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1812 - Moscow - 1941, 1941.

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1812 -- MOSCOW -- 1941

What is at Stake in the Nazi Invasion of Russia?
Should America Help?



By
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

At
The Temple
Ansel Road and E. 105th St.

On
Sunday Morning, October 19, 1941

No one watching the magnificent and heroic resistance which the Russian people have maintained against the onswEEPING ^{long} odds of the Nazis can help but be filled with admiration and praise. Courage and bravery are always admirable. But they become superbly moving and exalted when they are evidenced against overwhelming odds and against seemingly invincible foes.

Some people in their ignorance or prejudice have confounded the Russian people with their present government which many people dislike and distrust. They forget that the Russian people preceded their present government and will long outlive it. The Russians have always been brave and stout-hearted people or they would not now be in possession of one-sixth of the globe.

Frequently in the past they have been misled. Frequently in the past wars they were betrayed by the incompetence and even the treachery of their leaders and generals. During the last war it was not an uncommon thing for Russian soldiers to be sent into the battle practically unarmed. But when these people were given competent leadership, anything approaching adequate weapons, they turned out to be brave, even superb soldiers.

Fortunately for them today and for the world — that is, our world — the Russian people in this war seem to have had surprising competent leadership and, weapons, if not quite adequate to meet the most militarized and the most completely equipped army in the world, at least have weapons ample enough to make the enemy pay dearly for every foot of conquered territory in Russia.

The Russians, in four months of the bloodiest fighting in history, have given a most excellent and amazing accounting of themselves, far better than the French and the English did a year ago. The French were demonalized and driven into a headlong and fatal routing at the first break through, and

the English fled to cover. The Russians, however, who military experts prophesied could not hold out four to six weeks against the German Blitz-Krieg, are still in the field, defending every inch of Russian soil, laying down their lives by the hundreds and thousands, not for Stalin, not for Communism, but for their country and making the enemy travel over his own corpses.

The Nazis, too, were surprised and amazed and then furious at this determined resistance of the Russians. The fact that the Russians were not collapsing according to plans and expectations could only be accounted for, said the Nazis, because the Russians were morally depraved, beasts. They don't seem to know the rules of war. They don't know when they are licked. When we Germans tell them they have been completely surrounded and annihilated, they rise up and hit us in the face. These beastly Russians did not surrender their cities as graciously as the French surrendered Paris for fear of ruining their beautiful buildings; and unlike Japan, these Russians do not speak of honor and then promptly capitulate and collaborate. They continue to fight, these damn bolsheviks, against all the rules of Fascist warfare. They are defeated. They retreat. They reorganize and they fight again. Four times, now, we, the Nazis, have officially announced that the Russians are finally being completely broken down, liquidated, never to rise again. Yet, here they are very much alive, still fighting. These unmannered brutes seem to be making liars out of us. And behind the soldiers are the civilians carrying on their gorilla warfare. They, too, haven't heard of the invincibility of the Nazis. Then, what can you expect from a people not made up of Nordics?

I presume that Hitler was as much embarrassed today in Russia as Napoleon was 130 years ago. Napoleon, too, invaded Russia. Napoleon got to Moscow faster than Hitler. Hitler is not there yet. Napoleon, in

less than four months reached Moscow, and Napoleon's army was not traveling on motorized cars and busses. Napoleon, too, scored victory after victory on the Russians -- at Smolensk, Borodino, Moshaisk. He, too, sent back from time to time glowing reports to Paris of his glorious, breath-taking victories over the Russians and how he annihilated them time and again. The Russians were defeated time and again. They kept on retreating in admirable order, then reformed and fought again.

Napoleon captured Moscow and finally reached his goal. He had triumphed. Everybody knew it but the Russians. The Russians burned the city and abandoned it before Napoleon entered it. Napoleon wanted the Russians to sue for peace. They would not. Napoleon finally swallowed his pride and sent embassies to the Russians proffering peace. They would not hear him. So Napoleon cooled his heels in Moscow week after week. Winter was coming on -- the savage Russian winter. Napoleon's army had suffered greatly. It had dwindled. It was cold and there was fear of famine. So after five weeks of waiting around in Moscow, Napoleon ordered retreat, the most disastrous retreat in history.

When he entered Russia his grand army numbered close on to seven hundred thousand troupes, twelve hundred field guns and one hundred thirty siege guns. His army was composed of twenty nationality groups -- his own and also from twenty nations which he had conquered, just as Hitler has in his army. He, too, sought to give the impression to the world that his attack upon Russia was a vast crusade against the Asiatics, the Slavs. Europe had never seen such an army, even as Europe had never seen the like of the army which Hitler put into Russia.

But after ten weeks of retreat from Moscow, after the continuous attack on the part of the Russian armies, and Cossack bands and guerilla

fighters, after ten weeks of winter and hunger and disease, when Napoleon finally crossed the he had with him just four thousand men. They were sick, bedraggled and all of them hungry. That was all that was left of the pride and flower of the greatest army which France had ever had. In the dark of night, leaving the pitiful remnant of his army to perish in the snows of Russia, Napoleon slunk back to Paris.

Now, history, my friends, never repeats itself. Certainly not in detail and in incident. And because a thing happened once in a certain way, it does not follow that it will again happen that way. Warfare in 1941 is not similar to warfare in 1830. But there still remains an amazing parallel and some amazing possibilities. But Hitler is still in Russia, if not yet even in Moscow. The Russians are still fighting vigorously and resisting furiously his advance. Their ^{army} has not been shattered. Hitler has scored victories as great as Napoleon scored. But the war in Russia is not yet ended. The Russians have not yet sued for peace. They are still taking a frightful toll of German dead and German wounded. They are still smashing up a good deal of the material which the Nazis have accumulated so painstakingly over a period of years and which gave them the edge over all the other nations. And winter is coming on -- savage Russian winter. Burning cities and roofless houses are not adequate protection for soldiers in sub-zero weather.

If the Russian forces hold out over the winter, if their armies do not collapse, regardless of how far they have retreated, if the Russian government does not ^{break} ~~pull~~ under and lose courage and sue for peace, then this Russian campaign of 1941 ^{is} ~~will be~~ likely to tear ^{at} the heart of the German people. For they have been at war now for three years. They have been promised a speedy peace, a glorious prosperity. They have been given nothing but glory. You can't make peace

with hungry stomachs. They have been given nothing for all their sacrifices. they have been offered poor food, shoddy clothes, longer and harder hours of work and their cities are being continuously bombed. Day after day, night after night, now, the reports of terrific casualties are slipping into the homes of people of the hundreds of thousands of slain and wounded.

There is also slipping into Germany the frightening realization that the ultimate enemy of Germany, England, is increasing in strength day by day, the longer Hitler forces are delayed in Russia; that behind England, ^{is} the cumulative military power of the United States which had pledged itself to aid all those who were fighting Nazism which is increasing steadily and relentless hour by hour, day by day, week by week. And the ^{is} knowledge/also sweeping into Germany that the countries which Hitler conquered and the people subjugated far from being reconciled to the new order are becoming increasingly more restive, more rebellious and revolutionary in spirit. And as Hitler's armies are bogged down in Russia the voices of the resentful and the subjugated but not conquered national spirit in Europe will threaten more and more the power of the Nazis. And if on top of it all during this winter the English will improve the occasion by some major attack somewhere else not on the Continent of Europe, perhaps in Egypt -- all these facts are destined to impress the German people in the sense of the ultimate defeat which awaits the seemingly invincible and all conquerable Hitler.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance for England, for the United States to send all possible aid to Russia to sustain their to re-equip morale,/them, to help them to prepare for the Spring Campaign.

Hitler must destroy Russia in order to subjugate England. There is a strange parallel here again between Hitler and Napoleon.

Napoleon, too, realized that in order to destroy England he must first destroy Russia. Napoleon resolved to conquer Europe as Hitler has, but just as Hitler he found the one foe that could not accept his resolve to conquer Europe was England. So he determined to destroy England. Like Hitler, he planned an invasion of England in 1803. He prepared in the ports and harbors of the coast of France ships, gunboats, small craft which would enable him to transport in a single night one hundred thousand troops to England. Like Hitler's plan of invasion for one reason or another it failed. His better judgment told him that was impossible. So he determined in order to subjugate England, to destroy English sea power, just as Hitler endeavored to destroy English sea power by attacks ~~on~~ from the air. In the Battle of Trafalgar, in 1805, the French were disastrously defeated and England was Mistress of the Seas just as England remains Mistress of the Seas today.

In desperation, Napoleon turned back to the Continent and determined to subjugate England and impose a continental blockade against England. No English ships were to enter any European harbor. No European ship was to travel to England. Thus England was to be starved. By bringing suffering on the English people, Napoleon hoped to make them realize that he was conqueror and make them come to terms with him. But in order to consolidate Europe against England, Napoleon need^{ed} the collaboration of Russia. Alexander I who vacillated just as Stalin vacillated as between an alliance with Napoleon or with the English... By 1811 Alexander I realized that the real foe of Russia was not England but Napoleon and he refused to collaborate with Napoleon in his axis scheme against England, with the result that Napoleon understood himself defeated. Russia, however, was not defeated. Hence the campaign of 1812 with its terrific rebounds, unfortunately, for the world.

Exactly the same situation has developed for Hitler. Because Napoleon failed to cross the Straits of Dover, he had to go to Moscow. Because Hitler failed to cross the Straits of Dover, he is on the way to Moscow. The one powerful nation which he tried to reduce to submission is England. Russia had refused to collaborate in his cheme. Hitler thought that Stalin would. For a time Stalin did. The Pact of 1939 was outrageous folly on the part of Stalin, for it opened the way for Hitler to conquer Europe. Regardless what the excuses of Stalin were, they were not sufficient to justify his strengthening the hand of Hitler. Stalin was too smart. He even out-smarted himself, even as Chamberlain and the Tories of France out-smarted themselves. They all share a common guilt before the bar of history.

But this is water under the bridge. Hitler is now out to destroy Russia as a prelude to destroying and then to ultimately dominate the world. Russia is now the battlefield of all anti-Nazi forces in the world who must fight Nazism. Informed people -- well informed people understand that. What is happening in Russia today will have inevitable repercussions throughout the world. Japan is watching very closely what is happening at the gates of Moscow. The foreign policy of Japan is like a pendulum. Japanese cabinets rise and fall with seismographic sensitiveness to the fortunes of war in Russia. If Russia is defeated completely, finally, then the United States will be forced either to fight in the Pacific or surrender to Japanese aggression in the Far East. For the Japanese are prepared to march as soon as they are convinced that the Russians are finally dispersed, just as the Italians waited for their moment to stab France in the back.

The e is an electric chord which stretches from ~~the~~ Moscow to

to Tokio to Washington that can set off a frightful explosion. Therefore, what is happening on the steppes of Russia is of immediate and direct concern of America, not as a matter of sentiment, but as a matter of self-defense.

The fact that we do not like Stalin, the fact that we do not like Communism has absolutely nothing to do with it. In the first World War we did not like Czar Nicholas and the infamous Rasputin. The Russian people disliked and distrusted despotism and fought valiantly for at least three years during the war. They helped the Allies to win the war ultimately. Without the aid of Russia the victory of the Marne would have been impossible. When the final battle had been fought and the Allies had won, Czar Nicholas disappeared. His government regime ^{was} completely gone. But the Russian people remained, a people of nearly two hundred million souls, a people that could produce a Pushkin, a Dostoyevsky, a Turgenev, a Tolstoy, a Chekhov, great artists, sculptors, a people whose intellectual and spiritual reserve has not even been tapped -- that people remained. That people will remain after the war. Governments come and go.

Needless to say, the Communists of Russia have made grave and tragic mistakes. Their whole technique of dictatorship which they introduced in Europe was false and utterly bad -- this sacrifice of method to ends. Their entire record, the sad record of expurgations, purges and the killing off of their own revolutionary leaders, is unspeakably cruel. Their net-work of spying and espionage, the terror cannot be justified by their avowed good intentions. Nor can Stalin's invasion of Finland, and his joining hands with Hitler in the partition of Poland and the rape of the Baltic countries be condoned in the name of progress or socialism; nor their attack on Religion - this too cannot be justified even by those who

urge all out aid to Russia. Of course ^{it} is true that public worship is allowed in Russia. But there are no religious schools in Russia, no theologic schools. Thousands of churches, mosques were converted, and the State has been carrying on an aggressive anti-religious program to poison the minds of children. That, too, is a fundamental mistake. There is nothing in Socialism that runs contrary to religion...

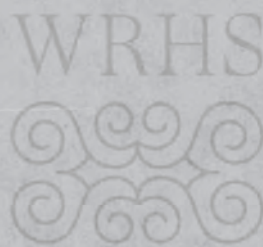
But there are many great and noteworthy things that they have achieved, and only blind partisans would fail to recognize it. They have improved amazingly the educational system of Russia. They industrialized the country beyond the imaginings of the people. They have a planned economic life. They have taught races and nationalities to live together in peace. That remains to their eternal credit.

But we are not called upon at this moment to express our likes and dislikes of Russia ^{or} of the Russian people. They are fighting Hitler. So are we. They are at war. We are pledged to provide the instruments of war to all who wage war upon this world desperado. There is much we don't like about England, too. There are many weaknesses and mistakes that have been made by England. But our destiny is linked up with that of England. England needs us and we need England. Russia needs us and we need Russia. A common need has made allies of us. All aid to an ally!

My dear friends, neither England nor the United States are yet ready to defeat Hitler. The best we can do is to delay him. The best we can do is to win time to arm fully for the ultimate reckoning which is bound to come next year, the year after or three years from now. Hitler's campaign in Russia is giving us this precious gift of time. The longer we delay, the stronger we shall become. That is the critical role, the critical role, perhaps the decisive role in this war that Russia will play -- through the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of precious men, Russia is bogging down

that military machine with which we will have to reckon sooner or later.

Napoleon was not defeated at Waterloo, but at Moscow. We do not know where the ultimate battle will be fought in this war or under what circumstances, whether on land or sea or in the air. But it may not be at all impossible that Hitler, too, who set out to conquer Europe, was defeated at Moscow.



1) No one, watching magnificent & heroic resistance of Russian people - filled with admiration and praise.

Courage & bravery are always admirable - they become superbly moving and exalted when evidenced against seemingly overwhelming odds - & ag. a seemingly invincible foe.

Some people, in their ignorance & prejudice, confounded the R. people with their present govt - which many people dislike and distrust. The R. people resisted their present govt. and will outrun it. They have always been a brave and stout-hearted people, or they would not now be in possession of $\frac{1}{6}$ of the globe. They have long been misled; and frequently, in war, betrayed by the treason or incompetence, their generals, & left defenseless, or sent into battle widely armed.

But whenever given competent leadership and adequate weapons - they forget what achievements.

Fortunately for them and, for the world, for our world they ^{seem to} have, in this war, unfiringly competent leadership and, if not weapons, if not adequate to make the most militarily powerful on earth, at least ample to make the enemy pay dearly for every foot of conquered territory.

They have given an excellent account of themselves in 4 months of the bloodiest fighting in history.

a far better account than the French or the English did
a year ago. The F. forces were demoralized & driven
into ~~disastrous~~ ^{headlong} fatal route at the first break through,
and the Eng. had to pull from the continent. The
Russians, who, military experts prophesied, could not
hold out 6 weeks ago. The German Blitz-Krieg, now
still in the ground after conquering forwardly every
inch of Russian soil - laying down their line by
the hundreds, thousands for their country ^{not for their own} and making
the enemy haul over his own corpses.

2) The Nazis, too, were surprised, then awaged, then
rendered furious at the determined resistance, the
R. The fact that they were not collapsing according
to plan and expectation can only be accounted for
by their ^{might} perseverence - and moral degradation. They
are not men but beasts - They don't seem to
know the rules of war! W They don't know
when they are defeated. When we tell them that
they are surrounded and annihilated - they jump
up and hit us in the face! They don't surrender
their lives as graciously as the F. surrender
theirs for peace, having their lovely buildings looted.
Unlike Russians, they don't talk of honor &
their calm firmness and collaborate. They fight
those damn bolshewiks as all the rules of
Farist warfare - They are defeated. They retreat.
They reform and they fight again. Four times

we have already generally announced, with all appropriate
fan-fare and blarney, triumphs, from the Führer our
Head-quarters and then his own lips, that the R. are
finally beaten - wiped out - broken, never to
rise again - And yet - there they are, ^{very much alive} still fighting.
They are making hair out of us - these unmanned
battles. ^{and behind the lines} But then what can you expect from people
who are not hodies?

3/ His embarrassment on R. would be similar to that, N.
130 ys. ago. N. got to Moscow on much less time
than H. - in less 7 4 months after he crossed the
Siemens; and H. is not there yet! And N. army
did not travel in motorized cars.

-N. too, second victory after victory - costly ones - in
R. - at B Sunburst, Broding, Moshausk.

-N. too, sent back word to home of his unbrother
series of Victories and announced the route, the
R. armies

Russians kept on retreating in admirable order and fighting.

-He captured Moscow - the capital! He had triumphed.
R. abandoned city - and set fire to it.

-N. wanted them to make peace. They didn't
then they were beaten! N. made his peace
and peace. R. couldn't have been here!

-N. could his heels in Moscow. Winter was
coming on - the savage R. winter! His
army had suffered much - had dissolved -
was cold - was a fraction of former -

After 5 weeks - ordered retreat - The worst
disastrous retreat in history -

- Grand Army - 20 nations - "Western Crusade
ag. Asiatic Russia" - a forerunner of the present
day Nazi Crusade ag. Bol. Russia to save Gorkhatten
650,000 weathers - 1200 field guns - 130 siege guns.

- Europe had never seen such an army - any
now & Europe has ever seen the like, the present
Nazi Army.

After 10 weeks, Retreat - ^{and} continuous attack -
by R. armies - covered lands - parallel paths -
and by gens. Winter & Frost & Hunger &
Disease - The retreat became a wild flight
- H. crossed the Berezina with 4000 men - all
that was left to him, the Grand Army. The
pride of Europe, France - and finally he
himself ~~forced~~ ^{sent} back to Paris -

4) His Tory never repeats itself - in exact detail - and the
fact that a thing happened once in a certain way - it
does not follow that -

- But H. is still in R. - He is not yet even in Moscow -
The Russian press is still vigorously fighting. H.
has several victories as great as H's. in R. -
but he has not succeeded in ending the war in R.
It is still going on! The Russian have not
wed for Russia! They are still talking on

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fightful toll, German dead wounded - & snatching up
a good lot of ^{material} material which gives H. the edge on
all other nations.

- Winter is coming on - the scarce R. winter -
And burned cities & roofless houses are no
protection in sub-zero weather -

- If the R. hold out over the winter - if their
armies do not collapse - or their govt does
not become demoralized & sure for peace - the
R. campaign will take the heart out of the German
people.

- They have been at war for 3 yrs. now. have
promised peace - glory & prosperity - no thirst
but hardship - sacrifice - poor food - shabby
clothes - long, hard hours, labor -

- Their cities bombarded -

- And now their casualties from the R. campaign
their wounded, dead wounded.

- And the growing knowledge - Egy then growing
things - Production mounting -

5) War in E. will mean - as H. is logged
down in R - mounting - as they see first ray of
hope -

6) And if E. will use first the recession by
a major attack in Egypt to destroy M.
- Hasten Italian collapse - Germany can

- 7/ of utmost importance to send all possible aid to R. (1)
- to maintain their morale - to help them prepare for their spring campaign -
 - H. must destroy R - before he can turn on Eng.
 - N. too was convinced that. He wanted to conquer Europe - only power strong enough to challenge was E.
 - He determined to destroy E. - Invasion - 1803
2000 boats - gunboats + small craft. 100,000 in a single night. Boulogne - Plan foiled.
 - Tried to break E's power on high seas - Trafalgar. 1805.
 - Failing - Stands England - Continental System ^{Philips}
~~being forced on to the continent by the English~~
~~(H. Apr 1806 in Europe seemed off. H.)~~ ^{order}
- complete isolation from Continent
 - If he could unite all Europe under him - E. had understand how hopeless - calculated -
 - Discouraged & in mood to compromise
 - There will be 'appeals' in E - suffering
 - To unite Europe - he had to conquer Russia -
(Alexander I - after vacillating & fleeing
first in 1805 then another (1812))
- with Eng. - after T. 1805 - with France - 1812
- finally understood that the real foe of R -
was Nap - & would not collaborate with
N -

to that - Because N. had not crossed the Straits, Dover, he was to go in vain to Moscow

- 8/1. Exactly, the same ~~was~~ situation has developed for the second world - by comparison E. in a century & 1/4 - Hitler - E. would not accept his claim to hegemony - Went to war!
- He failed to invade Eng. - lost year -
 - Went Europe of England - Blockade - Submarine starve England
 - Russia would not collaborate - Temporary Pact - 1939 - neither trusted each other!
 - a piece of outrageous folly - for Hitler even to have agreed to such a pact. - It ~~but on~~ the forced side the door for his conquest of the continent
 - Even his later resentment - Spain - Munich as not sufficient excuse - for shattering honor, H - who based on now laid upon the threat of Russia
 - Stalin was too smart & He outwitted himself as did Chamberlain & the Tories / France -
 - They all share a common guilt before the bar of history.

H. most deadly Russian - to destroy England - and to dominate not only Europe but the world - (7)

- R. is now the battle-field of ~~all~~ the Nazi and Anti-Nazi forces in the world -

- ~~that~~ ^{subsequent} people ^{+ world} have ^{not} even to ~~be~~ understand this -

Japan - foreign policy swings like a pendulum + calibrates its full with serious reserves to the prospects of Nazi victory or defeat in R.

- If R. is defeated - the U.S. will either be forced into by J. aggression into war with Japan or into aggressive measures to J. domination of the Pacific + Far East.

- For the Japanese ^{the Nazis + East} will be as the mach as soon as they are convinced (Italy) that R. is through.

- There is a electric chord connecting Moscow Tokyo - Washington - which can set off a frightful explosion at any time.

Situations in E. full of dangers: We may be losing all aid to Russia by way of Berlin - Tokyo - Collapse R.

→ The fact that we don't tell Com. or Stalin has nothing to do with the situation ^{We do not know it} ^{Don't want it} ^{Com. + Stalin}

→ Gar Nichols II Plant held war - ally - should ration - ag. same for - Imperialistic Germany

→ When the war was over - + allies had over-helped materially in early years by Russia - there was

no longer any gas holder. ~~a diff. fact~~ But (8)
the Russian people were still there - a great
number of 200 m. souls - Pushkin - ~~LEMONTOV~~
~~Gogol~~ - Dostoyevsky - Turgenyev - Tolstoy - Chekhov -
Gorky -

→ Communist have made great & huge mistakes
- whole technique - of dictatorship which they introduced
in Europ was false and utterly bad - the wrong
method to ends.

→ Their ~~shortly~~ ^{sad} ~~story~~ ^{revel} of their expropriations, purges,
the killing off of their own revol. leaders -
the net-work of spying & surveillance, the terror, the
~~stampeding~~ ~~of the people~~ ^{demanded} by their armed force in -

Napoleon ^{this Part of Friendship with H.}
→ Stalin was upon Finland, this celebration with
H. in partitioning Poland, & rape of Baltic countries

→ Religion ^{the} ~~condemned~~ in name of Purges or Socialism
- blind - will change - no soc. formula without

→ They have also achieved many great & first-unity
things in Soviet Union - Industry - Education - Health - no race intolerance. no
Int. rivalries:

→ We are not now called upon to defend our
order or dictates, the R. people. They are
fighting H. So are WE! They are actually
at war. We are pledged to provide the
equipment / way to all who way war
upon this mad-war / Europe

There is much we may not like about England -
- weakness - inequality -

But our destiny ~~the~~ E's are interlocked.

~~The~~ E. needs us. We need E.!

Russia needs us to-day.

We need Russia!

A common need has made allies of us!
All aid to an ally!

10). Neither Eng. nor U.S. are yet ready to defeat H.
Only delay him! ~~fair~~ Win Time to run
fully. - complete our own defense program -
His campaign with R. is going as this presents
gift / time.

The longer he is delayed	there -	the stronger E. +
the U.S. will become -	as their	armament production
steps us -		

11).