30 p.m., when the Barmitzvahs of five Orphanage boys will be celebrated and the annual distribution of prizes will take place. Refreshments will be served. The Rosebank and Dunkeld buses pass the Orphanage gates.

Austrian proletarian, whom they despise, because he alone had the popular appeal. The generals, the symbols of German war-will, must be destroyed. As long as they are there every German boy will dream of revenge.

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