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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

This translation is as true as was deemed consistent with rendering a reasonably flowing English prose. I thought it more important and appropriate to convey the intended meaning and the emotional impact of the work rather than to be bound too tightly by literal precision. It is a reasonably close translation, with some omissions, of pages 183- 206.

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INTRODUCTION

The effort to indoctrinate the youth of Germany was a major part of the Nazi master plan. After 1933 all traditional boy's and girl's clubs, athletic teams and other youth organizations were disbanded and replaced by the Hitler Youth, which was an official organ of the Nazi Party. All activities and expectations were modified to meet the new Nazi worldview. Youth groups were seen as serving a single educational purpose. There would no longer be any attempt to pursue an intellectual education. The National Socialist ideal was aimed toward promoting the spirit of the group and encouraging a lust for adventure within the bounds of a tightly knit race based society. Hitler himself said: "The young should learn nothing more than to think German and to act German." Likewise in the schools the curricula were recast; recalcitrant teachers were fired and old textbooks were replaced by new ones, which told the new "truth". DER WEG ZUM REICH was such a textbook, widely used with high school age students in German schools throughout this period. It is a clear example of the Nazi view of German history and of the blatant propaganda techniques intended to mold the minds of the young. Some selected sections describing Hitler's rise to power have been translated here in an effort to broaden our understanding of this dark page in German history.

BETRAYAL AND DISHONOR

Marxists Undermine the Home Front

During the World War, England pursued her basic plan to let other nations do the bleeding for her. The British military limited their operations to maintaining a hunger blockade and to efforts to bring other countries into the war.

The unjust blockade of Germany was a very serious matter and clearly illustrated the errors made by the German economic leadership. Raw materials and basic foodstuffs were in short supply. The weakened farm community could not replace the stores, which, in peacetime had been imported. The threat of starvation drove the German government to attempt to win a quick victory, but when the front bogged down, this possibility was lost. The introduction of food rationing did not prevent the need for the people to share an ever-diminishing food supply. General undernourishment resulted, while sickness and disease spread rapidly and horribly. The death rate rose, as the birth rate fell, until the very existence of the German people was at risk.

In order to achieve total destruction of Germany, England successfully pursued a policy of widening the war. Finally, 27 countries stood against the four Central Powers. England reached her goal through a combination of economic and military power. Lies served her well; she was not ashamed to spread, worldwide, tales of the most shameless abominations supposedly committed by the Germans. The Jews, masters of the lie, found in this a rich area for exploitation. They helped wherever they could since this war was also their war. For them it was a matter of money and they increasingly worried about profits from the deliveries of war materials to the western powers. Only victory for the allies could guarantee profits for the American banking and industrial Jews. Therefore they sought, through the lies of the American President Wilson, to drive the American people into the war against Germany.

It was also a lie of Wilson's, which convinced the German people to lay down their arms, that he, through his words, could secure a just peace. Before the entire world he proclaimed the "14 Points" which concerned the freedom of the seas, the division of colonies, the self-determination of people, and the general disarmament, which would bring the war to a conclusion and would insure an equitable peace. A League of Nations would arbitrate all future disputes.

The Reich that finally, through trust in the American President, laid down its arms was not the Germany of 1914. The spirit of unity, which had marked the first war years, was gone. Hoarders were busy in the black market, as rationing became necessary. Profiteers, who reveled in their opportunity, did a brisk business in scarce goods. Those who had the money to pay the high prices wanted for nothing, but the poor suffered. Shirkers were everywhere and the politicians who thought only of themselves and their party instead of about how to strengthen the nation increased the (socio-economic) gap between the people. Marxists and Jews regularly agitated against the government and the war. They even called for strikes among defense and munitions workers, thereby constantly stabbing our struggling troops in the back, even as massive battles raged on the western front. And so German stood against German and, while the soldier at the front did his duty, the struggle was lost at home.

The German allies collapsed and abandoned their lines so that Germany's southern and southeastern borders lay wide open. Germany stood alone. Reserves of men and materials were no longer available. Therefore in October of 1918 the German government made a peace offer to Wilson on the basis of his 14 Points. The American President, however, dragged the negotiations out in order to further wear down the German people. And then he finally proposed new conditions: immediate end to submarine warfare, withdrawal from the occupied territories, and disarmament of the German army with the abdication of the emperor. Ludendorff objected strenuously to this "peace at gun point". He was fired. In November, under the leadership of the Jews, while the soldiers at the front fought on, riots broke out and spread to many cities. In Bavaria, the Jew, Eisner, called for a free state, and in Berlin the Marxists conspired to bring about a general strike. The Jew-Marxist revolt quickly reached its apex. Treasonous leaders used the fateful hour to organize a government and to declare Germany to be a republic. The war at the front, however, raged on. The emperor fled to Holland; Hindenburg took over command and led the army in an orderly retreat. Meanwhile, on November 11, 1918, in the forest of Compiègne, a German delegation accepted conditions of surrender, which showed the enemy's merciless hatred for Germany, and their fear of the unbowed German frontline troops.

The Hateful Conditions of the Peace

Already the hateful conditions of peace made the destructive will of the enemy clear to the German people. They demanded the evacuation, in 15 days, of occupied France, Alsace-Lorraine, and the Belgian territories, and in 25 days of the left bank of the Rhine. A tremendous number of cannons, machine guns, artillery pieces, airplanes, locomotives, railroad cars, and trucks, the majority of the fleet, including all the submarines, had to be immediately given up. These conditions destroyed the fighting fitness of the German Army and also undermined the internal defensive ability of the homeland. Indeed, the peace agreement had to be renewed monthly and this constantly opened the door for new conditions and thereby showed the total maliciousness of the enemy. Beyond this, the starving German people were separated by a blockade from any outside relief. And furthermore, in addition to horses and sheep, 140,000 milk cows had to be given up. This demand also meant the death of many calves. And even further, the entire merchant marine had to be delivered over to the enemy. The Germans were not to possess any naval tonnage for the transport of the necessities of life and since it was intended not to allow German agriculture to flourish, Germany also had to give up the farm machinery necessary for successful food production. (To insure compliance) the left bank of the Rhine was also occupied by the enemy and the cost of this had to be born by the German people. And finally, while Germany returned all war prisoners immediately, German soldiers returned home 1 or 2 years after the war.

The Hateful Dictatorial Treaty of Versailles

If the conditions of the armistice were inhumane, the "Diktat" of Versailles was even worse. The enemy refused to announce a full solution and used the delay to increase the suffering and to make Germany more pliable. The military requirements of the "Diktat" of Versailles made Germany defenseless. All the weapons, which remained after the cease-fire, had to be given up or destroyed. All fortifications were demolished. The general military obligations of German citizens (draft) were not allowed to remain in place. Just as was done at the Peace of Tilsit, the size of the army was reduced. Only 100,000 soldiers serving for 12-year terms were

allowed. Germany was also forbidden to build or to own heavy weapons, tanks, or aircraft. The Coast Guard was left with only a few small ships.

In order to magnify the economic dependence of Germany on the enemy states, the German territory was reduced. In total they robbed 72,000 square kilometers of land. France annexed Alsace-Lorraine and for 15 years occupied the Saar region. Belgium acquired Eupen-Malmedy and Denmark got North Schleswig, Posen West Prussia and a piece of Upper Silesia. were promised to Poland. Again, as was the case in the Tilsit Treaty, Danzig was declared to be a free state.

In addition to its European territorial losses, Germany also lost all of its colonies and the loss of these colonies was particularly painful for the ravaged German Reich. As League of Nations mandate territories they fell primarily to France and England. Through this dismemberment, the enemy powers were able to plunder Germany, which lost ten percent of its forests, sixteen percent of its farmland, twelve percent of its cattle, twenty six percent of its coal and fertilizer production, forty one percent of its iron reserves, and ninety percent of its merchant marine. The Rhine, the Elbe, the Oder, the Danube, and the North Sea/ Baltic Sea canal were internationalized and therefore any ship was free to travel without permission from the Reich. In the governmental administration the representatives of foreign powers had equal say with the representatives of the Reich. Another very significant exploitation was the seizure of collective private German wealth located in foreign countries. In this way the enemy extorted huge sums from a prostrated Germany.

In order to hide this plundering, the enemy countries spoke about reparations for German injustices. The demands on Germany were of such a high magnitude that the German currency lost its value. By 1923, the value of the German Mark sank steadily to unbelievable depths. What could have been bought for a 100-Mark, or 1,000-Mark note was in the end priced in the millions and billions. Therefore, savings accounts were wiped out and the accumulated wealth of the people was destroyed. The goal of the enemy, to leave the Reich defenseless, was economically and militarily achieved. But Germany was also to be left without honor. And therefore, the scandalous "Diktat" of Versailles named Germany alone as responsible for the World War. In addition to this war guilt lie, the enemy broadcast the colonial lies, which maintained that the Germans could not administer or develop colonies. One particular disgrace manifested itself in the occupation of the Rhineland by French (colonial) Negro troops, thereby placing German culture under the dominance of wild uncultured hoards. When this frightful, hateful realization became known in Germany, it filled every true German with bitter resentment and unending anger; but the homeland was incapable of effecting any objection to these hateful conditions. The weak German government was content to make ineffective protests. On the 20th of June 1919, they signed the hateful treaty in the Hall of Mirrors of Versailles. The enemy, in order to mock Germany, selected as the site for this signing the very place where Bismarck's Reich had been founded. ...

ADOLF HITLER'S STRUGGLE FOR GERMANY

From Adolf Hitler's Life

Boyhood Years

The little town of Braunau lies on the lively river Inn. It belongs to a district, which at one time was a part of Bavaria but later fell under Marla Teresa of Austria. Braunau became a border town and the river Inn became the boundary between the two brother states. It was in this beautiful little city, on April 20. 1889, that Adolf Hitler came into the world. Because his father was an official in the toll administration, he was often transferred, and in this way, Adolf Hitler became familiar with many border towns and also with the customs and lifestyles in the borderlands. It wasn't long before the boy came to understand the injustices, which Germans endured in the multinational Austrian state because they were separated from the German speaking people on the other side of the Inn. This was made even clearer to him since, in his family home, he experienced genuine German customs.

Adolf Hitler's father wished that his son would also become a civil servant, but Adolf Hitler wanted to be an artist. All the efforts of his father to discourage his intention failed. This dream was strengthened when his sketching abilities were recognized in high school. However, the premature death of his father in 1903, and of his mother In 1907, destroyed his plans. At 18 he was forced to go out on his own. He went to Vienna.

In Vienna

The Vienna that Adolf Hitler entered with the highest of hopes brought him only disappointments. The first of these was that the art school rejected his preliminary sketches with the remark that he was better suited for architecture. Adolf Hitler, however, could not apply to architectural school because he did not have the requisite academic preparation. Despite this he wanted to become a master builder. He had to earn the money himself to continue his education, so he became a construction worker. At the work place, for the first time, he encountered Marxists and discovered the nature of their divisive desires. He heard daily about the class struggle of the workers and since he disagreed with and objected to these ideas, he often spoke against them. However, his inflammatory coworkers refused to pay any attention to him and indeed often threatened him. He had to protect himself from these open threats and was forced to change jobs often.

In his free time Adolf Hitler carefully studied Marxist teachings and soon came to understand the noxious undertakings of the Jews who lived in large numbers in the Austrian capital. He became an anti-Semite because he leaned to know the Jews as seducers of the workers and as parasites on the people. This time in Vienna also made him a socialist. The hardships of the working class and the suffering in the worker's neighborhoods made him understand the necessity for creating good and sensible living conditions for all segments of the population. In Vienna, Adolf Hitler became an advocate of a greater Germany. He experienced day after day the reality of how the Habsburg regime favored its foreign population and mistreated the Germans within its borders.

Following these bitter disappointments in Vienna, Adolf Hitler went to Munich. Here in the southern German art capital of the Reich he felt at home. While busily resuming his education, he happily continued his life's work. He earned his living through the drawing of sketches. However, the beautiful Munich days soon ended as the World War broke out.

German Soldier

Immediately at the beginning of August 1914, Adolf Hitler made a request to serve as an Austrian, in a Bavarian regiment. As a volunteer he entered the Bavarian regiment number 16, also called the List regiment, after a short training, in October, Hitler went to the front. He was with the volunteers who achieved outstanding fame in the battles of Flanders and Landgemarch. As a result of his bravery he received the Iron Cross, 2nd class. In October 1915, he was promoted to corporal and, in the following year at the battle of the Somme, shrapnel seriously wounded him. After his rehabilitation, and at his own request, he returned to his old regiment. In September of 1917, he received the Military Service Cross. Furthermore, for outstanding bravery in the face of the enemy, in May of 1918, he received a regimental commendation and in the same year was awarded, among other commendations, the Iron Cross, 1st Class. In his nomination, the regimental commander, on July 31, 1918, declared :

"Since the advance of the regiment, Hitler has acquitted himself admirably in every conflict. As a message carrier he functioned equally well in both the trench warfare and in the most vicious and cold blooded of maneuvers and was always immediately prepared to voluntarily bring messages into the most difficult places and under the most dangerous of circumstances. After the loss of communication in the most pressing of battle conditions we must be thankful to Hitler and his tireless self-sacrificing actions that important messages, despite all difficulties, got through. I consider Hitler, unconditionally, as worthy to be decorated with the Iron Cross, 1st Class."

In the battle of Ypre, in October, 1918, the Fuhrer was caught in an artillery barrage of English mustard gas. Blinded, he was taken to a military hospital at Pasewalk in Pommerania where he heard the depressing news of the defeat of Germany. At first he couldn't believe it. Had everything been in vain, all the struggles and deprivations and sacrifices, in vain the death of all his comrades? Is this what the German soldier had struggled for, that now the Marxist troublemakers and Jewish seducers should slander the fatherland? The more Adolf Hitler reflected on this treason the more his hatred against these traitors grew. He became absolutely determined to change this destiny. Adolf Hitler became a politician.

THE LEADER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST GERMAN WORKER'S PARTY

The Founding of the NSDAP

Hitler had hardly recovered when he took up the struggle against those who would destroy Germany. In Munich he became the education officer for the first Bavarian National Guard regiment. His duties also included the political education of the soldiers and, for this

reason, it was necessary for him to attend the meetings of the various political parties. It was in this way that he became acquainted with the German Workers Party. The purpose for which its six members strove was good, but not clearly enough delineated. Adolf Hitler became member number seven. He wanted to become the conscience and voice of the people. In the first meetings the Fuhrer became a speaker. His fiery words, their simplicity and clarity so convincing, impacted the entire audience. His glowing call for action found kindred hearts.

The number of members grew steadily and by the 24th of February, 1920, the party was able to call for a mass meeting in the Munich Hofbrauhaus. Raucous applause spontaneously erupted as the Fuhrer announced and explained the 25 point party program. Shortly thereafter, the party took the name National Socialist German Worker's Party (Nazi). In order to protect their meetings, an organized bodyguard was formed which took the name SA that stands for storm section. (Sturm Abteilung). The suffering of the people grew. The weaker the government became the greater the longing of the people for salvation. Adolf Hitler's manly will, his faith, and his clear political program, attracted the best people into his party. The Nazis became a people's movement with roots in every German region.

Adolf Hitler became, in the summer of 1921, the first chairman of the party and thereby the Fuhrer of the movement. He forged the party into a hard and determined core organization for the struggle. In the first months of the following year Adolf Hitler brought his Nazi party before the public. The first party convention in Munich was the result of the absolute determination of the Hitler group to push through a renewal of Germany and to push aside the "November Criminals."

9th November, 1923

As the year 1923 began, suffering and doubt reigned supreme in Germany. Separatists and Communists sought to divide and split the people and the nation. Money was devalued. French troops were on the Rhine and the Rhur. This forced the German people into an action of liberation. High Bavarian officials, commanders of the Bavarian army and the police, disassociated themselves from the inept national government. The time was right. Adolf Hitler wanted to bring about a renewal of the nation through an overthrow of the Bavarian government. He prepared his party and on the night between the 8th and 9th of November in the Burgerbraukeller before the assembled German comrades he called for a national revolution. Adolf Hitler, Ludendorff and several Bavarian commanders swore at this meeting to a united struggle against the cowardly national government. However, on the very same night, the Bavarian commanders treacherously broke their word. They were not prepared to fight for one Germany but rather wanted an independent kingdom of Bavaria. The traitors brought in outside troops and outlawed the Nazi party and in this way tried to crush the revolution. Nevertheless, on November 9th, Adolf Hitler and his confidants undertook the march through the streets of Munich where they were surrounded by cheering crowds. It was clear that the Fuhrer would not shrink back from these treacherous power bosses and that he would show himself to be the true voice of the people. He and Ludendorff marched at the head of the demonstration. When they reached the Feldherrnhalle, the police, under orders from the government, fired into the ranks of the National Socialists.

Ph. Bouhle reported in the Struggle for Germany:

At the Feldherrnhalle a powerful police contingent was deployed to stop the demonstration by force; but there was no turning back. One way or another, even if that meant suffering, the march to freedom had to be carried to its conclusion. In the ranks of the police an order was given and the most frightening occurred: German men in the exercise of their military duty fired upon the German freedom movement at whose head marched Adolf Hitler and the Quarter Master General of World War I. The salvos crackled mercilessly into the thickly packed crowd and countless National Socialists fell into pools of their own blood. Adolf Hitler suffered broken bones and a shoulder injury. His true follower Ulrich Graf, who had thrown himself defensively in front of the Fuhrer, collapsed from several bullet wounds. Goring fell with a serious bullet wound to his leg. Fourteen heroes, whose names will live to eternity, lay dead on the pavement. The Nazi flag, drenched in their blood, was saved and became, as the "blood flag", the holiest symbol of the movement.

Sixteen true comrades fell. Two days thereafter the Fuhrer was arrested. Later he was convicted of high treason and sentenced to 5 years in prison. This time in the prison at Landsburg he used to write his book Mein Kampf. He showed in it the path his life had taken and he laid out in wonderful clarity the path to the renewal of Germany. Millions read his book and year after year it inspired new followers. By December 1924, Hitler had been pardoned, his determination and will intact, he once again took up the struggle.

ADOLF HITLER TAKES POWER

Murder and Terror Directed at the Nazi Party

Conditions in the Reich improved as a result of heavy loans from the Americans. The chimneys smoked and the machines hummed even though this was a result of the false economy. People were not concerned at the high rates of interest and the eventual need to pay back loans. Therefore, it was very difficult for Adolf Hitler to convince the people that this economic upswing was only an illusion. He saw his task to work tirelessly to expose this. With complete certainty he predicted the imminent political and economic collapse of the Reich. The truth of his predictions laid a solid foundation for his great and impending political success. Adolf Hitler was determined to take over the government through legal means. This meant that the National Socialists, as a political party in the democracy, had to attract enough members and votes to rise to power. Adolf Hitler knew that this road was boring and exhausting but he believed untiringly in ultimate triumph. In 1925 the National Socialist German Worker's Party was reconstituted. Adolf Hitler made it such that every German could grasp the newly formulated message. Soon local political groups appeared all over Germany. Also, organizations corresponding to various professional and social groups appeared. In 1926 the Hitler Youth was created. Nazi students organized themselves as well as lawyers, doctors, and teachers.

It was now necessary to take over some permanent government positions in order for the National Socialist movement to show once and for all how it would govern were it in the position of local or regional power. In 1929 this was realized through great electoral victories in Koburg and Thuringen. These regions were restructured after National Socialist principles. All of Germany saw the success and the party won new converts.

The rise of the National Socialist German Worker's Party was not smooth. Enemies who were in control of all the power in Germany used all of their energy to eliminate Adolf Hitler, even including a gag order intended to silence him and thereby have him be forgotten. But his comrades spoke for him and Adolf Hitler, even as a silent guest, was wildly cheered. His enemies also tried to destroy his honor through slanderous accusations, but his life was pure and clear and remained so. When all of these attacks failed, the enemies finally resorted to brutal force against the movement. The National Socialists were persecuted with assaults and murders. S.A., SS and the Hitler Youth had to carry the main weight of the struggle. They were ambushed or shot at when they were found alone at night or when they gathered together in small groups or if they tried to conduct a demonstration. These dangers only forged the party members ever tighter into a hardened troop. The number of those murdered in Germany grew to over 400, and those wounded numbered in the thousands.

The Final Victory

The noblest of German blood spilled in the desperate struggle for power in the Reich. While the SA in the streets did not shrink back from any fight, the party struggled mightily for the hearts and minds of each German citizen. One political campaign after another was entered. Every party member, every SA man and SS man engaged himself at every level. The Fuhrer criss-crossed Germany speaking to the people in every corner. The success of such an undertaking was not in doubt. In 1930 the Nazi party already had 293,000 members and indeed 61/2 million Germans registered their approval with the ideas of National Socialism at the Reichstag election of September 14, 1933. The National Socialist Party went from 12 to 107 seats in the Reichstag. Their bitterest enemy was the Communists. In the same election they took 77 seats. The powerful rise of the National Socialist German Worker's Party stood firm against the decline of the Reich. Hindenburg was the President of the Germany. The centralist chancellor Bruning followed a political strategy of fulfilling the policies of his predecessor and sought hopelessly to stop the economic decline of the Reich through hard austerity policies. More and more Germans began to admire Adolf Hitler especially when, after their 1931 meeting and discussions, the German President began to adopt his plans. The year 1932 began and in the very first month yet another of Adolf Hitler's supporters was forced to give up his life. The Hitler youth boy, Herbert Norkus, was murdered on the 24th of January by the conniving Communists.

Dr. Goebbels wrote bitterly:

"In Moabit a small Hitler youth boy was stabbed to death. He was driven like a wild beast through the streets and finally a brutal thug stabbed him through the chest with a dagger. The boy dragged himself into a doorway whimpering for help. On the stone wall of the house entranceway one can still see the imprint of the bloody hand with which the boy, for the last time, tried to pull himself up."

The responsibility lay with a weak government that worked against the Hitler movement. They outlawed the uniforms, marches, gatherings, and newspapers of the National Socialist German Worker's Party. This arbitrary action was not the will of the people but resulted from a fear of National Socialism. Then came the day of the national presidential election. All the parties clustered themselves behind the name Hindenburg. Even the Marxists voted for him in order to undermine the victory of National Socialism and so therefore Hindenburg, for the second time, became President. Indeed the 13.4 million votes for Adolf Hitler indicated an eventual final victory of his movement. Also the immediately following assembly elections on the 31st of July 1932, which brought 230 of the 608 seats, showed that National Socialism was firmly anchored among the people. And again this time the Fuhrer carried the main burden in the election campaign. At more than 200 mass meetings he spoke to his constituents. As the German people once again went to the polls in November of 1932 the National Socialists lost 2 million votes. The enemies were jubilant about this setback because it gave them new hopes. But the Fuhrer remained confident. Indeed, his movement was not only the biggest party but also the most courageous. When at the beginning of 1933 the elections in Lipper Land were to take place, the National Socialist Party with great determination and their best people, took up the challenge. It was now time for the party to prove that it would stand strong. The election was a glorious victory, so decisive that President Hindenburg named Adolf Hitler German Chancellor on the 30th of January, 1933.

Dr. Goebbels wrote :

“January 30, 1933, around noon, we were all sitting in the Kaiserhof and waiting. The Fuhrer was with the Reich President. Outside people were standing between the Kaiserhof and the Chancellery Building quietly waiting. What was happening inside? These were difficult hours of waiting. Finally a car turned the corner of the driveway. The masses cheered, the Fuhrer was coming. A few minutes later he was with us in the room. He said nothing and we said nothing but his eyes were full of tears. It finally arrived. The Fuhrer was named Chancellor. The Reich President had already sworn him in. The decisive moment had arrived. Germany was on the threshold of an historic moment. We were all numbed by emotion. Each of us shook the Fuhrer's hand and it was as though the old bonds were once again renewed. By seven o'clock Berlin seemed like a mad anthill and then the torch light parade began. Endlessly from seven till one at night, people marched by the Reich Chancellery, SA men, SS men, Hitler Youth, Civil Servants, men, women, and fathers who held up their small children to the Fuhrer's window. It was an unbelievable celebration. A few meters from the Reich Chancellery the Reich President stood at his window, a magnificent hero's image, honorable, and surrounded by a mythical aura. With his walking stick he tapped out the rhythm of the military marches. Hundreds of thousands flowed past the window in an eternal cadence. That was the new birth of the nation. Germany was awake.”