

# Hitler Cannot Win

By WILLIAM BENNETT BIZZELL

## Greed and Brutality of Nazi Dictator Make Final Victory Impossible for Him

**T**HE suggestion that Hitler cannot win sounds fantastic and will be regarded by many as wishful thinking. His military exploits and diplomatic achievements have astonished the world. Germany's marching legions have crushed all opposition and at the moment they are threatening to extend their conquests over the Near East. There is no question that Hitler's military staff has produced the most efficient mechanized army of all time and no one can predict the extent of German aggression in the immediate future; but in spite of his overwhelming victories, I am convinced that Hitler and his mighty army cannot win ultimately in this conflict.

This opinion is based upon three stubborn facts.

1. In the first place, history teaches us that dictatorship has been constructed on shifting sands and it has never produced a stable form of government. History furnishes many examples of this fact, two of which will be sufficient to illustrate the point.

Alexander the Great, like all dictators, undertook by conquest and aggression to build a vast empire. He organized a mighty army and invaded the Near East. He crossed the Hellespont and entered Persia. With ruthless zeal he won every battle that he fought against his enemies and in a remarkably short time captured Babylon which he hoped to make his permanent capital. He attempted to break down the cultural barriers between Greece and Persia and to establish a unified government with himself as ruler. By military might he extended his sway from the Adriatic to the Indus; but in thirteen years, he was dead and his house of cards fell to pieces. Alexander the Great left behind him a world in disorder and chaos. The Greek empire that he attempted to establish was never realized. How similar are the ambitions and aspirations of Adolf Hitler to Alexander's! And, no doubt, his dream of a vast German empire is just as unlikely of realization as that of his ancient predecessor.

Napoleon Bonapart is another illustration of the futility of world conquest. Hitler evidently thinks of himself as a glorified Napoleon, but he is clearly overlooking the briefness of Napoleon's meteoric career and its tragic end. It will be recalled that after the fall of France Hitler went immediately to the tomb of Napoleon in the Invalides when he arrived in Paris. Later on he trans-

ferred the body of Napoleon's son from Vienna to Paris and placed it beside that of his father. This was a gesture more gratifying to Hitler's own vanity than to any other consideration.

If the military exploits of Napoleon have stimulated the ambitions of Hitler, it might be well for him to consider the fact that the meteoric career of Napoleon lasted only nineteen years. After all, the interval between Napoleon's first significant victory at Marengo and his final defeat at Waterloo covered only a relatively short period of time and within this period he experienced his tragic retreat from Moscow and his exile at Elba. With the defeat of the French Army at Waterloo, the empire that he had attempted to establish fell to pieces and before he reached his island prison at St. Helena in the South Atlantic, the statesmen of Europe were assembling at Vienna to reconstruct a new world order on the ruins that he had wrought.

**A** great historian has said of Napoleon: "It would be difficult to find a human being less likely to arouse affection. One reads in vain through the monstrous accumulations of Napoleonic literature for a single record of self-forgetfulness. Laughter is one great difference between man and the lower animals, one method of our brotherhood, and there is no evidence that Napoleon ever laughed. Nor can we imagine another of the most beautiful of human expressions upon the face of this saturnine egotist, that expression of disinterested interest that one sees in the face of an artist or artisan 'lost,' as we say, in his work. \* \* \* He had a vast contempt for man in general and men in particular, a contempt that took him at last to St. Helena, that same contempt that fills our jails with forgers, poisoners, and the like victims of self-conceit. There is no proof that this unbrotherly, unhumorous egotist was ever sincerely loved by any human being." If the name of Hitler were substituted for that of Napoleon in this description, it would be equally true to facts.

The conflict between France and Germany had its origin in the relative place of importance that these two nations should occupy in Western Europe. Napoleon undertook to bring all the nations composing this vast area into the sphere of influence of France. Hitler is now undertaking to accomplish the same thing with Germany as the center of power. Napoleon failed

more than a century ago just as Hitler will likely fail in his present plans for European domination.

2. In the second place, Hitler cannot ultimately win because he is attempting to establish a new empire on the basis of might rather than right. One of the weaknesses of many men is the love of power—power supported by might. It is true, of course, that Hitler has appealed to the pride of race to support his insatiable ambition and he has unified the German people by appealing to them on this basis. His unprecedented victories and conquests have challenged the admiration of the German nation, but back of all his accomplishments is the personal ambition to dominate and extend his power regardless of the hostility that his methods have engendered.

No political leader can build a stable social order on force instead of justice. The invasion of independent nations without cause can have but one effect and that is eternal hatred for the aggressor. Hitler's hope of bringing 150,000,000 people under the power of the Reich against their will can never be accomplished. The fact is, every nation that the German armies have invaded has created a new center of opposition to his dream of empire. Every country that Hitler conquers by might increases opposition to him and adds another liability to his ambitious undertaking. His invasion of Greece was spectacular and decisive; but the Greeks are liberty-loving people like the Anglo-Saxons and while he may dominate them for a time, he can never destroy their love for liberty. For months there has been much speculation about the German invasion of England. It might be accomplished at the expense of enormous loss of life and property, but it would not be worth the cost to Hitler. The far-flung British Empire comprising a great family of nations whose sympathies and traditions are an integral part of the Anglo-Saxon heritage would never accept such a victory as final.

The world has moved too far along the road of progress to accept power politics for liberty and equality of opportunity. When the tide of war turns, as it will one of these days, the nations of the earth that have been brought under the heel of German power will rise to smite the man responsible for the conquest of their territories and the invasion of their most sacred rights.

3. In the third place, Hitler cannot win because of his false political philosophy and



President W. B. Bizzell, whose studies on the ethical basis of society provide a broad background for this significant article

untenable ideals. Totalitarianism is in eternal conflict with democratic principles. Millions of people live on the earth today who have come to know and to cherish the democratic tradition, and there is no power in the world that can purge their thinking of the cherished rights vouchsafed to them by a democratic form of government.

It is quite evident from Hitler's writings and addresses that he holds views at variance with the opinions and aspirations of right-thinking people everywhere. His political philosophy and ethical standards are in conflict with all that is best in human life. *Mein Kampf*, the first volume of which was dictated by Hitler to Rudolf Hess who has just fled from Germany and who is now a prisoner in England, is one of the strangest books ever produced by any man. His ideas are not only confused and incoherent; but as Rudolf Olden says in his biography of Hitler, "everything is said twice over—twice, four times, eight times over. For when the same idea has been expressed twice already, the first sentence is followed immediately by a second with the same content. \* \* \* The intellectual abhorrence which sensitive people feel for Hitler's speeches is intensified when they read his writings. This remains true, in spite of an occasional sensible and striking observation that may be found in this great chaos of words." The material in this book is poorly organized and rather incoherent, but that

is of minor importance. The thing that is significant is the fact that the man who subscribes to the philosophy contained in the book has become the most powerful and aggressive leader of all times and that he has felt called upon to put his strange views into practice.

**HITLER'S** views on statecraft, education, and racialism run counter to the most enlightened thought of our times. It is quite evident from *Mein Kampf* that his knowledge of the literature of government is very limited. There are few quotations from any source in this strange book and his views on politics are deeply colored by his hatred of the Jews. He says of the Jews, for example: "Since the Jew, for reasons which will immediately appear, has never possessed a culture of his own, the basis for his mental processes has always been furnished by others." This statement, of course, is contrary to fact and cannot possibly withstand the scrutiny of history.

It will be recalled that about the middle of the nineteenth century Gobineau, a Frenchman, wrote a "tedious essay full of spurious erudition" on "Of the Inequality of Races"; and more recently an Englishman by the name of Houston Stuart Chamberlain made his contribution to National Socialist faith by writing a book on "Racialism." Chamberlain undertook to charge the Jews with all the misfortunes of the war.

It is not known whether Hitler ever read Gobineau or Chamberlain's writings; however, the latter married the daughter of Richard Wagner and it may be that Hitler at least knows something of the views held by Chamberlain. Be that as it may, Hitler's prejudice against the Jews and the injustices that the German people have inflicted upon Jewish citizens in Germany have created world-wide resentment and stand today as one of the greatest indictments of his administration.

Hitler's views on education, as expressed in *Mein Kampf*, show the bent of his mind. He emphasizes primarily two aspects of education. In the first place, he regards the development of physical strength and agility as fundamental in the training of youth. The whole education and training of a youth, he believes, "must be planned to give him the conviction that he is absolutely superior to others." No doubt, it is a deep-seated conviction of Hitler that pride of race and physical endurance will make the German nation invincible. While he refers casually to culture and character, he nowhere emphasizes the importance of them in his educational scheme.

There is no escape from the conclusion that Hitler is hostile to religion, although from time to time he has rendered lip service to Christianity. His persecution of religious leaders and his hostility to church at-

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 29)

## Hitler Cannot Win

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

tendance leave no doubt as to where he stands. As some one has said, "A man who thinks he can reconcile Christianity with National Socialism is neither a true Christian nor a true National Socialist." I cannot believe that civilized people will ever be willing to substitute a materialistic philosophy for Christian faith.

Two brief quotations will illustrate the astonishing views of the Fuehrer of Germany. Just before Hitler came into power, he said: "We may be inhuman! But if we save Germany, we have accomplished the greatest need in the world. We may be unjust! But if we save Germany, we have repaired the greatest injustice in the world. We may be immoral! But if our people is saved, we have paved the way for morality."

In one of his more recent addresses, he gave expression to this thought: "He who wants to live should fight, and he who does not want to battle in this world of eternal struggle does not deserve to be alive. \* \* \* In eternal warfare mankind has become great—in eternal peace mankind would be ruined." In other words, the end justifies the means. It is all right to be inhuman, unjust, and immoral if one can accomplish the ends he desires. Warfare is the natural state of man and no one deserves to live who is not willing to engage in an eternal struggle. We have the authority of Holy Writ that what a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. According to Hitler's philosophy, one is entirely right to abrogate treaties with other nations and to lie if by so doing he can further his own personal and political ambitions.

It is against a man holding these outrageous views that the civilized world has come to grips in the present war. There is no reason for those who believe in the democratic way of life to have any doubts about the issues involved. Hitler has made this plain in his addresses and in *Mein Kampf*. No war in history has ever been based upon clearer issues than the one now in progress. The ultimate results of this conflict mean more to mankind than any similar one in history. Christian civilization and all that it implies in the way of freedom, equality of opportunity, and human happiness are at stake. For Germany to win with Hitler as a dominating force in the world would turn the hands of the clock back a thousand years and more. This simply cannot happen, and it must not happen.

No, Hitler cannot win. The issues involved in this conflict are too far-reaching and too important to Christian civilization. Every day that the war goes on increases the chances of victory for the liberty-loving peoples of the world. Defeat is not only ahead for Hitler, but with it will come the downfall of the Third Reich. The time will come when the German people will look back on Hitler, the Austrian house painter, with scorn and contempt.

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