

For this purpose I am speaking to you and through you to the German nation. But I wish that my words may also have a wider echo and reach all those in the outside world who, from duty or interest, have endeavoured to obtain an insight into our thoughts on those same problems which also concern themselves.

. . . it gives me not only the right, but indeed the sacred duty, to be absolutely open and to speak with all frankness about the various problems. The German nation has the right to demand this from me and I am determined to comply with the demand.

Here is the first significant statement:

It is therefore neither our wish nor our intention to deprive alien sections of our population of their nationalism, language or culture, in order to replace these by something German and foreign to them. We issue no directions for the Germanisation of non-German names; on the contrary, we do not wish that. Our racial theory therefore regards every war for the subjection and domination of an alien people as a proceeding which sooner or later changes and weakens the victor internally and eventually brings about his defeat. But we do not believe for a moment that in Europe the nations whose nationalism has been completely consolidated could in the era of the principle of nationalities be deprived of their national birthright at all. The last one hundred and fifty years provide more than enough instructive warnings of this.

The blood shed on the European continent in the course of the last three hundred years bears no proportion to the national result of the events. In the end France has remained France, Germany Germany, Poland Poland, and Italy Italy. What dynastic egoism, political passion and patriotic blindness have attained in the way of apparently far-reaching political changes by shedding rivers of blood has, as regards national feeling, done no more than touched the skin of the nations. It has not substantially altered their fundamental characters. If these states had applied merely a fraction of their sacrifices to wiser purposes the success would certainly have been greater and more permanent. . . .

No! National socialist Germany wants peace because of its fundamental convictions. And it wants peace also owing to the realization of the simple primitive fact that no war will be likely essentially to alter the distress of Europe. It would probably increase it. . . .

What then could I wish more than peace and tranquillity? But if it is said that this is merely the desire of the leaders, I can reply that if only the leaders and rulers desire peace, the nations themselves will never wish for war.

I ask the house to listen to that statement anew and to note where Hitler himself places the responsibility for war, whether he places responsibility on the German people or on its leaders. He said:

I reply that if only the leaders and rulers desire peace the nations themselves will never wish for war.

It is clear from this statement that it is the leaders, not the German people, who do not desire peace at this time. And that is why we have war.

...the world war should serve as a terrible warning. I do not believe that Europe can survive such a catastrophe for a second time without the most frightful upheaval.

Hitler has deliberately brought on this war notwithstanding his conviction that Europe cannot survive such a catastrophe as the last war without a most frightful upheaval. To serve his ambitions he is prepared to sacrifice the whole of Europe. Let me read another extract or two:

Germany has solemnly recognized and guaranteed France her frontiers as determined after the Saar plebiscite. Without taking the past into account Germany has concluded a non-aggression pact with Poland. There is more than a valuable contribution to European peace, and we shall adhere to it unconditionally. We dearly wish that it may continue without interruption and that it may tend to still more profound and friendly sincerity in the mutual relationships between our two countries. The German Reich—and in particular the present German government—have no other wish than to live on friendly and peaceful terms with all neighbouring states. We entertain these feelings not only towards the larger states, but also towards the neighbouring smaller states. As soon as the dogs of war are loosed on the nations the end begins to justify every means. And then people soon begin to lose all clear sense of right and wrong. Germany to-day is a national socialist state. The ideas by which we are governed are diametrically opposed to those of Soviet Russia. National socialism is a doctrine which applies exclusively to the German people. Bolshevism lays emphasis on its international mission. Bolshevism preaches the constitution of the world empire and only recognizes sections of a central international. Bolshevism preaches an international class conflict and the carrying out of a world revolution by means of terror and force.

That is the country with which an agreement has just been secured by the German Chancellor.

So far as bolshevism draws Germany within its range, however, we are its deadliest and most fanatical enemies.

Germany has nothing to gain by a European war of any kind. What we want is freedom and independence. For this reason we were ready to conclude pacts of non-aggression with all our neighbours, Lithuania excepted. The sole reason for this exception, however, is not that we wish for a war against that country, but because we cannot make political treaties with a state which ignores the most primitive laws of human society. . . . With this exception, however—an exception which can be removed at any time by the great powers who are responsible—we are ready, through pacts and non-aggression undertakings, to give any nation whose frontiers borders on ours that assurance which will also be beneficial to ourselves. . . .

Germany neither intends nor wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of Austria, to annex Austria or conclude an *anschluss*. The German people and the German government have, however, the very comprehensible desire, arising out of a simple feeling of solidarity due to a common national descent—namely, that the right to self-determination should be guaranteed not only for foreign nations but to the German