The Aims of the German Foreign Policy.

The following statement is a summary of the main ideas contained in the book of Hermann Rauschnlng

"Die Revolution des Nihilismus"

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Dr. Rauschnlng has been for many years a member of the Nazi party, and was President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig until the end of 1934. He comes from an East Prussian family and was a leading figure among the farmers. When the situation of the German farmers became very difficult Dr. Rauschnlng joined the Nazi Party of which he was a member since 1931. In 1934 he left Danzig and settled with his family in Poland. His book is esteemed by many as the most informed, critical account of National Socialism, by a National Socialist, which has yet been published. The book reveals for the first time the background and the hidden thoughts of Hitler and Nazi hierarchy.

Aims of National Socialism.

National Socialism, which is a dynamic, revolutionary movement, does not have any clearly definable aims in foreign policy; its aspirations can never be satisfied, even if all the wrongs done to Germany after the Great War were to be redressed. Being a revolutionary movement, in the sphere of foreign policy as well as in that of home policy, it aims at the destruction of the existing order and desires a redistribution of the world between Germany and the other dynamic powers. Even after such a redistribution there would, however, be no stability, because the revolutionary character of the movement would lead to further expansion and to conflicts between the dynamic powers; the "dynamism" of the National Socialism would not halt until Germany had attained world domination.

It is Dr. Goebbels who made a statement that:

"the rare moment of a redistribution of the world has come". (p. 347)

The Real Sources of the Foreign Policy Program of National Socialism

It would be wrong to assume that the real intentions of National Socialism can be learned from "Mein Kampf", which was written for popular consumption and no longer corresponds to the dynamic tendencies of the movement. The true nature of the National Socialist program of world domination can be best studied in the writings of the geo-political school and especially in those of its founder, General Hauskofer—recently appointed Leader of the Stuttgart Organisation for Germans Abroad—who has had a great influence on Hitler himself and on Rudolf Hess, who was one of his pupils.
Methods of Nazi Foreign Policy.

Although Hitler does not desire a world war, nevertheless he has the intention of
"continuing a political revolution abroad of hitherto unknown extent, and of striving for world domination.... His conception is that kind of "bloodless" war for which he has coined the term "extended strategy".... He believes that the existence of a strong Army is usually sufficient to realise foreign political aims against weaker adversaries". (p. 346)

"Hitler desires movement in foreign policies as well as at home. He wants to - and owing to his revolutionary temperament, he must - destroy the old order". (p. 347)

"It is an inherent conviction of all Germans affected by the ideology of dynamism .... that a new era has dawned which is going to be determined and dominated by Germany." (p. 348)

"This will be an epoch similar to that of Ancient Rome, Spain and, more recently, to the epoch of the British Empire". (p. 348)

"From this belief arises the elementary tendency towards a policy which is practically incapable of curbing itself". (p. 349)

According to Rosenberg:
"a new peace should see Germany master of the globe". (p. 350)

Owing to the doctrines of the geo-political school and to the dynamic tendencies of the Nazi movement, the scheme of Ost Politik as laid down in "Mein Kampf" cannot be considered as a practicable project. Settlement of Germans (peasants) on the Russian plains is impossible because there are not enough suitable settlers.

"The real dynamic slogan is not the return to agriculture, but imperial expansion of the German nation, the 'vast space' expansion outside Europe". (p. 352)

The essence of National-Socialist policy is expressed in a song of the S.A... It ends with the words:
"Today Germany is ours, tomorrow the whole world".

According to Haushofer,
"over-population will be an explosive which will break up the existing order of the world". (p. 354)

This pressure of population cannot be relieved by limited
revision of frontiers in Europe and partial solutions, but only by
the fundamental solution of the redistribution of the world. In
a confidential statement, made to a select Party circle, Hitler
had said:

"Only for such aims could the sacrifice of two million young lives be once more justified in the future".

(p. 355)

The redistribution of the world would also benefit the
other dynamic nations. It is the firm belief of the leading Party
circles that the democratic nations will not have the strength to
resist.

Great Britain and Germany.

"Practically no other idea is so methodically propagated
by National Socialism, as the view that Britain has already lost
her Empire. This is already taken to be a fact".

Hausser expressed it with the words:

"The British Isles are declining as Venice did".

(p. 359)

"According to the German outlook, the fact that Britain
is renouncing world domination without fighting for it,
is one of the most striking facts of our age".

(p. 360)

"The slogan "Gott straffe England" is nowadays no longer
considered as necessary. Britain has lost the Great War
and dare not fight another one. Years ago General von
Seekt had also stated: "Britain needs peace. Only then
will she be able to preserve, for at least some time, her
position in the world, which is gravely shattered." It
has, for a considerable time, been the main political
axiom of National Socialist foreign policy, that Britain
is in no position to fight another war and that she can
therefore, be challenged with impunity in all respects".

(p. 361)

The voluntary disarmament which Britain has been carrying
out for a number of years is, in the eyes of the National Socialist
a sign for her waning energies.

"One of the most essential traits would be over-
looked if an observer of the attitude adopted by National
Socialism towards Britain did not take into account that
in spite of certain feelings of racial relationship and
the desire for an alliance, there exists a marked aver-
sion towards Britain...... Indirectly the German aversion
towards Britain originates in anti-semitic ideology......
The British Empire is conceived as a world dominion of
the Jews".

(p. 362)

"Britain is the Kingdom of Judah. One day this
will be the national propaganda against Britain, when the
Third Reich will consider it necessary to prepare for a fight. At present she is still courting sympathy. Britain's greatness is only a sham. It is useful to liquidate this SHAM POWER BY PEACEFUL EVOLUTION. But if necessary hostile clashes are not to be feared. The first day of a war would reveal the fact that Great Britain has already lost her World Empire.

(p. 363)

This contempt for Britain's "weakness" would only cease if she could make up her mind to join the dynamic nations. "Decisive circles in New Germany are still steadily trying to win Britain over to the front of the reorganising Powers, both by means of concessions and threats."

(p. 378)

Then Britain would have her share in the redistribution of the world and keep an "Oceanic Empire". But as the phase of a redistribution of the world would be followed by one of struggle for world domination, Britain "would not be able to escape the fate of an ultimate dismemberment of her Empire, even if she concluded a pact with the Third Reich."

(p. 410)

France and Germany.

National-Socialism looks upon France as the prototype of a dying nation.

(p. 363)

This opinion of leading Nazis contrasts with the conception in "Mein Kampf", written when France was still so powerful that a war between France and Germany was the indispensable condition for expansion in the East. Now it seems that a final war with France for hegemony in Europe can be avoided. She can be weakened in a bloodless manner. Possibly the French Government will one day be declared as the enemy of the German Nation, and then France would suffer the fate of Czechoslovakia. But, as France is weak, National Socialist Germany can wait for her chance.

(p. 366)

Germany's mission as a leader of nations makes the ideal of the union of all Germans in one Reich antiquated. Greater Germany will be the nucleus of a political order, comprising the small states in Europe, which according to Haushofer, are incapable of real independence. Finally this new political order will be the starting-point for a gigantic world Nazi dominion.

(p. 391)

Haushofer recalls the fact that great parts of France, Belgium, Switzerland, were once part of the mediaeval German Empire. In the East, the Czech and Polish populations might possibly removed to new areas of settlement.

"The motives of German foreign policy are new domination, world power, reorganisation of the world, world hegemony;
it is not aiming at a greater Germany; will not be content to be the reorganiser of Central Europe, nor is its tendency confined to transcontinental conceptions, as "Haushofer put it. German efforts are aiming at "the belief in a new political leadership of the world".

(p. 384)

"The consciousness of being the chosen people, with a lasting and universal task to fulfil, is to be the essence of the present-day German mission. Germany does not threaten Britain any longer, she simply takes the leadership because the British nation has grown weak and tired".  

(p. 386)

"The slogan of the future cannot be "blood and soil", but only"master of the world"...... The formula "blood and soil" is a mere phrase, destined to keep the peasant population away from politics".

(p. 387)


with regard to the future German Empire

"there are two political theories in the third Reich, both of which require special attention....... The first envisages the creation of a vast space, comprising the Danubian basin, Turkey, Asia Minor and India.

"The second can best be characterized by the geographical main line Flushing - Vladivostok. Both conceptions are directed along paths leading to raw materials. ..... The first would lead to a collision with Italian plans....... But the second would be possible on the basis of a compromise, not only with Italy, but also with Great Britain, which could thus be included in the community of the revolutionary powers...... The outlines of such a redistribution would then be roughly the following: The British Empire "Oceana"; the Italian Empire - comprising the Mediterranean, Africa and Asia Minor - would include all African possessions of France, Pan-Arabia, and the Mediterranean States; finally the American continent and the Pacific Empire of Japan".

Such ideas are not disclosed by National Socialist propaganda, but they may be concluded from statements made by political leaders, which should be taken seriously".

The Russian Problem.

Nevertheless it would be a mistake to think that National Socialism has, by its campaign against Bolshevist Russia, forfeited the alternative possibility of an alliance with Russia. The more the revolutionary tendencies of National Socialism become radical, at home as well as abroad, the greater will be the probability of National Socialism coming to an understanding with Bolshevism, both of which are aiming at world revolution, that is
the destruction of the existing order. Not only the Army, but also influential circles of the Party, favour an alliance with Russia. Simultaneously with its conclusion, the "second revolution in Germany would be carried out. In spite of the elimination of Roehm and other radical leaders who had prematurely tried to unchain this "second revolution", Hitler is keeping this in reserve.

"The vast continental space under German leadership necessitates that Russia, in her present form should be dissolved.... But it is of the utmost importance to bear in mind, that National Socialism will also be able to make an alliance with present day Bolshevik Russia and to take up the redistribution of the world from the opposite starting point, should the initial phases of its Central and West European actions fail, i.e. the isolation and division of France and the inclusion of Great Britain in the front of the revolutionary Powers. There are many important political factors which posit such a solution from the beginning, because the roundabout way through Central and Western Europe which takes up very much time, would thus be avoided. The Western Powers, as well as the small states, would have to capitulate without offering resistance in face of such an alliance of Germany with Russia. Many things seem to indicate that such an experiment might be desirable for reasons of home policy. At any rate the dynamic movement believes that there is one last chance in the possibility of a complete change in its foreign policy towards an alliance with Soviet Russia......

(p. 409 - 10)

It is typical of National Socialist policy, its aims and its methods that such a thing is conceivable. But being a revolutionary, dynamic movement, it has neither a definite scheme nor schedule; striving for destruction on the existing order it "does not clearly know its final aims" bit keeps them "flexible", adapting them to the changing opportunities. Its general policy is to undermine the order in other States.

"The importance attached by National Socialist leaders to disturbances from within, was typically expressed in a conversation which took place in Hitler's house in summer 1933, when Goebbels, Schirach, Harras, and others discussed the possibilities of bringing the Ukrainian problem to a head by means of such disintegration. The views expressed were the following:

"The Democracies were without real convictions, that is to say, convictions in the true sense of the world for which one is ready to risk one's life. Here the attacks had to be launched; fear and bravery would sooner or later lead to capitulation in every case. In every country it would be possible to find as many men as one would need to set going a movement desired, and it would be possible to find them in every social class the beginning has been made.
every country would see to the real development itself. Lack of convictions would always lead to defeatism and to the idea that resistance would be of no use. The money spent on such purposes was not lost. In exchange one could do with a low division less. Democracy could not resist such attacks. Therefore they and nobody else were the real opponents. (pp. 448-449).

"The Germans abroad are forced by new highly revolutionary ways to adopt the political role of being the bearers of dynamism in the surrounding world and bases for revolutionary preparation". (p. 449)

The result is:

"It is impossible to attain a new equilibrium, no matter how considerable the concessions, which the adversaries might make, may be, nor how great the successes attained by National Socialism itself. What is decisive is National-Socialist readiness and desire to come on top and to emerge from the narrow confines of Central Europe and the Continent". (p. 447)

Next steps:

In view of the revolutionary character of National Socialism, which does not follow a carefully worked out program but only makes use of all available opportunities, it is difficult to state what the next moves will be. But

"there is no reason to think that the action will only be directed against the East and South East in order to occupy the Ukraine. It is just as likely that further activities will aim at complete enrolement of France until that power is put out of action, the situation made use of as long as Polish neutrality seems to be guaranteed. But, of course, Poland herself may quite easily be attacked, and the aim may be to amend the frontiers in that quarter, to improve the strategic position, and to regain the vital port of Danzig. This would necessitate a provisional agreement with Russia as a preliminary step towards an alliance, for which there are many indications, because Russia will want to make a counter-stroke against her recent exclusion from Europe. But it is also possible that Holland, Belgium and Denmark would be occupied as a precaution and forced to form a close alliance with Germany. As basis of operation for the German Army, they would isolate Great Britain completely and exclude her from Europe and perhaps even break up the Empire". (p. 447).