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The nature and extent of the reduction, and the means of ensuring that it be carried out, are technical matters that will require study by experts. The terms laid down in the Treaty of Versailles were designed to cover every means of evasion, such as by quasi-military organizations and short-term armies, and the fact that Germany was able to appear later as a great military power was due to open breaking of the Treaty. It would appear then that it is possible to maintain sufficiently reduced armaments by such means as control commissions. That method, however, is open to the objection that it requires a large staff. For that reason it may be well to consider an alternative that has been proposed, namely, to control the means of production. The simplest way, probably would be to ration the importation of the supply of certain metals, and other raw materials essential in the manufacture of armaments, so as to allow sufficient for civilian purposes only. Even with this system, however, a method of inspection might well be required to ensure that the raw materials were not improperly diverted.

Economic Controls

The power of modern Germany in war, as in peace, is inseparably associated with the rapid and striking industrialization that dates only from the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It was on the twin pillars of economic power and political unity that Bismarck built the Second Reich. To that Hitler added little new in kind, but did add greatly increased strength in both respects, and an increased co-ordination between the two. The Third Reich, as we know it, can exist only when citizens and States, industry and agriculture, trade and transportation are fitted into the pattern that makes this Great Leviathan. Guns and butter were both at the disposal of the Government, and all the human energy and economic resources of the country could be turned at will to war as to peace. The closed economy, stranglehold on smaller states, and concentration on preparation for war represent the final stage.

To reduce the aggressive power of the Reich two methods have already been noted. One is the direct approach by simply having a smaller Germany or several German States. A second, control of armaments, causes a less fundamental change. It is also possible to achieve the same effect by striking at the economic power of the Reich. There are various ways, not necessarily mutually exclusive. Rationing of raw materials imported from abroad has already been mentioned. It is also possible to forbid certain types of manufacture, refuse foreign loans, control foreign trade, or drain the country of men, money and materials by way of exacting reparations.

There is, however, also a question as to the extent to which such measures, or any of them, should be carried. Article 4 of the Atlantic Charter gives a guarded pledge of freedom of trade and access to raw materials. There are other objections, too, to placing too great a strain on the economic life of Germany. An impoverished country is of no value to those interested in international trade. Whatever may be the public mood at the time when the terms are drawn up, humanitarian feelings would later revolt from a forced starvation of Germans.