

arrangements for the eastern frontiers, the revival of Poland, the corridor to the sea severing East Prussia from Brandenburg, and the handing to Poland of an industrial area in Silesia developed by German brains and capital. That the conquests of Frederick the Great should thus be torn from them was a blow to German pride. It was not long before all this was to be brought up against the democrats.



*Adolf Hitler*

A lance-corporal of the 16th Bavarian Infantry reserve felt he had some ideas which would overcome the paralysis of his country and shape an answer to the Allies. He was known as Adolf Hitler, and he was full of Teutonic pride. Ruthless and temperamental, a hysterical and violent orator, a hater of Liberals, Communists, and Jews, he gathered around him idealists, ruffians, and ex-soldiers who believed that Germany could, if she willed, rise to greatness once again. They formed a party on the lines of Italian Fascism, called their

policy National Socialism, and named themselves Nazis. Their aims were a Union of Germany in a centralised state, the abrogation of the peace treaties, the establishment of a national army, and the return of the German colonies. They challenged Catholics, Protestants, Capitalism, and Jewry. Their philosophy was the superiority of Nordic stock. They put themselves in uniform, adopted a salute, and by 1923 were ready to make a bid for power by direct military action. It failed. The Nazis then applied themselves to achieving success by more constitutional methods.

At the end of a ten-year campaign, in which crafty propaganda, passionate oratory and organised terrorism had all played a part, Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of the Reich and master of the German State. The Government had been too weak to suppress his private armies, and wealthy noblemen and industrialists, hoping the movement might bring back the monarchy, had lent support to the Nazi cause. The people, particularly German youth, became the willing slaves of the Nazi dictator. It was sufficient for this immoderate, sentimental, and power-loving people that Hitler stood for a proud, united and defiant Germany.

What followed during the next six hectic years amazed the world far more than Bismarck's creation of the original Empire. Hitler swept away the old division of Germany into states and set up a centralised government in Berlin. Treating with contempt the restrictions imposed at Versailles, he re-introduced compulsory military service, commenced re-arming on a large scale, re-united the Saar with Germany, joined Austria to the Reich, and marched his troops into Czechoslovakia. Had he halted then as Bismarck did after his victory over France, there might have been prosperity for Germany for years ahead.