

Hitler's Baby Boomerang



Hitler is finding out that you can force the people to produce more tanks—but you can't make them parents if they don't want to be

by Ernest R. Pope

HITLER's totalitarian machine has developed a severe case of motor trouble. The once-dreaded Nazi juggernaut is missing badly on several cylinders. One of them is that part of the Nazi war effort known as the "Population Policy."

All of Germany's material and human resources were incorporated in the Third Reich juggernaut for one sole purpose: conquest. As an essential factor in his design for a new Germany, Hitler planned to step up the German birthrate, as an engineer increases the compression of a high-speed engine—to add to the striking power of his future army of "Nordic Masters" for a swastika-dominated world.

And when Hitler decided that the Reich should have more children, he launched an all-out population policy that put German baby production on a 24-hour mass production basis. But now the Nazi Baby Policy is back-firing.

For Adolf overlooked one important detail. You cannot regiment human machinery in the way you can organize the productive capacity of a nation. In thinking that because he could force German laborers to produce more tanks, he could force German women to produce more children, Hitler made a serious mistake. Now he is reaping a grim harvest for sowing the seeds of immorality, licentiousness, eroticism, the pseudo-science of Nazi ideology and forced breeding among the German people.

How has the Nazi population program operated? What steps did Hitler take to increase the Reich's birthrate? What other sinister purpose lay behind the great erotic drive he launched after he had consolidated his Nazi regime?

Germany's supreme dictator gave

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orders to all of his henchmen to put his Baby Policy into effect with as much energy as they were devoting to rearmament. This is how the different Nazi leaders tackled the program:

Joseph Goebbels, Reich Propaganda Minister, opened a drive for what he called "healthy eroticism." He flooded the movies, newspapers, magazines, theaters and nightclubs with pictures and in-the-flesh nudes, with stories glorifying amorous adventures and illegitimate as well as legitimate children. He hammered away at German senses and instincts, to make all girls and women feel that child-bearing was the greatest and most noble pleasure on earth, and to make the men think that the conquest of a woman was as glorious as victory over an enemy on the field of battle.

Reich Youth Leader Baldur von Schirach inspired his Nazi boys and girls with Goebbels' ideas then placed their camps close together to help them put these ideas into practice.

Reich Labor Leader Robert Ley crowded the 30 million men and women of his "Strength through Joy" organization into cruise ships, farmhouses and cheap hotels, so that they could multiply with the official blessing of the swastika.

Reich Minister of the Interior Frick passed laws entitling unmarried mothers to call themselves "Mrs." instead of "Miss," and providing state subsidies for illegitimate children and crushing taxes for childless adults.

The former fuehrer of German doctors, Dr. Wagner (now deceased), made birth control illegal in the Reich and abortion a crime punishable by death; at the same time he instituted clinics for the cure of sterility and the dispensing of aphrodisiacs.

To encourage child-bearing, the Fuehrer has become the official godfather of several hundred children born to large families in the Reich. "Der Fuehrer as Godfather" is a headline that appears almost every day.

THE MOTIVES behind Hitler's campaign are two-fold. Obviously he is intent upon populating the world with a race of Nordic masters. But there is another important reason which few people realize, not even in Germany, where they are frankly told to have

babies and let the state worry about the consequences. This obscure cause of nation wide immorality in the Reich is an integral part of the Nazi ersatz system. It is very simple:

The Fuehrer cannot afford to give his people enough bread and other foods to keep them contented. They have been grumbling for years at rationing, long hours, low wages and the absence of any luxuries other than those supplied by Nazi showmanship. Germany's material resources have all gone into war machinery. So Hitler has substituted free love. The insidious Nazi plan to keep the German people quiet under the totalitarian regime is to make the wares of Venus accessible to all as a gift from the government that robbed them of all other luxuries. To an enslaved people, this provides an opportunity to escape restraint and find a certain kind of happiness.

And the fruits of the Third Reich Population Policy are shocking indeed. Fifteen- and 16-year-old girls are having babies with the blessing of their Hitler Youth leaders. Unwed mothers with their illegitimate children have the right to evict married but childless couples from apartment houses in the Reich. Young women are telling midwives that they know only the nickname and color of the uniform of their baby's father. Official Nazi medical journals call Catholic nuns the "parasites of the Reich."

Babies at any price!

Himmler's SS Guards pool their funds to support their comrades' illegitimate children. The older a childless Guard is, the more he must contribute to the pool for his prolific fellows.

The following letter from a 16-year-old member of the BDM (League of German Girls) to her mother is typical of the spirit of Nazi youth under the influence of Hitler's baby campaign:

"There are 48 girls in our labor camp. Near us is a boys' camp. We see the boys very often, and mend their clothing as well as spend the evenings with them. A funny thing: of these 48 girls, 35 are pregnant. And, still funnier, I'm one of the 35 . . ."

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On the face of it, this is a pretty grim indication that young Nazis are taking the Population Policy seriously, and are losing no time in assuring their Fuehrer of a large and Aryan post-war generation.

BUT LET'S LOOK at the other side of the picture. We will find that Hitler's human mass production technique is proving itself a two-edged sword. To an ever-increasing degree, the very intensity of the Nazi baby drive is beginning to tell on the population.

Consider the following scene, which I witnessed when I was in Munich. It is symbolic of what is happening to many premature mothers.

In the main building of Munich's largest cemetery, the *Nordfriedhof*, is a long arcade with plate-glass windows on one side. I was attracted to one of these windows by a Guard of Honor of young BDM girls standing at attention in front of one "show case." Behind it, reclining in an open coffin surrounded by swastikas and flowers, lay a 15-year-old member of this BDM troop. In each of her arms reposed a twin, stillborn infant. The Guard of Honor was holding aloft a banner with the following inscription: **SHE DIED AS A BRAVE GERMAN MOTHER!**

Even those older German mothers who survive childbirth are contributing to the inferior crop of Nazi war babies. Insufficient and poor food, plus exhausting work in munition factories, in street cars or as mail carriers is sapping the strength of German womanhood and diluting the red blood needed for the large number of offspring demanded by the Fuehrer's production schedule.

Indeed, many women in the Reich, either as the result of bitter experience or through fear of the ever-blacker future, are now refusing to have children. Despite Gestapo supervision of pregnancy cases, they take great risks rather than become mothers. In 1939, German doctors estimated that there were 320,000 abortions in the Reich. In pre-Hitler days, medical journals placed abortion figures between 400,000 and 600,000. As the horrors of war increase, more and more German women are becoming disillusioned about the patriotism of

bearing children for cannon fodder. They are not satisfied with the food rationed for themselves, to say nothing of feeding another mouth.

Since Hitler has scattered his soldiers over the face of Europe, venereal diseases once more are on the increase. The shortage of physicians and of medical supplies, plus more rigorous living conditions on the home front, are raising the infant mortality rate in the Reich.

In his extravagant drive to harness every citizen of the Reich to his war machine, Hitler has broken up the institution of the family in Germany. Thus he has deprived many young adults with healthy instincts of the incentive to have children. The Fuehrer's improvident haste to create a post-war generation of Nordic rulers has defeated his own ends. He is learning that he cannot dictate to nature as he can to his industrial managers and laborers, or to his armed forces.

Yes, Hitler's Baby Policy is back-firing. Eventually it will collapse, perhaps to shatter Hitler's dreams of an ever larger, ever more powerful—world-dominating—Third Reich!

—*Suggestions for further reading:*

PEOPLE UNDER HITLER

by Wallace R. Deuel

\$3.50

Harcourt, Brace Company, Inc., New York

BERLIN DIARY

by William L. Shirer

\$3.00

Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York

MUNICH PLAYGROUND

by Ernest R. Pope

\$2.75

G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York



*Ernest R. Pope has been in and out of more countries than a rumor. He took his first trip to Europe in 1913; in 1914, at the age of four, he watched the Germans bombard Paris. He studied in Italian, French and German boarding schools, returned to the U.S.A. to study at Cornell University. Then he whipped back to Europe to be a foreign correspondent, first for Reuters News Agency and later for the Chicago Tribune. The six years he spent in Hitler Germany furnished him ample and accurate evidence for his bloodcurdling book, *Munich Playground*, and for his account of Brown Shirt methods in this month's *Coronet*. Mr. Pope is currently with the FCC in Washington, monitoring foreign broadcasts.*