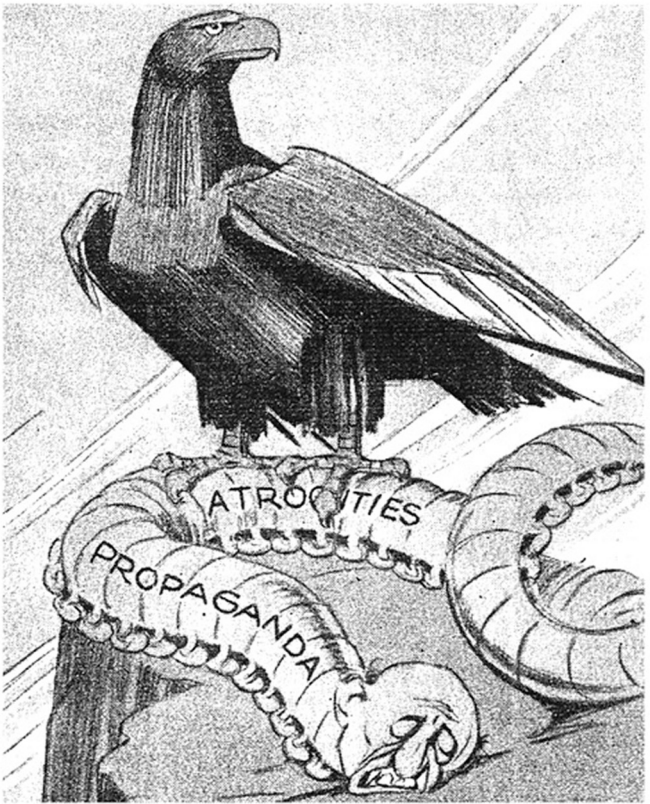


## Germany's Defense Against "Atrocities Propaganda"

As a matter of information and in its habitual non-partizan spirit "The Literary Digest" offers below official and editorial explanations of the government policy of the Dictator Chancellor Adolph Hitler, which have been obtained by cable at the particular request of "The Digest"

**I** AM NOT FAMILIAR with any atrocities, either actual or alleged. How can I help it if you allege atrocities?" With a flash of fire in his keen eyes, Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, President of the German Reichsbank, made this declaration in an interview, "varied by gay retorts to defiant rudeness," which the tall financial authority gave to ship news reporters at New York on his way to Washington to participate in a series of conferences with President Roosevelt on world affairs.



### The German Eagle Treads Down Foreign Lies

—"Kladderadatsch" (Berlin).

Told that the German Government plans to send a committee to the United States to ascertain America's reaction to the Nazi program of the German Government, Dr. Schacht remarked acridly:

"Your papers should enlighten you as to what is happening. There is no need for sending committees to do this. If your papers gave the facts it would greatly help."

By way of following this suggestion of so distinguished a German official, THE LITERARY DIGEST asked Chancellor Hitler for a direct comment on his policy, especially in its effect on Jews in Germany. Chancellor Hitler referred the request to Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels, Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in the Nazi Government, who specifically authorizes the following statement to be made in THE LITERARY DIGEST:

"No one in Germany combats the Jew because he is a Jew. No Jew in Germany is disturbed because he is a Jew. Germany defends herself exclusively against the Bolshevist elements, and in connection with this defense we can not discriminate whether a Bolshevist is a German or a Jew.

"Furthermore, the German people are attempting to reachieve German leadership for the country.

"For example, if 2,400 lawyers out of Berlin's total of 3,500 are Jewish, it is readily understandable to any one that the people must be opposed to such a situation."

**F**URTHER explanation of the Hitler policy appears in an editorial especially written for THE LITERARY DIGEST, and communicated by cable, by Director Fritz Klein, chief editor of the powerful *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*. The transition to the present stage in Germany would not have been so brusque, he maintains, if two or three years ago the Hitler movement could have been incorporated into a government together with other parties. As things are, Dr. Klein points out:

"Germany at present is undergoing a political and spiritual revolution, the main reason for which is the protest of the German people against the Treaty of Versailles. With this is closely related the parliamentary system of government which has proved incompatible with the needs of the German peoples. In addition there is the tiredness of the masses because of the ever-more-frequent political elections, and the sympathy of the young generation for a strict régime based upon the nation's history, national pride, honor, and freedom.

"These reasons made the National Socialists grow under the lead of Adolf Hitler, who has a great talent for mass psychology, oratory, and propaganda."

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The organization of the party, aside from the minor work of a million people, the editor of the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* goes on to say, is the achievement of about 100,000 students and ex-officers who, owing to unemployment, believed they must give up hopes of fine civilian positions. In this respect, the party is "of consequence in the world and the German economic crisis," and he continues:

"According to democratic principles the Hitler party, which for years was the strongest in the Reichstag, ought to have participated in the Government. The former rulers and supporters of democratic parliamentarism omitted, however, to recognize this obligation. This omission is one of the most important reasons for the Right Wing grasping power in January.

"How outmoded the former system actually was is shown by the astounding fact that its chief representatives abandoned power without the slightest opposition, leaving in the lurch their political convictions and the masses of their followers and voluntarily exiling themselves abroad.

"The power of the new Government thereby was consolidated in surprisingly quicker time than their chief representatives themselves had supposed possible. The danger of Communism was completely eliminated, and the Hitler party therewith rendered a great service to all Europe and the whole world.

"Now the most important task is to stabilize a statesmanlike domestic and foreign policy. In view of this it is impossible to speak in terms of final results, altho the Hitler Cabinet has attacked the most difficult tasks, the solution of which all his predecessors failed to find.

"The best example is the strong unification of the Federal Administration and the emancipation of the workers and trade-unions from the spirit of class war."

**T**HAT the Hitler Government, despite the best intentions, can not be expected within three months to rectify every political mistake made in the past decade, by some of the leaders of former governments, is conceded by the editor of this famous German newspaper, and he admits further:

"Also as a matter of course, certain disturbances and injustices are unavoidable in their entirety, but it is my conviction that this can be overcome. In foreign politics I believe that the Government will adhere strictly to the Chancellor's repeated utterance, that Germany's greatest interest is the maintenance of peace and understanding.

"The Right Wing German Government position is a greater concession to the idea of peace than would be that of a Left Wing government, whose members would have to defend themselves against criticism for lack of patriotism.

"If the Hitler movement two or three years ago could have been incorporated into a government together with other parties, then the transition could have been accomplished with lesser rumblings. It is not the Hitlerites' fault that former governments recognized this fact too late."

Drawing a parallel between Hitler and Mussolini, the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, looking backward, suggests "watchful waiting":

"Mussolini marched upon Rome, shaking the prejudices of the Liberal world, and awakening the self-respect of a new National world. The press assailed him as a disturber of the peace.

"But the positive achievements of Fascism gradually have silenced the critics.

"Also, Germany has been quicker to cut the ground from beneath the feet of hostile propagandists. The sooner she does this, the sooner she will be stabilized and the Government may fulfil a program which will be just toward all. Thus Germany will be a much more certain factor in European peace than a Germany which might result from a class war."

**A** CABLED editorial to *THE LITERARY DIGEST* from the

[OldMagazineArticles.com](http://OldMagazineArticles.com)



Joseph Goebbels

## “Atrocities Propaganda”

*Vossische Zeitung* reveals its belief that while “atrocities propaganda” against Germany in foreign countries will cease, trade opposition will continue, and it tells German readers that:

“One must realize clearly that despite the termination of the atrocity propaganda abroad, nevertheless the immediate termination of economic opposition abroad against Germany is not to be expected. Rather, in the future, we must count upon being boycotted.”



Then the organ of Hitler's National Socialist party, the Munich *Voelkischer Beobachter*, commenting on a *Manchester Guardian* report that the fire in the Reichstag building could be traced to a supporter of the Nazi Government, says:

“We hereby nail this shameless lie. The accusation remains unexampled in the history of any cultured nation.”

**R**EFERRING to an article in the *Journal de Genève*, by Georg Bernhard, former editor of the *Vossische Zeitung*, in which he avers that 50,000 Jews have already left Germany, and that 100,000 to 200,000 more will depart, the *Voelkischer Beobachter* declares:

“It is sufficient comment to point out that a series of nations already have adopted measures to protect themselves against the ‘blessing’ of Jews and Marxists already ‘fled’ abroad. Bernhard's outbreak of passion has done a particularly poor service.”

And as a final stroke of Hitler “efficiency” Berlin Associated Press dispatches report on May 10 the seizure by the Hitler Government of the property of the Socialist party and the militant non-partizan Reichsbanner organization, which altho having some Centrist and Democratic members, is “overwhelmingly Socialist.”



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