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What to do with a defeated Germany, 1944.

WRHS

WHAT TO DO WITH A DEFEATED GERMANY

By
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver



At
The Temple, Ansel Rd. & E. 105th St.

On
Sunday Morning, October 22, 1944

As we approach the end of the war, the question is naturally debated:

What shall be done to a defeated Germany? Our armies are in Germany. Aachen is only the first. "Festung Germania" will fall under the irresistible march of the armies of the United Nations. It will take a longer or a shorter time to march into Berlin. But nothing will stop them. The fond hope of the Nazis that disagreement among the Allies will give them a favorable break will not materialize. The Polish issue is by way of reaching a settlement.

The other fond hope of prolonged resistance, fighting for every town and in every city, like Aachen, will force the Allies to agree to a negotiated peace -- that also will not materialize. The United Nations will not negotiate with the Nazis! Nor will their threat to go underground to fight on endlessly as guerrillas, to sabotage all efforts at pacification of Germany avail them.

The United Nations did not yield to Nazi threats when they were backed by power far greater than they can now or will ever be able to summon in their unavoidable defeat. The German Reich will be conquered. The longer the war lasts, the more ruined and shattered will be the cities and towns of Germany, the more decimated its population and the more decisive and catastrophic their final capitulation. The nation which set out to conquer the world has been hurled back, bloody, ragged and reeling to its own borders and beyond them to its own bombed and shattered cities, and will now have many long and bitter years in which to ruminate upon its mad and perilous war impulses and their terrible consequences.

So as we approach the end of the war, naturally the question poses itself:

"What Shall Be Done With A Defeated Germany?" And here, we are told, there are two schools of thought -- those who advocate a Soft Peace, and those advocate a Hard Peace. Actually these terms, Hard Peace, Soft Peace, have little meaning whatsoever. What does one mean by Hard Peace, soft peace? A community, in self-defense, must punish criminals. Laxity in the apprehension and punishment of criminals will make any

community the prey of crime and anarchy. It isn't therefore a question of being soft or hard in the treatment of criminals, but of maintaining justice, law and order by the sure and certain punishment of those who criminally violate the canons of justice, law and order which the community has established. It is in its own defense that a community punishes its criminals. It is not a matter of revenge. Revenge has nothing to do with it. It is a question of protecting itself by punishing the perpetrators of crime by bringing them to justice and in so doing, by discouraging other criminals similarly bent on future crime.

How else can these people live in peace and security in their community? Jails and prisons in which human beings are incarcerated are not pleasant things to behold. Nobody really wants them. And there are certain people squeamish and sentimental who, especially those who have not been hurt by the criminal who may frown upon them or remonstrate against them. But what would they substitute for them and still keep killers and rapists and burglars and criminals from endangering the lives of people and the property of law abiding citizens.

Modern criminology is not motivated by vindictiveness, by sentiment or by passion, but by two considerations, to protect the community and, if possible, to reform the criminal. The former is primary for the well-being of the whole is more important than that of any of its parts. It does not think in terms of soft and hard treatment of the criminal, but of adequate treatment, just treatment.

No criminal in any civilized community, immediately upon arrest, having just committed a horrible crime, is ever told: Now, your crime is over. We have taken away your weapon so that your crime is stopt. ~~Thereafter~~ You can go home now. All is forgotten and forgiven. We recall that you committed similar crimes in the past. We will overlook this again because we are kind-hearted. It is too bad that in trying to set fire to other people's houses, your own house caught fire. We will give you money and credit, and in a little while we will also help you to obtain new weapons in place of the ones we are taking away from you so that you will not feel discriminated against.

This would be sheer madness. When, however, a criminal, disarmed and confined, having had time to reflect, if he is capable of reflection, shows signs of sincere penitence, of reform, every assistance is given to him by an intelligent prison administration to rehabilitate himself.

If, however, he remains incorrigible, or if upon release, he repeats his crime, no sane society, in self-defense could do anything else than permanently to quarantine him and render him incapable of anti-social activities for all future time.

Now the same thing exactly should apply to a country. To assume that this arch-criminal will immediately upon signing of the armistice become penitent, contrite and conscience-stricken, is stupidity. There is nothing in the present conduct of the Nazis, nothing in their bearing on the eve of defeat to indicate that they have had a change of heart and mind. There is nothing in the brazen bearing of war and in defeat in war to indicate any change of heart. There is nothing in the threats of the Nazis to go underground and carry on activities to show a change of heart. There is nothing in its present crimes against innocent civilians on the eve of defeat to indicate that there will be a change of heart. They are doing to the Jews of Hungary the self-same things they have been doing -- being sent to camps where mass executions are held. Even the United Nations had to warn them for the third and fourth time against their unspeakable acts of brutality their acts of barbarism. The Nazi does not regard this war as a sin. The sin consists in having lost. The Nazis today are not penitence, but of revenge for this second defeat and how to prepare for the next war, the third world war.

In the youth of Germany there is nothing to indicate a change of heart. They will have to be prepared to assume the responsibilities of peace. These young people have been subjected to ten years of vicious Nazi indoctrination, the whole mad Nazi philosophy of racism, world conquest, "Herrvolk". They have been schooled and drilled. They are fanatical in their Nazi religion. Their thought pattern is fixed. They have the utmost contempt for the rest of the world, for democracy, for democratic

institutions. They will be the dominant voice of Germany tomorrow. They are the generation who will be carrying in Germany right after the war. As far as we are concerned, they are a lost generation and the problem of these fanatical young Nazis is an insurgent problem which will die with them.

To say therefore to Germany on the day of the Armistice. All is over now. We will forgive and forget. This war unfortunately destroyed some of your lovely cities. We will help you to rebuild them. You brought on the war, you will recall, 25 years ago, and after you were defeated we got soft-hearted over you and we helped you back to your feet and rebuilt and rearmed you. We thought that you would understand that we wanted you to live together with us in a free peaceful world order. We were sadly mistaken. So now, we will proceed to make the same mistake again. You were told that Europe needs an economically strong and reconstructed Germany, and you will recall we helped you to become strong by lending you billions of dollars which you never returned. You will be told the same thing again. So we will not think of the countries which you raped and looted, the populations which you decimated, the cities which you destroyed, the torture and horror with which you filled the habitations of the world. We are going to forget the millions of our young people who had to die because of your mad adventure in world domination. We are going to get busy immediately to restore your cities, feed your populations in the hope that you will not think us bad and that you will not try twenty to twenty-five years from today to make another war. We will hug this illusion that the kindly treatment will make Germany less military, less adventuring, less avid of revenge behind the advocacy of the so-called soft peace for Nazi Germany.

What shall be done with a defeated Germany? There those people who would have you believe that the Nazis and the Germans are two separate and distinct peoples, that if you could only get rid of the Nazis you will have left an amiable, peaceable people, poets, and peasants and musicians, the kind of Germans whom we know as our laborers in this country, and that the complete solution is to get rid of the Nazis and the rest

will be simple. One wishes that it were so. But the facts unfortunately speak against it. The German people in recent years has rejoiced at every successive triumph of Hitler. Every impartial observer has testified that overwhelmingly the people have been with Hitler, with the Nazis. A very large section of the German population was with Hitler and Nazism before Hitler became Chancellor of the Reich. In 1932 the Nazis polled nearly 12 million votes, and after he became Chancellor, in 1933, he polled 12 million votes. In 1932 13 and a half million people voted for Hitler to become President of the German Republic as against 19 million for Hindenburg. A very substantial group was for him and aggressive Nazism, world racism and anti-Semitism. And a very substantial section of Germany is to this day for him.

The other section -- the good Germans -- and there are many of them -- the other section unfortunately cannot or do not know how to make their will and ideas count in Germany. They couldn't do it under the Kaiser, under Bismarck. They couldn't do it under Hitler. They are helplessly ineffectual. Even to them, to the good German, by and large democracy is not a living tradition. They are at home neither in its theory nor in its practice. They are given to blind obedience, politically. Deep-rooted ideology of the master race and the lure of the uniform, adoration of war are powerful forces even with them. The Junkers have always known how to lead them by the nose. They are all so ready to follow any leader who will promise them world-domination.

The elimination, therefore of the Nazis, after the war, will not give you a Germany that will be safe for Europe.

I came across, not long ago, an interesting statement by an eminent psychologist Dr. L. G. Lowry, who makes this interesting observation. It needs to be taken with a certain amount of reservation, yet there is an element of truth in it.

"Dr. Lowry traced German history to show that the German nation always had displayed a pattern of behavior recognized by psychiatrists as paranoia in the behavior of the individual. The paranoiac, Dr. Lowry explained, has delusions of grandeur and also of persecution. He believes himself superior and imagines the world is against him

because of his superiority. He imagines he has a grand mission, entrusted to him by God or by fate. He is convinced that he can do no wrong in attempting to fulfill his mission. In this belief he strikes when he thinks the moment is opportune, and if he fails he waits for his next chance. While he plans his next attack he whines that he is being persecuted.

"In the case of individuals,' Dr. Lowry said, 'the paranoiac is generally confined to an institution. In the case of Germany, and also of Japan, we must recognize that we have to do here with a diseased culture. If so, we are going to need some positive, therapeutic and preventive measures. We shall need radical surgery, and a long period of curative procedures so that the same aberration will not break out again.'

It is for this reason, he continued, that Mee. Chiang's advice is fraught with danger to our future. For, if we 'forgive those who injured us,' as she urged, we will only repeat the mistakes of the past, particularly those after World War I, and, instead of recognizing Germany as a dangerous paranoiac among nations that must be treated as such, we will allow ourselves to be lulled to sleep again and even fall for her complaints again that she is being persecuted, as the world was led to believe in the era following 1918.

"The people we know as Germans,' continued Dr. Lowry, 'have from time to time overrun their neighbors. They have usually suffered defeat. But the peoples they overran did not invade them. Meantime, after each setback, the German hords withdrew between their two rivers, as Tacitus said, and prepared themselves for the next onslaught. We must never allow that to happen again if we are to have peace.'"

First of all, someone has correctly stated: "The Germans need evidence of defeat inside their own frontiers. They need the sight of a victorious army marching in the streets of Berlin." Germany needs to be occupied for as long a time as it will require to convince them that they have been thoroughly licked, that their invulnerable German military prowess is a cruel and ghastly hoax. Up to now Germans have been fighting on

foreign soil. They turned other countries into bloody battle-fields. Theirs was safe. The war must now be brought to their own doorsteps. They must come to realize that war does not pay, in any regard whatsoever, that the world will sit on them for as long as the desire for military adventure remains with them. Their craving to dominate the world must be broken.

In the second place, Germany must never again be capable of making war. It must be rendered incapable of waging war, not merely by relying on the penitence of its leader and people, on the re-education of its youth, or a strong international order capable of maintaining peace. All these will be helpful and contributing factors.

The essential and indispensable factor to insure the non-belligerency of Germany is the control or reduction of its individual potential so that it will not be able to wage a modern war. Thus aviation production, even for commercial uses, as Dr. Conant of Harvard suggests, should be subjected to inspection and control. The manufacture of armament should be forbidden, and the United Nations should be forbidden to sell her armaments. If the United Nations are to assist some of the countries of Europe to rebuild their war-destroyed and economic industries, such assistance should in the first place be given to those countries which Germany has ravaged. This may bring about a redistribution and a reorientation of European industry which would further discourage military adventures in Germany. War is born in the mines, mills and factories as well as in the battlefields.

This does not imply a total de-industrialization of Germany, reducing it to an agricultural state. 80 millions of people cannot be reduced to an agricultural status as Germany had planned to do to countries which she conquered. The Allies have no such plan for Germany...

Again, all German war criminals should be punished not after long legalistic trials but by swift court-martials. The German military clique, the Gestapo gangsters should be ruthlessly and totally exterminated. This would be a blessing to the world and a

blessing to all people.

All the loot that Germany carried off from conquered countries should be returned. They carried off whole factories, machinery. These in all justice must be restored to their original rightful owners. German Labor should be asked to rebuild countries and cities they destroyed. That, too, is a ~~very~~ simple measure of justice.

During the period of occupation, all the decent elements of democracy should be given every encouragement to help to rebuild their national life, to educate the children in the schools of Germany in the ways of international cooperation and good will. That will have to be done by the Germans themselves, not by outsiders.

Germany should not be dismembered. I know that many thoughtful men, men like Mr. Sumner Welles favor that policy... Unity is an ideal which has moral justification. We fought a civil war in this country to stay united. The German people in all its future days will regard this forced dismemberment of their country as a great wrong which will fester and will not contribute to a permanent pacification of the people.

No punitive indemnities should be placed on the people. No financial chains should be riveted on the coming generations. The generations of tomorrow should not be punished for the horrible crimes of this generations of Germans.

What we are thinking of neither a soft peace nor a hard peace, but a just peace, a peace which will have within itself the seeds of permanence, a strong international order, implemented by force which will make secure a world order in which Germany will share, in which Germany will take its place. This international world order, however, should not be made dependent on three or four great powers, because these three or four great powers are likely to run in to sharp disagreement. If these three or four powers become rivals, as they possibly do, one or the other will again begin to woo Germany -- 80 million people in the heart of Europe. One or another will begin to help Germany to re-arm as after the last war and in twenty or thirty years we will have a repetition of what we had in 1939. Only a world order which impresses on peoples large and small, implemented by force, where basic decisions are not left to three or

or four powers --- only such a world order will succeed in maintaining peace and order in the world of tomorrow.

So, in conclusion, if one asks the question: What are we to do with a defeated Germany?, the answer is this: The answer was given very eloquently by the President of the United States last evening, not in these words, of course. No one wishes to destroy Germany. No one wishes to enslave Germany. The United Nations are not people who advocate slavery and tyranny. We all wish to destroy the evil that is in Germany-- its militarism, its Junker/ Nazism, its feudalism, its Prussianism -- that curse of Germany which has cursed Europe. The world desires a chastened and sobered Germany back in the family of nations. But the world is going to be soberly realistic today. The world is going to benefit by the experiences of the last war. The world wants security for itself and it means to have it, even it means putting Germany on probation for a generation. There must be an end of military aggression in the world. And after a victory which will cost the United Nations millions of lives, it means to make sure, absolutely sure that there will be no aggression from Germany in the future.

1) The day after America. Millennium - A Battled - More or less chaotic
no govt. - Opposing groups will struggle to seize power -
all the continents - breakdown of Govt. - unless armies of occupy
the better social & pol. strife - too - aggravated by bitterness that
Provisional resolutions on vast scale - Those who hope,
whole - not pay-off - This time it will be the Circumstances - Living - 1900s

2) Not only citizens ^{within} of defeated countries - Congress - Occupied -
wondering for day of Reprieve - The Poles etc -
not likely to forget - slaying hostages ^{Lidice} - murder aty - Civilian
unfortunately filthy & brutal crimes - ~~500~~
"Never in hist. has such a volume of hate been generated as
will be released on American Day"

Europe will not quietly cover up - Jews Black Book
7 Poland

3) There will be Hunger - Poverty Fields - app. crippled
Poverty - industrial - crippled - even life now thus - Financial Bankruptcy
unemployment - 25%

4) World of Revolution - Different - State worship - Vietnam - Germany
our govt, intentionally aware -
Relief - of unmet desires - even now - Lehman
Help them to help ers - Wait out our Salvation - with
our assistance - not weans - our marks and symbols
poured out -
Am. should not assume - profound role - Sol. Beautiful
Benjamin was - from hills

We should ~~play~~^{not} the role of the food-natured ~~Decker~~^{Daddy} for the
rest of the world. Our own borders have well be primaries - our
own people will have (to work harder) & even before + for a much
lower standard of living, we shall have to pay a 50% pay
price for our own staple, the cost of the work we have a
crushing load of debt. And for debt to come ^{from children} ~~of~~ ^{we} ~~shall~~
be passing temporarily (heavy taxes).

We are not having the slightest atlas cannot
bear the whole weight of world upon our shoulders.

Following the last war - we were sold a bill ^{by certain economists} ~~for~~ ^{to help}
we were told that only as we lent billions ^{to help} after billions
of dollars to our restored economy - help them to econ.
competence, can they become self creative countries & an
many products. That was the only way to get an return
nothing. And then we were told by some of the econ.
that there was no way for them & other countries to pay back
except in goods - which would flood our own market &
close down our factories. Actually the billions loaned
helped to build up the equip the indust plants for
white economy - so that they could compete with
under us in the market the world & most these
markets from us - And considerable ^{millions} of an loans were
used to beautify the cities of primary world stadiums &
sport palaces, & secretly to re-quip them with their
establishment -

The Billion loaned - did not restore us to econ. stagnation.
we expected nothing - when lending orgs could as long as 1929 collapse

9/ Those generous econ. on Amer. Scene - to sell us -
nostrums - abetted - Forgiveness there - Argument
As soon as H. & M. are out, the way - turns with
boundless generosity to fer. & I fully - say - "Too bad
You wrecked"
It was all the fault - 2 bad, bad boys - Innocent victim
Now a real divorce - Delighted - Just on all
Rebuilt - As if nothing had happened - 130% -
Until you are strong enough - 1939 - 1944

10/ We should not assume sole responsibility for forcing the Kill
up the unfreedom - Universal kind - lose
manners in one's back - yard -
Cruel to disappoint them - Not able

6/ Whatever Relief - with out subjecting our own
But other nations must also do their share
Whatever we can do to preserve Order - Phys

✓ Whatever we can do by agreement with other nations, to facilitate ^{trade business} international trade by removal of high tariffs, quota systems + preference privileges of free exchange of resources + goods.
we should do. Our State Dept. - tariff agreements

✓ Whatever we can do to ensure small nations access on equal terms to the goods + raw materials of the earth - we should do.

✓ Whatever we can do to stabilize currency throughout the world - in agreement with other nations - and at an

exchange excess technical skills to rebuild currency
✓ intergovt loans in order to create buy power + internal loans
✓ production - have passed the last valuable aid

in the large sum - the most precious + above, and faith, and feeling

✓ intergovt loans are impractical they should be made out of a credit pool to which every nation should contribute to help share + should be operated on an equal basis which gives priority to the most urgent needs - what ever is needed to work - (250K in '30) current problem
✓ wherever we can do to create an atmosphere

9 int. order security in world - in which people can live and rebuild, peacefully, between themselves happily their mutual needs live - we should do - League
- our first + most valuable contribution to free world

✓ above all - we should insist uncompromisingly on a charter of unalienable human rights in every land where are men and women and children and old - we should not compromise with any and any - under whatever name - we should not accept any arrangement with any offender

domestic affair - discriminates - Business with Hitler (5)
Traitors - focal points - "Every drop of blood saved thus
expediently will be paid for by 20 drawn with the sword!"

8) Inter. peace without major sweeping - just like Victory
of each nation - peace to make them secure
UN at all time - great Empires - surrender
And yet - without radical revision
To be sure - Back and forth - not yet ready -
Neither an Empire - which main burden -
Under - unpromised date - allowing for - improved
Want Freedom - want it now -

9) Tariff Barriers -

10) Nat. Sovereignty - United League - Unanimity - Sacrament
No Super nation State - No Universal State
Not weans. to obstruct - Prophets.
Nat. in twof. no Evil - Nat. Sentiments - Culture
Co-exist -

19C - fall safe - Sacrament - a Status
New State - movement 7 Evangelical

Abused - Crowded out other loyalties - Exploit

In man-time - Tech. + Transport - less time
need to stress World Community - not nat.

Separation - Self-Sufficiency
Nazism - aware - global - Tobacco -

to satisfy their own econ + scientific interests (Haber) (6)
Only answer - League of Free - for Mutual Help

~~Should say 20 years - Agustine~~
11/ Goal - League - Transnational - for Answer
Feed - Heal - Rethink Redemptive (Editorial)

~~(Freedom from Persecution)~~
12/ Charter of Indiv. Unalienable Rights (State)
Uninstructed. World Council - (Wiaant)

13/ Econ security - Comment - Too high a price
250 B.

14/ Sweden X. H. Dewey -

That we here highly resolve that this deed
shall not have died in vain; that this nation
under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and
that just. & the people, by the people, for the people
shall not perish from the earth.

CURB ON WAR HATE IS HELD DANGEROUS

Dr. L. G. Lowry, Psychiatrist,
Warns Mme. Chiang's Plea
May Be Stumbling Block

NAZI PARANOIA STRESSED

Cancer Society Speaker Points
to Delusions of Grandeur and
Persecution of Germans

Dr. Lawson G. Lowry, New York psychiatrist, in an address yesterday at a luncheon of the women's field army of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, in the Hotel Commodore, said that Mme. Chiang Kai-shek's plea at Madison Square Garden Tuesday night against recrimination and hatred toward our enemies in the post-war reconstruction period might become a stumbling block in our efforts to build a world in which further wars would be impossible.

The luncheon was part of the program of the three-day annual meeting of the society, which is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. Dr. Clarence C. Little, managing director of the society, was another speaker. Mrs. David S. Long of Harrisonville, Mo., deputy national commander of the women's field army, presided.

Dr. Lowry traced German history to show that the German nation always had displayed a pattern of behavior recognized by psychiatrists as paranoia in the behavior of an individual. The paranoiac, Dr. Lowry explained, has delusions of grandeur and also of persecution. He believes himself superior and imagines the world is against him because of his superiority. He imagines he has a grand mission, entrusted to him by God or by fate. He is convinced that he can do no wrong in attempting to fulfill his mission. In this belief he strikes when he thinks the moment is opportune, and if he fails he waits for his next chance. While he plans his next attack he whines that he is being persecuted.

"In case of individuals," Dr. Lowry said, "the paranoiac is generally confined to an institution. In the case of Germany, and also of Japan, we must recognize that we have to do here with a diseased culture. If so, we are going to need some positive, therapeutic and preventive measures. We shall need radical surgery, social and psychiatric surgery, and a long period of curative procedures so that the same aberration will not break out again."

It is for this reason, he continued, that Mme. Chiang's advice is fraught with danger to our future. For, if we "forgive those who injured us" as she urged, we will only repeat the mistakes of the past, particularly those after World War I, and, instead of recognizing Germany as a dangerous paranoiac among nations that must be treated as such, we will allow ourselves to be lulled to sleep again and even fall for her complaints again that she is being persecuted, as the world was led to believe in the era following 1918.

"The people we know as Germans," he added, "have from time to time overrun their neighbors. They have usually suffered defeat. But the peoples they overran did not invade them. Meantime, after each setback, the German hords withdrew between their two rivers, as Tacitus said, and prepared themselves for the next onslaught."

"We must never allow that to happen again, if we are to have peace," Dr. Lowry declared, "and if we forgive them again this time it will happen again. In order to make sure of a properly reconstructed world, we must continue to remember with hate and bitterness the terrible evils that a diseased culture has brought upon the world. If you forgive Germany, it will only be taken by her as a sign of weakness and decadence and it will only encourage her for her next act of paranoiac aggression."

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