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The whole conception of the "new order" in the terms of Nazism, Fascism and Japanese Imperialism is denied. This is important because it is on this point that a lot of so-called "intellectuals," with minds only capable of turning out half-baked thoughts, have gone wrong. They have been so dissillusioned by the anarchy that followed the peace of Versailles that they try to see some advantage in the Hitlerian plan of integration by force. An English radical weekly recently doubted whether England had been right in preventing Napoleon's plan for the incorporation of all Europe within his empire. One of Hitler's pet abominations is the Peace of Westphalia with its guarantees of freedom to the northern European nations which were centres of light and culture until Hitler extended his rule and control over them.

The idea that any good could come—or ever could have come — out of turning Europe into a slave empire on the model of oriental despotisms, a master state headed by a tyrant, with vassal states held in subjection by armed legions of occupation—must be rejected, fought and demolished as the first essential of an enduring peace. This, of course, does not imply a slavish return, following the collapse of Hitler's grandiose plans, to the conditions in Europe which made the Hitlerian venture in conquest and rapine possible. The declaration of the churches envisages a "new order" in international relationships and in the social organization of the nations themselves. The terms employed in the declaration are not precise but in their general terms they embody the hopes and desires of an overwhelming majority of Christian people. These people may not be clear as to how the objectives are to be attained, but as to the objectives themselves they are not in doubt. They want enduring peace in the world with whatever modifications in past conditions that may be necessary to ensure this.

Cynics will say that much the same demand for the ending of war and the establishment of peace on a secure basis was heard at the close of the last war; and that the results of the attempt to give effect to this appeal have been so disastrous as to exclude hope for the future. But it would be to condemn mankind to a future not possible to be contemplated to assume that the peoples have learned nothing from the blunders of the past two decades and the tragedy of today. The only alternative to the Hitlerian tyranny is surely not the anarchy of the twenties and thirties. With the definite defeat of Hitler totalitarianism will be dead forever: but Briand's plan for the United States of Europe or some such project will be very much alive.