

PATHFINDER

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Hitler Speaks

When Adolf Hitler was made chancellor of the Third Reich on January 30, 1933, he pledged his government would (1) unify the German people; (2) eliminate class distinction; and (3) secure equal rights abroad for Germany. At that time the Nazi leader addressed the nation: "Now, German people, give us four years and then judge us!"

That was four years ago. Last week



the unchallenged dictator of 68,000,000 Germans stood for two hours before his rubber-stamp Reichstag, specially assembled in Kroll Opera House in honor of the fourth birthday of Nazi power, and reviewed the past four years. Finding them good years with many achievements and all his pledges redeemed, Der Fuehrer outlined Germany's future policy and aspirations in domestic and international fields.

In his momentous speech, listened to by all Germany and most of Europe, the Reichsfuehrer did these things:

¶ Restated Germany's self-assumed military sovereignty.†

¶ Solemnly withdrew Germany's signature to the "war guilt" clause of the Versailles treaty.

¶ Called the Reich the real democracy of the world, a nation of "beautiful democracy, based on common sense."

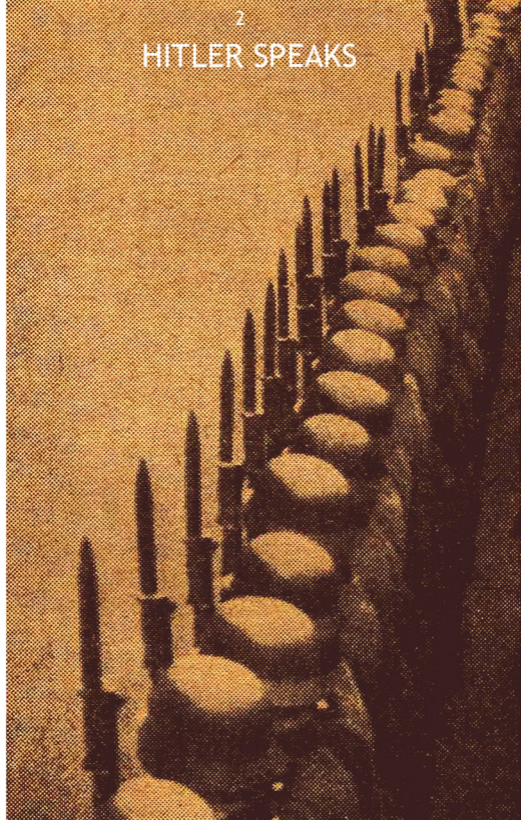
¶ Placed the Reichsbank and Germany's railroads under control of the Nazi government, freeing them of Versailles treaty restrictions.

¶ Voiced peace overtures to France and guaranteed the territorial integrity of Belgium and Holland.

¶ Reiterated Germany's cry for her lost colonies, but said Germany would make no colonial demands on nations, such as Spain, which did not acquire any of the Reich's pre-war colonies.

¶ Denounced bolshevism anew, and reserved his bitterest jibes for the Jews.

† No one will deny Hitler's success in this respect. He has eliminated one by one all the limitations placed upon the Reich by the terms of the Versailles treaty, except colonies; increased his army from 100,000 to over a million; the nation's once forbidden air force has been developed to one of formidable scope; previously forbidden a large navy, the Reich is now building ships in many navy yards; the Rhineland has been remilitarized and Germany's inland waterways nationalized. In a declaration of the military's loyalty last week Colonel General Werner von Blomberg, head of the army, said: "Hitler, from the first day of his assumption of power, gave the army his fullest confidence. He has shown himself one of the greatest army creators in German history."



¶ Declared "the time of so-called surprises" from Nazi Germany "was ended."

¶ Blasted France's and England's hope for a Locarno pact in the East, and proclaimed again that the division of Europe into two opposing camps (Fascism and Communism) was already an accomplished fact.

Expressing a desire for peace, Hitler closed the foreign section of his speech by suggesting these eight points as "essential to the general pacification of Europe and world cooperation": (1) the nations must have inner social and political peace; (2) they must sincerely respect all nations; (3) the League of Nations must become an instrument of evolutionary common sense; (4) there must be political equality among the nations; (5) there must be no differences in the responsibility for armaments, but a common measure according to the needs and requirements of each nation; (6) peace is impossible with a group of international liars; (7) European questions must remain within practical possibilities, and (8) respect for national minorities would greatly help the peace of Europe.

While the whole speech was moderate and conciliatory, its general nature proved a disappointment to London and Paris. They had hoped for more definite replies to their recent requests that Germany cooperate more closely in peace work and agree to consider limitations of armaments. Despite this, indications in London and Paris were that both countries would push their efforts to bring Germany into a general European settlement.

Just before Hitler spoke the Reichstag re-elected General Hermann Goering as its president, and extended for four years the dictatorial powers which heretofore the Fuehrer had had granted to himself only one year at a time. This was necessary, Hitler said, because of his fear the "rest of Europe may become more infested with bolshevism," and to carry out the current Nazi Four-Year Plan for economic self-sufficiency.