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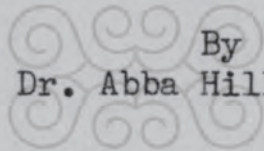
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The Unholy Alliance of Stalin and Hitler, 1939.

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THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE OF STALIN AND HITLER
Its Implications for the World and for the Jewish People

WRHS



By

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver



At
The Temple

On
Sunday morning, October 15, 1939

One of the most powerful elements of emotional interest and appeal in a great tragedy is what the Greeks called "Peripeteia". It is a sharp reversal, a recoil of a situation. When the train of action in a series of incidents in a drama tends to bring about a certain end and actually results in something wholly different - that is "Peripeteia". We call it today very often the "Irony of Destiny". This "Peripeteia is exemplified in the Greek Drama "Oedipus" where the messenger brings great tidings to the king, which tidings are supposed to remove all fear and all dread from him; but they actually bring disaster upon him. Our Bible has the same motif illustrated in the story of Joseph and his Brethren, the story of Mordecai and Haman - when the whole plot seems to work toward one end and then suddenly seems to work in the opposite direction.

In the political tragedy of our day, the Russo-German Pact has been something in the nature of a "Peripeteia", something veering round in a certain political trend and then suddenly changing to the very opposite. For sheer startling drama, nothing in the annals of recent political history of the world is comparable to this sudden reverse, this sudden recoil, the overwhelming shock - something shattering alike to the friends and the foes both of Nazism and Communism.

One can, of course, if one is so inclined, minimize the importance of this catastrophe, this pact. It is, of course only a non-aggression pact and not a military alliance between the Soviet Union and the Third Reich. The Soviet Union has similar pacts of non-aggression with other nations. The Soviet Union is still nominally neutral in the European War. The Soviet Union has but recently signed a trade pact with Great Britain. All of which

is of course true but unfortunately it is not the whole truth. The timing of the Russo-German Pact was clearly created to serve notice on the world, and it so served notice on the world, that as far as the Soviet Union was concerned, the Nazis had a free hand in Poland and that the Nazis need have no fear of Russian intervention. They need not fear the establishment of an Eastern Front against them. This pact was treated in Germany with jubilee and it was the signal for the invasion of Poland. And unless the political leaders of Moscow are less wise and less astute than we give them credit for, they must have known that by the signing of that pact at that particular time, they were actually accessories to the declaration of war upon Poland.

Furthermore, it is now clear that the condition preceding to the signing of this pact was an agreement relative to the partition of Poland with which Russia also had a non-aggression pact. There was an agreement that should the partition of Poland take place, Russia would receive a large share of the loot. The fact that Russia waited until Poland was crushed, until Germany had broken Poland before he marched in to claim her share added cowardice to that theft.

It is furthermore clear now that while secret negotiations were going on for a Nazi-Communist pact, secret negotiations unknown to the world, public negotiations were going on within sight of the whole world between Great Britain and France looking to a military alliance with Russia. Russia was publicly looking to an alliance with the democracies of the West in an effort to check what up to that moment Russia maintained was the aggressiveness of the Nazi regime. This alliance had been for years a cardinal objective of the Russian foreign policy. It was also the loudly proclaimed principle of all their party members all over the world. The slogan used was the slogan of the "Popular Front" and Russia was to serve as a sort of spearhead of all the democracies of the world because Russia announced herself as a democracy,

against Fascist and Nazi aggression. While these party members were chanting this slogan of "Stop Hitler!", "Rise to the defense of weaker nations of the world!", while the Soviet Union was building up the facade, behind the facade negotiations were being carried on for a colossal alliance which Germany and Russia shared, a colossal plan for the plundering of Poland in which they were to share. The fact that Poland was unwilling to have Russian soldiers march through her territory, the fact that Russia had been snubbed at Munich, disregarded, is not sufficient warrant for this "Peripeteia", this sharp reversal, this surrender of basic principles and basic convictions.

Furthermore the price which Hitler had to pay for this pact with the Soviet Union shows that this pact is not quite as innocent as some of the apologists of the Soviet Union would have us believe. Here is the bitterest foe of Communism, Hitler, who made it the chief objective of his life to destroy Communism; here the bitterest foe actually opens the doors of Europe wide to Communism. Here, this man is compelled to turn over countries which he had staked out as the particular preserves of the Third Reich - all the Baltic countries. He turns them over to what amounts to the domination of Moscow. Here he agrees to the presence of Soviet troops on the borders of Hungary and Rumania, thereby definitely shaking his Drang nach Osten, his position to the East. Hitler would not pay this price just for an innocent non-aggression pact unless he was driven by an overwhelming political ambition and unless he had received concrete and definite promises of help in the Polish Campaign, perhaps also in a campaign in the West. And the extent of any orientation which has come about between Russia and Germany, the extent of the new fraternization between these mortal enemies is indicated by the fact that Molotov now finds it necessary to join Hitler in denouncing Great Britain

and France for doing the very thing which a year ago he denounced them for not doing, namely, going to war to check Nazi aggression. Molotov is actually calling this war which Communists the world over have been planning, a capitalist war. And it is Great Britain and France who are now the war-mongers, not Germany and Russia. It is Molotov and Stalin who now join with Mr. Hitler in Hitler's desperate peace maneuver to force the world to approve Hitler's bloody conquest in Poland. So this pact is not an innocent non-aggression pact. It sounds very much more like a deliberate aggression pact.

Whether Russia will fight, in the days to come, alongside Hitler remains to be seen. One would be very foolish to be dogmatic about anything today. It is doubtful - that is all that one can say - that Russia will fight for Germany. Russia fears war just as much as Hitler fears war. Why should she fight if she can have Germany do the fighting for her? And if there is really a strong community of interest between the Nazis and the Communists, whether there is really so much in common between these countries as so many people say, whether under this ~~the~~ scheme these two dictatorships have have far more in common than either has to the so-called capitalist countries in the world - that, too, is difficult to say. In all probability this alliance will not last very long because it is an alliance which has proved distinctly profitable to the Communists and unprofitable to the Nazis. And they are both out for profit in this matter.

Whether Mr. Stalin's secret sinister purpose is to wait and see Great Britain and France and Germany bleed themselves to death, as it were, on the battlefields of the world war exhausting Western Europe and thereby preparing the ground for further invasion of Communism in Europe - that, too, in my judgment can come about, provided there is no reversal, because in all such logical plots that one can foresee, there is always the element of what

the Greeks called "Peripeteia", the chance of sharp reversal. You may recall that some of the great political leaders of France and Great Britain hoped for such a thing to affect Germany and Russia. They hoped that Germany would drive East and ultimately to war with Russia. The two nations would exhaust themselves and France and England would be able to stand on the sidelines and enjoy themselves. But always that "Peripeteia" makes a mockery of such well-planned ideas. So that anybody that presumes to speak prophetically on what is going to happen today or the next day or the next year, is assuming to great a task.

All things are in flux. If nations were abiding by basic principles, could in a sense anticipate their action, they could plan with purpose. But if nations are engaged in a desperate game of power politics, anything can happen just as always anything has happened. But a few things are clear. A few lies have already been exposed.

The first great casualties of the Second World War have been Nazism and Communism. By that, I do not mean that the Nazi or Communist regime have collapsed. Their power is still unchallenging in their homelands. But it is important not only to see things, but to see through things. When you see through things, you see that somehow something has happened in the last few weeks - the spirit has departed from these two movements. They are hollow. Their great loyalties, their great hates, their great premonitions have proved themselves to be in the eyes of the whole world just synthetic emotion manufactured ~~by~~ for propaganda purposes. The leaders of those two countries now stand revealed like the leaders of other countries - as cynical politicians bent upon retaining their power at all cost. If it takes purges to do it, then have purges. If it takes liquidations and

intrigues, then have liquidations and intrigues. The important thing is to stay in power even if we have to sacrifice our whole creed and Faith. That might sound cruel, extreme. But unfortunately that is true.

What was, for example the main thesis, the heart of the book, "Mein Kampf"? Why it was war to the death of Communism. In that name he destroyed the German Republic. He slew thousands, exiled tens of thousands. He made Germany an intellectual prison house. The reason that Communism must be destroyed is that Communism is a universal plague. You read in his book ad nauseam that Communism is a world disease. "The poisonous pestilence which must of necessity lead to the destruction of the entire mankind." He explains his venomous anti-Semitism in his book on the ground that the Jews were responsible for Communism. Communism was then a "conspiracy to destroy all non-Jewish National States".

In his book, Mein Kampf, at the close of it, he reveals his political testament for posterity. This is what he says about Communism, and this is what he says in warning the German people: "Never make an alliance with Russia!" I quote verbatim - this is on page 959:

"Thus the fact of the conclusion of a treaty with Russia embodies the declaration of the next war. Its outcome would be the end of Germany.

"In addition, there is the following:

"1. We must never forget that the regents of present-day Russia are common bloodstained criminals; that here is the scum of humanity, which, favored conditions in a tragic hour, overran a great State, butchered and rooted out millions of its leading intellects with savage bloodthirstiness, and for nearly ten years has exercised the most frightful regime of tyranny of all time.

Nor must we forget that these rulers belong to a nation which combines a rare mixture of bestial horror with an inconceivable gift of lying, and today more than ever before believes itself called upon to impose its bloody oppressions on the whole world. We must not forget that the international Jew, who today rules Russia absolutely, sees in Germany, not an ally, but a State marked for the same destiny. But one does not conclude a treaty with someone whose sole interest is the destruction of his partner. Above all, one does not make them with parties to whom no treaty would be sacred, since they inhabit this world, not as the advocates of honor and ~~the~~ truthfulness, but as the advocates of lying, deceit, theft, rapine, and plundering. If anybody thinks of going into a treaty with parasites, this resembles a tree's efforts to conclude to its own advantage an agreement with a mistletoe.

" 2. The danger which once overwhelmed Russia always faces Germany. Only a bourgeois simpleton can flatter himself that bolshevism is banished. In Russian bolshevism we must see Jewry's twentieth-century effort to take world dominion unto itself.

"Germany is today the next great battle aim of bolshevism. It requires all the force of a young missionary idea once again to inspire our nation to break out of the snare of this international snake and internally to check the tainting of our blood, so that the nation's forces can thereby be devoted to the securing of our nationality, which may make it possible to prevent a repetition of the final catastrophe until the end of time. But if one pursues this goal, then it is insanity to ally oneself with a power which has as its rulers the mortal enemy of our own future. How shall our own nation be freed from the chains of this poisonous embrace if we hand ourselves over to it? How reveal bolshevism to the individual German worker as an accursed crime against humanity if we ally ourselves with the organization of this spawn of hell, and thereby recognize it as a whole? With what right shall we then condemn members of the

broad masses for their sympathy for a view of life if the very leaders of the State choose the representatives of this view of life as allies?

"The struggle against Jewish bolshevization of the world requires a clear attitude towards Soviet Russia. You cannot drive out the Devil with Beelzebub."

This is Hitler's testimony to the Germany people. You know, many people talk about the book "Mein Kampf", but few read it. If you read it and think over the events of the day, you realize what a fakir he is. How many people would like us to believe that Hitler was the champion of Christianity against the atheistic bolshevism of Russia! How many people actually condoned Hitler's systematic attack on the Jews because they had been persuaded that the Jews were responsible for Communism and that Hitler was fighting Communism! How many of you recall the famous phrase of Dr. Frank Buckman, this very fine Christian gentleman, who in one of his great moments said: "Thank God for a man like Adolf Hitler who will stand against the anti-Christ of Communism."

And this man, Hitler, now makes jest of all life's testaments, clasps hands with the Enemy of Mankind, lets the universal plague sweep over the Baltics to the Balkans and is proud of his friendship with this country, now that Stalin relies on Hitler's aid. And actually, by one of these strange ironies of fate, recently in Vienna, "the police went around and confiscated all anti-bolshevist and anti-Russian literature in the bookshops. A great bonfire was started in the Stubenring, in front of the University of Vienna, and a part of this literature was burned."

And similarly with the Communists - ever since the persecutions of the Communists in Germany when Hitler came to power in 1933, ever since that infamous Reichstag fire when he sought to put the blame on the Communists,

they have carried on a persistent campaign of denunciation against Hitler, the Nazis and their program. They returned the compliments in kind...

But today, today the official Bolshevik paper, the "Izvestia", says that Hitlerism is as a "matter of taste", and that the annihilation of Hitlerism means to commit an act of criminal folly in politics." And they again proceed to bring into play nationalization, and they are very handy with it.

Ideologies don't seem to count very much. Both of these countries are back to the old-fashioned, self-centered national and imperial interests. Hitler is back to the realm of the Kaiser's imperial German expansion dream. Stalin is back to the imperial policies of the Czar - Eastward, Northeastward, Southeastward. This practice of turning against your creed for political objectives is very common in the political history of mankind. You may recall that during the Thirty Years War, Richelieu, the Catholic Cardinal, leagued himself up with the Protestant States in Europe in order to push the French frontier Eastward to the disadvantage of the Roman Catholic Empire. France made an alliance with Mohammed against the Catholic Christian Emperor Charles V. With Stalin, Russia seems to enter the Napoleonic stage - Napoleonic slogans "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity". Actually, Napoleon was engaged in the old imperial program of extending the borders of France - a national imperialist program. Stalin seems to have reached this Napoleonic state of the Russian Empire. His pretext for expansionism was to liberate the oppressed minorities and Russia was to liberate them.

That is what Hitler said when he took over Sudetenland. No one took the trouble to ask the White Russians whether they wanted to be compassionately embraced by Russia. They were conquered. And it is also likely that Stalin made a pact with Japan at the expense of China.

This shamless self-expose on the part of present-day Nazism and Communism has destroyed intellectual or emotional appeal there may have been in the world as a world movement drawing its guidance from Moscow. The Third Internationale is wrecked. Many of their followers have disappeared. They feel themselves betrayed. Some are still smiling to keep from crying. And I say all this not gloatingly, but in great sadness. There was a great measure of real idealism back of the Communist Revolution. One can't help deprecate the methods. We all did deprecate the methods of the revolution. But one can't shut his eyes from seeing the inherent idealistic movement, its desire to raise up the people in education and in economic status. From this pulpit more than once words of defense were spoken for a Russia ~~of~~ which all people seemed at that time to malign, to see nothing of merit or worth. But unfortunately, under Stalin the Russian Revolution seems to have driven far away from that ingathering inspiration. It has drifted more and more to despotism. All its revolutionary leaders who made the revolution have been either shot or exiled. Russia is a country today which is governed by methods of purges and liquidations. It is a Russia which in the last six years could not find room for a single refugee driven out from Germany or Central Europe.

In the same way the Nazi war, the Nazi crusade on Communism has collapsed. They tried to link the Jews with Communism in an effort to discredit both the Jews and Communism. That, too, has collapsed. Political anti-Semitism used as a political motif has been discredited by the very conspirators who popularized it, by the Nazi gangsters themselves. That, my friends, is all to the good. When the clouds of war will have cleared away and we will be able to think a little more clearly, because we are no longer being tricked by slogans and catchwords of this sort.

From this collapse of Nazi and Communist so-called idealism, democracy emerges more resplendent than ever. Those corrupt countries, those war-breeding countries - and it has now been demonstrated that they are hotbeds of intrigue - it is becoming clear every day that democracy is the salvation of the world, that the slow, laborious cumbersome trial and error democracy - that and that alone can keep the world sane and peaceful.

As far as the Jews are concerned, another million Jews have come under the rule of the Communist regime. Many in Communist Party say that has been a great deliverance for the Jews of Poland. I am afraid they have not entered any paradise. As far as their position is concerned - whatever little property is left to the Jews in Western Poland will be Aryanized and whatever they have in Eastern Poland will be Communized.

Judaism like Christianity will be liquidated. Judaism as a vital communal life will disappear. Some have said that Stalin having clasped hands with Hitler may become anti-Semitic even as Mussolini. (personal opinion).

For the moment this alliance between the two most powerful countries on the continent of Europe - the one possessed of great technical skill and the other of unnumbered natural resources - for the time being this alliance spells no good for civilization.

And again, I remind you that in the great march of life, it is very often that thing that the Greeks called "Peripeteia", reversal, recoil, which is important and through which that great progress of mankind has come about.

1) One of the most powerful elements of emotional interest in a great tragedy - "Peripeteia" - Reversal or recoil of a situation. ~~into a series of incidents~~ ^{where} chain of action tends to bring about a certain end but result in something wholly different. We sometimes call it the "hour of Destiny". In the Greek drama - you find it in Oedipus - ^{messengers deliver his fate from alarm about his mother but he always, which is further, affects effort.} In the Bible - in the story of Joseph and his brothers and Haman and Madame.

2) In the 19th Century of our day - Russo-German Pact has been just such a "Peripeteia" - a sudden veering around of a pol. trend to its very opposite - ~~which and led to the tragedy of the present~~ Wald was. For sheer startling Drama nothing in annals of recent years can compare to it. It was more a surprise. It was an overwhelming shock - ^{something} shattering disillusionment and confronting ^{after} to the friends and foes, both, the Nazis and the Communists.

3) One can of course minimize importance of this Pact. It is of course only a non-aggression pact, not a military alliance. Soviet has similar pacts with other nations. It is still nominaly neutral. Just signed a trade-pact with G.B. - all which is true - but not whole truth.

(1) The Timing, the pact was calculated to serve notice on the world - and did so - that Nazis have a free hand as regards Poland - need fear no intervention on part of Sov - no Eastern Front. Tulstake - Signal for their invasion of P. - Must have known - ^{necessary to the} the was signing a Pact & war!

(2) It is now clear - conclusion precedent to signing Pact - Nazis, Alone with Russia receiving large share of Porty. Russia had a non-aggression pact with Poland! That R. waited - until P. was crushed - before she marched in to claim her share - ^{only adds courage to fight} land he not only a thief but a coward in war. What was ostensible a non-aggr. Pact = Mutual Aggression Pact.

(3) While secret negotiations were going on for a Nazi-Sov. Pact - public negot. were being carried on by Soviet with G.B. & U.S. looking to

military Alliance - with Dem.

a Cardinal Objective - loudly proclaimed principle

The Slogan - sanctioned - "Popular Front" - Spear-head

But while ~~exhibiting~~ projecting Facade - Party members - "Stop Hitler" - Weak Nations - negotiating colossal aggression sharing in Plunder. | Polish unwillingness - Actual Munch no warrant for such action

(4) The Price which H. had to pay - innocent non-aggress. lost
The littest Fox - doors - preserves in Baltic - Dream
of Drang - by agreeing to presence - if-driven to it -
definite ~~no~~ promises of help - Polish campaign -
favorable neutrality in West

(5) The extent of new orientation - fraternization

(1) Molotov joins H - denouncing allies for doing now

(2) " " " calling this a "Capitulation War" -
allies as aggressors!

(3) German Engineers + Experts

(4) Peace Maneuvers - to force world approval of Conquest

2) Whether Russia will fight along-side - remains - doubtful

{ R. fears a major war - the same as H.

{ Nothing to gain - She is getting

{ Whether really a Community of Interest - so much in common
will probably not last long - Nazi misperception

{ Whether Soviet Purpose - Peripetia - Allies - bled to death

5/ But a Few Things are Clear - Few Lies already exposed - Sham Ideologies
and idealistic pretenses -

the First Great Cosmopolitan War - not regimes -
still unchanged - Spirit left them - Hollow!

Masks! Their great loyalties - love-hates - Synthetic
emotions - manufactured for Propag. purposes
Stand revealed as cynical politicians - usurpers bent
upon retaining power - not only Purges - Integers
Whole Creed and Faith

6/ What was main Thesis - Heart - "Mein Kampf" - Inert
Crusade - War on Communism -

In its name destroyed Republic - Slain - Exiled -

In his Book ad nauseam - "Universal Plague"

"The poisonous pestilence which must of necessity lead to the
destruction of entire mankind"

He explained his venomous Antisemitism - Jews respons. for Commun
their conspiracy - "to destroy all non-Jewish national States"

(Just)

How many honest-minded people believed him - Americans
condoned his acts against Jews

Dr. Frank Buchman - Oxford Movement - "Thank God for
a man like Adolf Hitler who will stand against the Anti-
Christ & Communism"

And this man - now junks this entire thesis & program - clashes
hand with Enemy & Mandate - lets the Universal Plague - Poland - Baltic
Peril & his Friends - Relies on its aid - - Vienna (Just)

7/ Similarly - Comments - Prosecutions - Reckless Fine

"Izvestia" - "a matter of taste"

"Annihilation of H. means to commit an act of criminal folly in politics"

8. Ideologies don't count - Prof. Fodor -
Back to old-fashioned, self-centered nat. + imperial interests -
'Real-politik' - Kaiser - Zar - (Richelieu)

with Stalin - Napoleon -

Prater - help M. workers - White Russian + UK - same

Balke - not even pretext

Peace with Japan - at expense of China

with Hitler - "Right of Peoples to dispose of Eas" - liberals

Germans - Poles

9/ this shameless self-expose - destroyed whatever intellect -

as a world-movement - dramatic - Third Intern. wrecked

Many followers deserted - betrayed - Whistles - Swirl

Not gloriously - Sadness - measure of high Idealism

- accomplished - Method -

Under Stalin - drifted to Oriental Despotism -

all old leaders / Revue

Purges -

O G P U

Refugees -

10/ Nazi war on Com - ended.

Campaign to link Jews with Com.

Pol. Antisem. - discredited by very corporators - N. G. Parsons

11/ Demos. emerges more rephended & even.

Decadent -

They lead to corruption - Trachery - Treason - and
= war! only Cap. matches?

Dem. alone is salvation of world.

12/ And Jews. Another million under St. Ho paradise -
Do not know - whether St. will now talk over his Antisem.

~~Hit~~ Musolani - Axis -

But even if he does not - these Jews will know less even the
little freedom - Poland -

Nazis will organize J. property
Comm. will care manage it.

J. community will be destroyed - J. communal life wiped out -

13/

The men drafted for military training are brought by force into the barracks. Rows between the German and Slovak soldiers occur every day. In order to avoid these conflicts the Slovak soldiers are not permitted to go out in groups of more than three men. People are continually asking why the leaders of the fascist Hlinka guards are not yet at the front, especially since they were the first ones in favor of the war. In August hundreds of Slovak soldiers had gone over to the Poles. Today, there are daily deserters going over to Hungary.

Not only the people, but some members of the Slovak government are disillusioned because Slovakia has been occupied by Hitler, even though her independence was guaranteed for 25 years. After the declaration of the Slovak minister to Warsaw, the Foreign Minister Durcansky and the War Minister Catlos left their posts as protest against the German invasion of Slovakia. But both ministers had to cancel their resignations. The War Minister, who is himself a general, is completely subordinated under the German leadership. A German commissar is even sitting in the office of Prime Minister Tiso.

The economic situation of Slovakia is becoming worse and worse. The daily deficit amounts to three million Slovak Kronen. Various enterprises were shut down because of the need of raw materials. Even in the agrarian districts there is a lack of foodstuffs. The German military authorities are confiscating even more ruthlessly than in the Protectorate. Under these circumstances the understanding for the fight against the Nazi regime is growing among the Slovaks.

IX Reception of the Russian-German Pact in Austria (End of August)

Vienna: The publication of the Russian-German Pact was welcomed enthusiastically. The day after its publication people began to hang out their flags to celebrate. By 10 o'clock in the morning the police had to intervene and prohibit the hanging out of flags. In the streets, many people, among them particularly the workers, were greeting each other with upraised clenched fists and shouts of "Heil Moscow". Some of them were arrested but released after a few hours. More important as indicating the attitude of the officials, the police went around and confiscated all anti-bolshevist and anti-Russian literature in the bookshops. A great bonfire was started in the Stubenring, in front of the University of Vienna and a part of this literature was burned.

From Styria and other provincial districts as well as from circles of the underground movement in Vienna come reports that the people are extremely confused and depressed.

X Behind the Lines on the Western Front

The town of Aachen, with a population of 160,000, situated scarcely five miles from both the Dutch and Belgian frontiers, has for a long time been the seat of extensive military operations. In fact the population in this area can only assume from the tremendous concentration of troops and artillery that have been arriving there in the past ten days, that an invasion of Holland is anticipated. The reports that follow were sent from Aachen and the neighboring small towns during the third week of the war.

Evacuation Completely Disorganized: Many weeks before the launching of the Polish campaign the population of Aachen and the neighboring countryside were informed that they would be evacuated in case of war (see earlier reports).