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Sonderbeilage

## Germany's Answer to Mr. Roosevelt

Wording of

# Führer Adolf Hitler's Peace Speech

before the German Reichstag on April 28, 1939.

Members of the German Reichstag!

The President of the United States of America has addressed a telegram to me, with the curious contents of which you are already familiar. Before I, the addressee, actually received this document, the rest of the world had already been informed of it by radio and newspaper reports; and numerous commentaries in the organs of the democratic world press had already generously enlightened us as to the fact that this telegram was a very skilful, tactical document, destined to impose upon the states in which the people govern the responsibility for the warlike measures adopted by the plutocratic countries; in view of these facts I decided to summon the German Reichstag so that you, Gentlemen, might have an opportunity of hearing my answer first and of either confirming that answer or rejecting it.

But in addition I considered it desirable to keep to the method of procedure initiated by President Roosevelt and to inform the rest of the world, on my part and by our own means, of my answer.

But I should like also to take this opportunity of giving expression to the feelings with which the tremendous historical happenings of the month of March inspire me. I can give vent to my deepest feelings only in the form of humble thanks to Providence, who called upon me and vouchsafed it to me, once an unknown soldier of the Great War, to rise to be leader of my so dearly-loved people. Providence caused me to find the way to free our people from its deepest misery without any shedding of blood, and to lead it upwards once more. Providence has granted that I might fulfill my life's task — to raise my German people up out of the depth of defeat and to liberate it from the bonds of the most infamous dictate of all times.

For this alone has been the aim of my actions. Since the day on which I entered politics I have been moved by no other idea than that of winning back the freedom of the German nation, restoring the power and strength of the Reich, overcoming the internal disruption of the nation, remedying its isolation from the rest of the world, and safeguarding the maintenance of its independent economic and political existence.

I have worked only to restore that which others once broke by force, I have desired only to make good that which Satanic malice or human unreason destroyed or demolished. I have therefore taken no step which violated the rights of others, but have only restored that justice which was violated twenty years ago. The present Greater German Reich contains no territory which was not from the earliest times a part of this Reich, not bound up with it or subject to its sovereignty. Long before an American Continent had been discovered—to say nothing of settled—by white people, this Reich existed, not merely in its present extent, but with the addition of many regions and provinces which have since been lost.

Twenty-one years ago, when the bloodshed of the War came to an end, millions of minds were filled with the ardent hope that a peace of reason and

justice would reward and bless the nations which had been visited by the fearful scourge of the Great War. I say "reward", for all these men and women—whatever the conclusions arrived at by the historians—bore no responsibility for these fearful happenings. And if in some countries there are still politicians who even at that time could be charged with the responsibility for this, the most atrocious massacre of all time, yet the vast numbers of the combatant soldiers of every country and nation were at the most deserving of pity, but by no means guilty. I myself—as you know—had never played a part in politics before the War, and only, like millions of others, performed such duties as I was called upon to fulfill as a decent citizen and soldier. It was therefore with an absolutely clear conscience that I was able to take up the cause of the freedom and future of my people, both during and after the War. And I can therefore speak in the name of millions and millions of others equally blameless when I declare that all those who had only fought for their nation in the loyal fulfilment of their duty were entitled to a peace of reason and justice, so that mankind might at last set to work to make good by joint effort the losses which all had suffered.

But the millions were cheated of this peace; for not only did the German people or the other people fighting on our side suffer through the Peace Treaties, these treaties also had an annihilating effect on the victor countries. For the first time it appeared as a misfortune that politics should be controlled by men who had not fought in the war. The feeling of hatred was unknown to the soldiers, but not to those elderly politicians who had carefully preserved their own precious lives from the horror of war, and who now descended upon humanity in the guise of insane spirits of revenge. Hatred, malice and unreason were the intellectual forbears of the Treaty of Versailles. Living space and states with a history going back a thousand years were arbitrarily broken up and dissolved. Since time immemorial men who belong together have been torn asunder, economic conditions of life have been ignored, while the peoples themselves have been converted into victors and vanquished, into masters possessing all rights and slaves possessing none. This document of Versailles has fortunately been set down in black and white for later generations. For otherwise it would be later regarded as a fabulous product of a wild, corrupt fantasy.

Nearly 115 million people have been robbed of their right of self-determination, not by the victorious soldiers but by mad politicians, and have been arbitrarily removed from old communities and made part of new ones without any consideration of blood, origin, reason and the economic conditions of life.

The results were dreadful.

Though at that time the statesmen were able to destroy a great many things, there was one factor could not be eliminated:—the gigantic mass of people living in Central Europe, crowded together in a confined space can only ensure its daily bread by the highest intensity of work and consequently of order. But what did these statesmen of so-called

democratic empires know of these problems? A crowd of the most stupid and ignorant people was let loose on humanity. In districts in which about 140 people have to gain a livelihood per square kilometre, they merely destroyed the order, which had been built up over nearly 2,000 years of historical development, and created disorder without themselves being able or desirous to solve the problems confronting the communal life of these people — for which, moreover, as dictators of the new world order, they had at that time undertaken responsibility.

However, when this new world order turned out to be a catastrophe, the democratic peace dictators of American and European origin were so cowardly that none of them ventured to take the responsibility for what occurred. Each put the blame on the others, thus endeavouring to save himself from the judgment of history. However the people who were maltreated by their hatred and unreason were, unfortunately, not in a position to share with those who had injured them in this escape.

It is impossible to enumerate the stages of the suffering of our own people. Robbed of the whole of its colonial possessions, deprived of all its financial resources, plundered by so-called reparations, and thus impoverished, our nation was driven into the blackest period of its national misfortune. And let it be noted that this was not National-Socialist Germany, but democratic Germany—, the Germany which was weak enough to trust for a single moment the promises of democratic statesmen.

The misery resulting therefrom and the continuous want began to bring our nation politically to despair. The decent and industrious people of Central Europe thought that they could see the possibility of deliverance in the complete destruction of the order which appeared to have become a curse. Jewish parasites on the one hand plundered the nation ruthlessly and on the other hand incited the people when it had been reduced to misery. As the misfortune of our nation became the only aim and object of this race, it was possible to breed among the growing army of unemployed suitable elements for the bolshevik revolution. The decay of political order and the confusion of public opinion by the irresponsible Jewish press, led to ever stronger shocks to economic life and consequently to increasing misery and to greater readiness to absorb subversive bolshevik ideas. The army of the Jewish world revolution, as the army of unemployed was called, finally rose to almost seven millions. Germany had never known this state of affairs before. In the living space of the great German people and of the old Hapsburg states belonging thereto, despite all the difficulties of the struggle for existence involved by the excessive density of population, economic life had not become more uncertain in the course of time, but on the contrary more and more secure. Industry and diligence, great thrift and the love of scrupulous order, though they did not enable the people in this territory to accumulate excessive riches, did at any rate insure them against abject misery. The results of the wretched