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The U.S.S.R. is, therefore, the potential check on Germany. The summer of 1941 seems to have shown that she can neither remain aloof nor reach an agreement. It is argued - as noted above - that there is a risk in overthrowing the balance in favour of the Soviet Union, and it is probable that such ideas will become more prevalent as the end of the war approaches. Again, the importance of France becomes evident; and for the rest it may be expected to be remembered that Germany has been the aggressor.

Social and economic policies in the international field will also have an important bearing on the problem of Germany. The rise of National Socialism is explained in large part by economic distress, and two popular fallacies still probably persist in Germany: the one, that National Socialism stood for the common man against "plutocracy" at home and abroad; the other, that the ills of Germany were caused by the Treaty of Versailles. While the whole concept of "have-not" powers was exaggerated, there was truth in it as well as propaganda. If the victorious powers, through an international organization or by special agreement, showed an inclination at least to face the main economic problems of Europe, there would be the less reason for a return to the atmosphere in which Hitler built up his power. A lowering of the trade barriers between nations would reduce friction and give strength to international as opposed to national forces.

Protection against Aggression

The present approach to the problem of Germany^{is} in terms of a country that has been aggressive in the past and may be so again. Beyond a general acceptance of the view that Germany cannot be abolished altogether, there is no one agreed plan by which other nations may best guard against attack. Ideas range all the way from the softest kind of peace which would leave Germany almost intact and unhindered, to the hardest under which she would be split up and controlled by all available means. All schools of thought, however, assume that some controls are necessary.

There are various methods, which may be chosen singly or in various combinations, by which Germany might be restrained from aggression. The main ones are: (1) By the operation of a powerful international organization, (2) by control of the German Government, (3) By control of the German economy, (4) By virtual abolition of armaments, (5) By division of the country, (6) By a changed attitude on the part of the German people.

In the following paragraphs an attempt is made to examine the German problem in relation to some of these six possible cures.

Boundaries of Germany

The size of Germany is the decision which should first be made. It is accepted that Germany will lose all the territories gained by force, that is, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and part of Poland. It is probable that she will also be obliged to cede East Prussia and part of Silesia, these territories to be transferred to Poland in compensation for losses east of Brest-Litovsk. The most recent extension