

About Adolf Hitler

An Opinion by Lloyd George

from an article in the "Daily Express", London, following his German tour in September, 1936

"I have just met the German Führer and learned something of the great changes he has brought about. Whatever one may think of his methods -- and they are certainly not those of a parliamentary country -- there can nevertheless be no doubt that he has brought about a remarkable revolution in the spirit of the Germans, in their relations with one another and in their social and economic attitude. He was justified in declaring at Nuremberg that his Movement has made a new Germany. It is no longer the Germany of the first 10 post-war years -- crushed, defeated and weighed down by a feeling of sorrow and incapability, but a Germany full of hope and confidence, and inspired by a new resolution.

"One man performed this miracle. He is a born leader, a magnetic, dynamic personality with a common aim, a resolute will and a fearless heart.

"He is the national leader not only in name but also in deeds. He has protected his people against the potential enemies surrounding them, and he has secured them against the constant fear of starvation which remained as one of the most tenacious memories of the final war years and the early period of peace. During these dark years, over 700,000 died of hunger. Regarding his popularity, especially among the youth, there cannot be the slightest doubt. The older people have faith in him and the youth idolizes him. It is not a question of admiration for a popular leader, but veneration of a national hero who has rescued his country from despair and humiliation.

"On the other hand, those who maintain that Germany has returned to her old imperialistic temperament can have no understanding for the character of the change.

"What Hitler said in Nuremberg is true. The Germans would resist to the last man any attempt to invade their country. But they have no desire to march into any other country. The leaders of the new Germany realize too well that Europe is too important a matter to be overrun and violated by any single nation, regardless of the size of its armaments.

"That Germany is rearming cannot be denied. After all the victors in the Great War except England disregarded their own disarmament pledges, the Führer abrogated the agreement which bound his own country, thus following the example of the nations who were responsible for the Versailles Treaty. It is today a commonly admitted part of Hitler's policy to develop an army strong enough to resist any attack, regardless of from which side it may come. I believe that he has already reached this point of inviolability.

"Any attempt to repeat Poincaré's methods in the Ruhr District would meet with the fanatical opposition of thousands of men who do not regard death for the Fatherland as a sacrifice but as an honour.

"Catholics and Protestants, Prussians and Bavarians, employers

"Hitler is the George Washington of Germany, the man who made his country independent of all of its oppressors. To those who have not actually seen and experienced the manner in which Hitler rules over the hearts and spirits of the German people this description may seem exaggerated, but it is nevertheless the plain truth. This whole nation will work better, make greater sacrifices, and if necessary, fight with firmer resolution because Hitler demands it.

Russians and Bavarians, employers and employees have all been welded into a unified nation. Religious, provincial and class distinctions no longer divide the country. A passionate spirit of unity prevails, born of dire necessity.

"I encountered throughout Germany a strong and uncompromising enmity for Bolshevism combined with a genuine admiration for the British people and the sincere desire for a better and friendlier understanding with England."

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