

# Can Hitler Be "Stopped"?

By Sidney J. Abelson

There are many ways to skin a cat, but to the statesmen of today there is only one way to stop Hitler—by the use of military might. It is necessary, they say, to fight a madman with his own weapons, to use force to battle force; and in a limited sense, but in a limited sense only, they are right.

What is overlooked is the fact that wars are waged not for glory alone, but fundamentally for economic conquest, and the battle can be fought more effectively in fields, factories and workshops than in gory trenches.

Hitler can be stopped—but not with his own weapons. Indeed, it is becoming increasingly evident that the Fuehrer has lifted himself up by his bootstraps and in doing so has defied successfully all the laws of gravity. The same type of "economists" who in 1913 and early 1914 said a large scale European war was economically impossible were still chanting the same tune in 1938—but the beat of Hitler's drums leading the march to conquest drowned them out. While Chamberlain toys with an umbrella, Hitler works miracles with bayonets.

How then can Hitler be stopped?

There is an answer, but before I give it I must point out that even if by the time you read these lines the anticipated European war is raging, the answer holds. Let the war be waged ever so valorously, neither Hitler nor Hitlerism ever will be stopped on the field of battle. But fight Hitler on more fundamental grounds and his superior military power will crumble to defeat.

Hitler can be stopped by opposing him with the exact opposite of those principles of race and state which he has used to "resurrect" the Reich. Instead of racial persecution, provide racial tolerance; instead of religious suppression provide religious freedom; instead of state control of economic enterprise,

provide complete freedom of individual endeavor.

This is all very well in a theoretical sense, you may say, but how are these antidotes to be applied practically?

Strangely enough, the opportunity falls to two nations noted not for enlightenment but for backwardness, nations which at this very moment are either being drawn into the Nazi orbit or else are preparing futilely to solve the problem through military action.

Let us look at the situation not through the eyes of statesmen who are currying favor with political backers but realistically, through the searchlight of incontrovertible facts and their consequential logic.

It was reported at the time that Polish Foreign Minister Beck negotiated a "Stop-Hitler" treaty with Great Britain that Poland was promised British aid in solving her "Jewish problem." I submit that the one way not to stop Hitler is by aggravating anti-Semitism, by acknowledging that any validity whatsoever applies to a policy of racial discrimination. I submit further that Poland's solution of her "Jewish problem" lies in taking precisely the opposite tack from Hitler's, namely, in offering herself as an asylum for Jews and other refugees from Nazi dominated areas, and I make this suggestion not on sentimental grounds but on the grounds of sound economic policy. Jefferson said, "The cure for the evils of democracy is more democracy." It may now be said, particularly with respect to Poland, that "the cure for the 'evils' of her Jewish population is a greater Jewish population" coupled, of course, with a basic re-

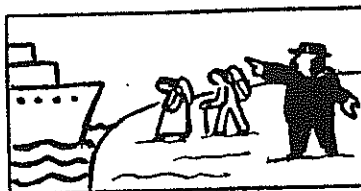
vision of landholding traditions.

And here are the facts: First of all, Poland is far from being "overpopulated." Indeed, her 33,000,000 people live on 150,013 square miles of territory, a density of but 222 to the square mile. Compare this with the population density of Holland, which is 667 to the square mile, and that of Belgium, which is 691 to the square mile, and you see at once that Poland has plenty of elbow room. But what about the quality of Poland's land? The records show that Poland grows a diversity of crops in abundance—wheat, rye, barley, oats, potatoes. Of her total territory 50% is arable, 17% is meadow and pasture, 24% forest. Dr. Isaiah Bowman, a very noted authority, states categorically,\* "If agriculture were modernized and cultivation practices improved, there is no doubt that Poland could not only feed herself but also export agricultural products."

What is holding Poland back? Once more I quote Dr. Bowman:\*\* "Among large landholders 18,000 own 40% of the total area of Poland and leave much of their holdings uncultivated, with the resultant overcrowding of adjacent communities. To better the conditions of life, the Polish Diet in July, 1920, voted drastic land partition laws. But even this action will not give everybody a piece of land, nor will it necessarily increase production."

So much for agriculture. The next question is what about minerals? Again we find that Poland's mineral production is substantial and includes coal, iron ore, zinc, lead, potash, petroleum, a variety and quantity of raw materials sufficient to provide the basis for a real modern state.

Why then does Poland trail progress? Is there an answer in the fact that she has but 4,000 industrial plants and less than 600,000 workmen? Can it be that Poland lacks that very man power which Hitler is driving out of the Reich?



Chamberlain may boast that he displays a statesmanly virility in switching from a policy of appeasement to one of *Realpolitik*, but his alleged realism will not fool those who face these simple facts. And Beck, in all the glory of his diplomatic triumph, will achieve no realistic victory above the level of a ward-heeler's success. For the basic fact remains: Poland has been endowed by nature with vast resources, and by man with an economic system that defeats enjoyment of this natural bounty.

The solution? It seems obvious. Poland's agriculture cries out for modernization. Her industry is in desperate need of development. Why not welcome into her borders those thousands of enterprising and skilled people whom Hitler is driving out? With another 500,000 or even 1,000,000 people Poland still would be "under-populated."† The land of Kosciusko could enjoy the benefit of those skills which Jews and anti-Hitler Germans have gained in that Reich which, before Hitler, was ac-

claimed throughout the universe as a fatherland of scientific and industrial progress. "The stones that the Third Reich-builder rejected would become the cornerstones of new temples,"

If, in addition to acquiring overnight an army of skilled men and women which otherwise she could not hope to develop in less than a generation, Poland were to reform her economic structure to conform to those natural laws which Henry George has organized and clarified, the picture would be complete. Poland would enjoy such an upsurge of modern civilized progress that even Nazi-land would be compelled to stop and take notice; the competition itself would force Hitler to withdraw many if not all of his restrictive measures. In short, Hitler would be stopped.

The Rumanian picture resembles Poland's in many ways. Indeed, in basic aspects the similarity is so striking that with a mere interchange of statistics what is said of Poland could be said with equal ap-

plicability of Rumania. All in all, Rumania could take the same steps recommended for Poland, and consequently enjoy the same predicted results. Let her welcome the German Jews and other refugees and make use of their modern skills; let her drop her clumsy efforts at land reform through mere partition of estates and adopt the natural system of land tenure as embodied in the principle of the social collection of rent.

Then, from the Baltic to the Black Sea there would be an army of enlightenment, an example of progress that would prove far mightier than Hitler's military strength. Perhaps this is what Isaiah meant when he prophesied, "They shall beat their swords into plough shares; neither shall there be war any more."

\* "The New World," p. 407.

\*\* Ibid., p. 423.

† Warren S. Thomson in his "Population Problems" (p. 425) writes: ". . . it is impossible to see a way of so exactly evaluating the different factors that enter into the calculation of the economic optimum that we can ever say with authority that such and such is the optimum population for such and such an area."