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Review: A Modified Nazi Philosophy

Reviewed Work(s): A New Social Philosophy by Werner Sombart and Karl F. Geiser

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student and peace-time friends. The solution of the war mania will not be found in "friendly visits" even of ministers of state.

Approximately forty pages are devoted to unusually comprehensive book-reviews and ten pages to bibliographies on the various articles.

—FRANCIS J. BROWN

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### The Consequences of National Socialism

GERMANY THE LAST FOUR YEARS. (An Independent Examination of the Results of National Socialism.) By "Germanicus" with an introduction by Sir Walter Layton. Boston and New York: The Houghton-Mifflin Company, 1937. vii, 116 pp. \$1.75.

This is a most illuminating account of the economic and military consequences of National Socialism in Germany, and is the work of about a dozen men of some achievement in Germany's military, financial and industrial affairs, which for the greater part first appeared in the English economic journal *The Banker*. The reader will be not at all surprised after perusal of this compact, severely objective work, that its contents not only evoked eye-opening repercussions in the world press; but the irritating and violent attacks of the Nazi press vouch for the importance of the deductions arrived at by these anonymous Germans.

When you are told that from 1933 to 1937 the Hitler régime spent from ten to twelve billion dollars for armament, the most gigantic armament program ever undertaken, at the conscienceless expense of the bare needs of the population; it is not difficult to surmise the enormous economic difficulties of Nazi Germany. The chapters on economic control, economic war preparations, agriculture, newspapers, foreign trade, the economic value of German colonies, the banks and food situation are a devastating indictment of the supercost of the totalitarian form of government, of the throttling of individual initiative and mobility, worse than those prevailing some years ago in Soviet Russia.

What suffering there must be in Germany on the part of all social strata at the hands of the dastardly economic theory of these high-booted gangsters of the "Leader-State"! In comparison with them the devil himself is a gentleman! Every one should read this book.

—HERMAN HAUSHEER

Lamoni, Iowa

### Why Dictatorship Comes

DICTATORS AND DEMOCRACIES. By Calvin B. Hoover. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1937. 110 pp. \$1.50.

Mr. Calvin B. Hoover will be recalled as the author of the books, *Germany Enters the Third Reich*, and *The Economic Life of Soviet Russia*. In his new book, *Dictators and Democracies*, he sets forth in five brief essays the conclusions of his experience in Germany, Russia, and Italy, out of which he wrote the larger works. In addition, he makes interesting comparisons between the dic-

tatorships of these three countries and the democratic governments of England, France, and the United States.

The differences between democratic governments and dictatorial governments stand out in a graphic manner. The second essay, in which he describes terror as a social institution, is particularly striking and does much to portray the basic weaknesses of dictatorship.

Throughout the essays, Mr. Hoover raises the question as to whether dictatorship and the totalitarian state is the inevitable future for the United States. His contention is that dictatorship comes as a result of the failure of democratic governments to control the economic situation in the interest of the general welfare. While he recognizes this as a most difficult task for the United States, he feels that it is still possible, particularly if the United States can avoid war. He emphasizes the joint responsibility of England and the United States in promoting world peace and maintaining democracy.

It is very fortunate that Mr. Hoover has epitomized the conclusions of his broad experiences in this brief and very readable book.

—E. GLENN CALLEN

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### A Modified Nazi Philosophy

A NEW SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY. By *Werner Sombart*. Translated and edited by Karl F. Geiser. Princeton University Press, 1937. xii, 295 pp. \$3.50.

This is a fair translation of W. Sombart's book *Deutscher Sozialismus*. The reviewer is of the candid opinion that the translator and editor erred in entitling the work *A New Social Philosophy*. The title should have been "A Modified Nazi Philosophy," as Sombart deliberately pleads for a social philosophy that conforms to the biases and prejudices of the mentality of the German middle classes. In Part I the noted German political economist is at his best in presenting a scathingly one-sided critique of the last century and a half. Parts II and III contain an abbreviation of the author's monumental work *Der Proletarische Sozialismus*, known only among a small group of intellectuals, and representing the most ambitious and incisive critique of Marxian socialism. Parts IV, V and VI represent the author's middle class social philosophy. Sombart is frankly and singularly biased against any form of proletarian socialism, to him the denial of all genuine culture. While he opposes certain extremes of Nazi racialism, he is for the elimination of the Jews from leading and responsible positions in the state. He largely repeats and uncritically accepts the vague metaphysics about the nation and the state in which the Germans of the idealistic and romantic tradition excel. He reserves the right of existence in Germany mainly to the middle class Germans. He pleads for the restriction of the size of the industrial proletariat, the bearers of proletarian socialism, and the diminution of large scale industries, the *rationale* of the existence of an industrial proletariat. Moreover, Sombart negates all socialistic demands of Christianity as inadmissible interpretation of the

Christian doctrine. Christianity merely serves as a screen to Sombart's social philosophy. His discussion of Christian socialism is sadly misinformed and reactionary in bias. He shows a profound ignorance of Christian socialism in Germany. With certain outstanding reservations Sombart's German socialism reminds one of certain pre-Marxian socialisms. The book ought to be read by all students of political and social science.

—HERMAN HAUSHEER

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### Survey of Conditions in the Middle Ages

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDIAEVAL EUROPE. By *Henri Pirenne*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1937. (Translated from the French by I. E. Clegg. First appeared in *Histoire du Moyen Age* by Henri Pirenne, Gustave Cohen, and Henri Focillon.) xii, 243 pp. \$2.00.

This survey of the economic and social development of Europe in the Middle Ages by H. Pirenne is a brilliant reaffirmation of the eminence of the author as economic historian. Unlike most of the works depicting the general movement of the economic and social evolution of Western Europe from the end of the Roman Empire to the middle of the fifteenth century, Pirenne's sketch is the one that does least violence to the facts by resorting to pet theory. Instead of emphasizing the particular forms which the economic and social life assumed in different countries, they are duly subordinated to the author's avowed international standpoint. Pirenne represents in the study of mediaeval economic and social history a thesis that is at once much more in accord with the facts of the extant mediaeval sources, and therefore offers a much more balanced account of this phase of history than the bulk of European authorities. The author's viewpoint is particularly a healthy reaction against the numerous German authorities on the subject, who in writing on the topic have based their ideas too exclusively upon Germany, and therefore have arbitrarily extended to the whole of Europe results and conclusions which are valid only for some of the lands east of the Rhine. Pirenne is therefore in the nature of the case critical of both their economic theories as well as of their general conclusions by carefully avoiding going beyond the facts. The author is fully abreast of the inclusive German, English, French, Dutch and Italian literature. The work is a splendid handbook, clearly and smoothly written. All students of the Middle Ages will welcome this reliable guide. Leaving his concept-making machinery out of the picture, Pirenne fits the solid blocks of scholarship snugly into his compact structure of historical synthesis.

—HERMAN HAUSHEER

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### French Canadian Nationalism

THE CRISIS OF QUEBEC, 1914-18. By *Elizabeth H. Armstrong*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1937. xiv, 269 pp. \$3.00.

This monograph is a clear, concise, and fluent analysis of the roots of French Canadian "na-

tionalism" and its forced burgeoning from the fertilizer furnished by the World War. The author traces the development of French Canadian sentiment toward the war from initial very nearly whole-hearted support to violent and even bloody opposition to the Dominion's policy of aid to the Empire's military efforts. The analyses of French Canadian attitudes toward France, the British Empire, and the Anglo-Canadian are particularly illuminating.

The author's prefatory statement that the "French Canadian 'Nationalist' is not on the lookout for new fields to conquer, nor does he wish to impose his way of life and thought on any other people," must be considered in the light of recent tendencies toward a Clerical-Fascist expression of French Canadian "nationalism" (See: Gordon, J. King, "Fascist Week-End in Montreal," *Christian Century*, Nov. 25, 1936; "Quebec Fascists Show Their Hand," *Canadian Forum*, Dec., 1936; Forsey, E., "Clerical Fascism in Quebec," *ibid.*, June, 1937; etc.).

—KENNETH W. PORTER

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### Reconstruction of Central Europe

CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE WESTERN WORLD. By *Gerhard Schacher*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1936. 223 pp. \$2.75.

This is a timely, informative book crammed with facts on the political, economic and financial problems of Central Europe. The author, who has written several other books on this subject, examines the problem from the viewpoint of an economist. He does review briefly the main political post-war developments but his main concern is with the economic situation arising from the present depression.

After summarizing and condemning the early efforts towards economic self-sufficiency, he considers the various plans brought forward for the reconstruction of Central Europe. Two of these he considers constructive—the Little Entente with its economic counterpart of 1933 and the Rome Pacts of 1934 between Italy, Austria and Hungary. In fact he believes that if Austria and Hungary would abandon their "imperialist romantic dreams" and cooperate with Italy and the Little Entente, the two blocs thus formed would cooperate and lay the foundation for a trade recovery in Central Europe. The other plans he considers destructive, namely, the Anschluss, Hapsburg restoration and Hungarian irredentism. The last two he dismisses as productive of nothing except war. As for the Anschluss he maintains that it is primarily an imperialist movement and he makes the interesting point that the Schober-Curtius Anschluss agreement of 1931 was based, to the extent of word for word reproduction in some parts, on the 1828 customs treaty between Prussia and Hesse-Damstadt. In 1828 the issue was the economic leadership of Prussia which was to lead to political consolidation; in 1931 the aim to be realized was the securance by Germany of leadership in Central Europe.

To this the author is heartily opposed. Being