

CAN HITLERISM SOLVE THE WORLD PROBLEM?

The future historian will be faced by a vast and unique event: The passing of 19th century civilization in the short time that elapsed between the first and the second great War of the 20th century.

The situation of the world is defined by this event. We will discuss Hitlerism in relation to the problems set by it. *

At the beginning of this period, 19th century ideals were paramount, indeed their influence had never been greater; by its close hardly anything was left of that system under which our type of society had risen to world leadership. Within national frontiers representative democracy had been safeguarding a regime of liberty, and the national well-being of all civilized nations had been immeasurably increased under the sway of liberal capitalism; the balance of power system had secured a comparative freedom from long and devastating wars, while the gold standard had become the solid foundation of a vast system of economic cooperation on an almost planetary scale. Although the world was far from perfect, it seemed well on the way towards perfection. Suddenly this unique edifice collapsed: The very conditions under which our society existed passed forever. The tasks which face us in the present cannot, we believe, be understood except in the light of this tremendous event. It is both national and international, political and economic: all our institutions are involved. The historian is at a loss where to start.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)

1. Fixing the exact time of the Change: The Conservative 'Twenties and the Revolutionary 'Thirties.

1914?

The Great War of 1914-18 had been, on the whole, true to 19th century type: one alignment of great powers against another; belligerents and neutrals; soldiers and civilians; business and warfare: all distinct and separate. Defeat resulted in a treaty which was intended to insure that life should continue very much as before. The War ~~had settled nothing essential~~ had settled nothing essential, yet it had been more terrible than all its predecessors.

The trend of the 'Twenties was distinctly conservative. The spectacular revolutions and counter-revolutions of 1917-23, even when they were more than upheavals resulting from the shock of defeat, introduced no new element into Western history. Not only Hindenburg and Wilson, but also Lenin and Trotsky, were in the 19th century tradition. The tendency of the times was simply to establish, or eventually to re-establish, the system commonly associated with the ideals of the English, the American and the French revolutions of the 17th and 18th centuries. Radical policies served traditional aims. The Great War had been, in the main, an attempt to overcome by fruitless violence the difficulties which bore the system since the beginning of the century; in the peaceful 'Twenties this effort was intensified, but the effects of the war had merely enhanced these difficulties.

Suddenly in the early 'Thirties, with an awe-inspiring vehemence, change set in. Its landmarks were the abandonment of the gold standard by Great Britain and subsequently by all other countries; the Five-year Plans, especially the collectivization of the farms in Russia; the launching of the New Deal; the National Socialist revolution; the collapse of the balance of power in favor of autarch empires. By 1940 every vestige of the international system had disappeared, and, except for a few enclaves, the peoples were living in an entirely new international setting.

2. It follows that the current explanations cannot be accepted.

Our question now runs:

⊕ Can the establishment of Kithorian
empire in Europe resolve the
~~problems set by~~ issues set
by this transformation?

(a) The clash of ideologies was obviously a reflex ~~is~~ of the institutional situation rather than its cause. It was not the Bolshevik, who destroyed the Gold Standard, but Neville Chamberlain in Great Britain; and it was not a Fascist, but Franklin Roosevelt who followed suit. ~~in~~

(b) The Great War is credited by many people ~~with~~ having been the root cause of the great destruction. But were things sound and hale before? Or was the Great War not rather ~~an~~ the outcome of the same forces ~~which were present~~ ^{throughout} ~~the~~ ^{longly} admittedly, immensely increasing the difficulties which brought it about?

zeal

(c) The short-sightedness of the politician and the vested interest ^{& greed} of the business-man is made ~~is~~ responsible. Of all the assignment of scapegoats this is perhaps the most unjust. ~~one~~. At no period in history was there ~~more~~ ^{more} disinterested statesmanship at work than in the ~~the~~ Twenties when heroic efforts were made to restore the Gold Standard; or ~~was~~ in the 'Thirties, when the Pacifist statesmen insisted with passionate ~~and~~ on the setting up of an international machinery for organizing peace.

to restore peace and prosperity
And yet all their efforts were in vain ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~which~~ merely hastened ~~the~~ ruin.

In the retrospect ~~we can simply~~ ^{we can simply} define the nature of the difficulty we were up against. A whole civilization was crashing before our eyes.

3. The causes of the transformation.

A. The first century of the Machine Age has come to a close. The problem of laissez-faire vs. intervention was there from the beginning. It actually expressed the two forces which were going to shape the future of industrial society: (a) The need for ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~protection~~ ^{protection} of the ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~tissue~~ ^{tissue} of society against the effects of a market-economy (b) on the other hand the equally vital need ~~was~~ for the self-regulation of the market-system. Unfortunately, the ~~various~~ ^{various} protective measures tended to impede ~~the~~ ^{the} self-regulation. The tensions and compromises between the conflicting policies continued right through the century, bringing in the New Nationalism.

B. The nation-state was the given unit of politico-economic integration ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~world~~ ^{world}. It ~~was~~ ^{was} supplied protection against the effects of the internal market; it absorbed the shocks of the external (world) market protecting the community against the dangers of interdependence.

C. The international economic system was the ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~most~~ ^{most} ~~comprehensive~~ ^{comprehensive} institution of the period. But its functioning tended to throw the ~~strain~~ ^{strain} ~~on~~ ^{on} the nation states - which thus became the shock-absorbers of both the internal and the external system.

D. The Hundred Years Peace was an obvious function of this international ~~economic~~ ^{economic} organization. (5 1/2 yrs of war between the Western Great Powers).

~~we~~ ^{now} ~~can~~ ^{can} gauge the nature of the problems involved in the present world cataclysm?

- A. to rebuild the internal structure of the states;
- B. to rebuild international division of labour;

9
19th of 11
the difference

Can Hitlerism solve the World Problem.

- a. We are living through a vast transformation, what sets ^{great} problems to the world; the question is - who (which nations) will solve these problems? - Once leadership is a process inevitable, then the struggle for leadership becomes simply a question of survival. Only the one or the other can lead; especially if the principles & methods involved are mutually exclusive. (The point about the wings of the future is: where will that place be ^{to 2 & 3} & who will depend on it? Who will fit in it?)
- (b) What kind of transformation is set in progress & what kind of problems does it set to us?

(A.) The future historian will be faced by a vast and unique event: in 20 yrs. The 4 institutions: qualify: "almost".

{ Economic & political
National & international

One of these is basic and has not succumbed in the Anglo-Saxon world: Democracy. Vital, effective.

(B.) When did the Transformation start?

(C) What caused the Transformation

(a) timing; external causation;

(b) causing; development in leading countries.

(A) The Machine and the Market.
America an exception in the right
 lanes - fair (free competition) and interventionism!
 They have made the thing unworkable:
MASS - UNemployment.

(Automation
self-regulation)

(B) The international economic system (9 pt.)
 was the super-framework of automatic
adjustment. (Automation self-regulation)
Pressure on foreign exchanges

(C) Chen tension } Political consequences.
 (D) Imperialism }

The decisive importance of the nation-state.
 internal and external protection afforded by it.

- What does Intervention supply? except power?
- (A) Some reform of the capitalist system. Just at
 what price? (And others do as well)
 (B) Interventionism? Complete destruction of world
sovereignty.
 (C) Regenerative solution (shall run).

Not the slightest chance of ultimate success?
 Releasing the forces of the future
 But other will ff that machine
 (Napoleon destroyed the old Europe, but in England
 ran the new)
 Hitler will destroy the old world, but the American
 people will have to run it.

The term F. covers various things (a) a movement ;
(b) a social system, and
(c) a philosophy of life which
inspires the movement and is
fulfilled in the system.

My subject is the philosophy of life .

I. Historical background.

The origins of F. must be sought in the deep seated crisis of our industrial civilization, with its two main institutions: political democracy and industrial capitalism.

At a definite point of their development these two came into conflict, notably in Europe. The post-War situation developed into an imminent danger to society as a whole : the danger of a deadlock of the political and the economic system. The threat was expressed in the danger of permanent mass unemployment on the one hand; the failure of leadership ~~announced~~ by the party ridden democratic representative bodies.

The reasons for such a situation need not keep us here. Many people would put it down to the tension of the classes , and describe the crisis as one of class war . It is more probable that the tension itself resulted from a more general cause underlying the unsatisfactory working of the social system as a whole. and closely linked with the very foundations of our industrial civilization.

In the consciousness of the masses it took the form of an impending crisis resulting from the untenable nature of the situation. The conflict between capitalism- the industrial system based on the private ownership of the means of production- and democracy , a system of representative institutions giving a preponderant influence to the masses of the working people, was the order of the day.

Obviously , it was an essential feature of such a situation socialist that if there should be a crisis , democracy would tend towards /democratic solutions , irrespective of the actual moral , intellectual and therefore not an effective political force at its disposal. The traditional ruling classes had the support of the lower middle classes in withstanding the ~~claims~~ claims of the working classes to a leadership for which they lacked the power and the programme , and ultimately even the working classes stood aside when the fascists made their bid for power. It is a fact of the utmost importance that the fascist movement succeeded without any serious resistance on the part of democracy and the more radical the parties had been, the less resistance did they offer. ~~There was no~~ No surer sign of ~~than~~ a general spiritual crisis than the self-effacement of the democratic forces in the 1930 ies. could be imagined.

II. The Essence of Fascism.

As a political religion Fascism is directed towards the destruction of the institutions of popular democracy .

But these institutions turned out to be rooted in the Christian tradition of Western Civilization. The connection was neither simple nor direct, but there it was, nevertheless.

A radical attack on democracy must be an attack on the religious foundations of democracy.

Fascism is such an attack.

The two corrective concepts are the individual and mankind. A society consisting of individuals; the unity of the human world consisting of mankind.

Both ideas are basically Christian. On no point does Christian religion differ more widely from other religions than in the assertion of the Soul and of mankind. In its social reference Christianity is the discovery of the individual and of mankind. Fascism as a religious position is an attack on these two. Here you get the essence of F.

Ethics

In respect to the Ethics of Christianity it is ultimate resignation or Satanic glorification of evil. The former form is expressed in Dostojewski's Great Inquisitor; the latter in Nietzsche, or Klages.

Metaphysics

Bio-centric as against logocentric values. The naturalism of the pre-spiritual existence.

But Ludwig Klages philosophy qualified by refusal to return to the cave,

Science

Intellectual superiority due to unbiased views on politics and economics. But the F. solutions are degenerative solutions: they solve the problems temporarily but the price of making them insoluble in the long run.

A great corrective to liberal utopianism, which is responsible for the most outstanding weakness of Marxism. The early works of Marx however are entirely free from the anti-religious bias and are based on a religious anthropology of utmost importance. (Tillich has worked on this subject, though he did not know yet, I believe, the latterly discovered works.) The Marx-Lenin institutes edition/very misleading in its presentation. although accurate in a superficial sense,

The system:

The political system abolished; the economic made supreme. World Empire offered as a solution, but without any ideas as to the solution of the national problem and of the motive for work.

A movement fruitful in its destruction but utterly unable to regain the world.

A non-religious consciousness unable to cope with this situation. For it is unable to fix its aims beyond the changing conditions.

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The Essence of Fascism.

A/ The Philosophy of Fascism. (as it stands , except for
a chapter on Italian Fascism (Pareto, Gentile, Mussolini)

German Synthetics (Spengler),

German Faith Movement (Bäumler, Blüher, Bergmann,
Hauer ~~z~~ crew).

Metaphysics, Existentialists, Phenomenologists etc
(Heidegger, etc.)

B/ The Sociology of Fascism. (as it is outlined i.e.)

a Theory of the Corporative State.

exclude the sociology of the Fascist a/ Elite
b/ Following
from " the " Sociology of Fascism.

Prove that this , ulterior and dependent sociology
is determined by the general sociology
of Fascism. (On the other hand , explain
in a positive fashion the constitution
of the elite as well as of the followi
ing.

C/ The Economics of Fascism.

The failure of Liberal Capitalism .

The Problem of Interventionism.

D/ The Politics of Fascism

How does the Fascist situation arise?
Historical