

increased. The beginnings of German re-armament were associated with the policy of undermining the independence of Austria which manifested itself in the murder of Dollfuss in 1934. Italy attacked Ethiopia in 1935 and Germany took advantage of the Ethiopian crisis to re-militarize the Rhineland in March, 1936. The civil war which broke out in Spain in July, 1936, provided a further opportunity for sinister intervention by the totalitarian powers. In July, 1937, at a moment when the Spanish war threatened to engulf the whole of Europe, Japan renewed her attacks on China and began an undeclared war which has now entered its fifth year. In March, 1938, the Nazis took Austria. In September of the same year came the Sudeten crisis which ended at Munich with German annexation of the Sudetenland. In March 1939 Hitler seized the rest of Czechoslovakia and a few days later he took Memel. The turn of the Italians came next with the occupation and annexation of Albania in April. Then, on September 1, 1939, Germany attacked Poland.

At first these acts of aggression appeared unrelated and unconnected. Gradually, however, they began to assume a pattern and design, based on timing which pointed to a conspiracy for world domination.