

Hiter, Germany and the Future of Europe

by Phillip W. Weiss

People come and go but life continues. I was reading a book by John Moser about the German army 1918 to 1945. Moser explains why the German army lost in World War Two. The German army was the least mechanized army in the war. Germany also lacked the economic resources to fight a long war. But Moser plays down the real cause for Germany's defeat which was the Nazi party itself.

Germany was controlled by fanatics for whom rational planning meant nothing. The Nazis were intellectually incapable of developing rational plans for anything. Nazis worked at cross purposes because they were interested in only one thing, to suck up to Adolf Hitler with his cockamamie scheme to conquer the world. Hitler convinced the German people that he could deliver a win and put the survival of the German people at risk to prove he was right.

Of course, Hitler was wrong. He provoked a war Germany could not win and that brought Germany to ruin. As long a Hitler confined his activities to Central Europe, other countries were willing to tolerate him. But when Hitler invaded Poland, he crossed the line and when he invaded the Soviet Union, double crossing Stalin, he guaranteed Germany's destruction.

There are few accounts in history when a head of state aligned more enemies more quickly than did Hitler. Hitler went out of his way to MAKE enemies

out of nations that had no great desire to fight Germany. Hitler was not interested in peaceful coexistence. He wanted it all. For Hitler, it was zero sum diplomacy on a worldwide scale. It was “I win, and you lose” strategy that guaranteed war.

Hitler used racist ideology to justify his program. His goal was to cleanse the world of those degenerate elements who wanted to corrupt and destroy Germany. Hitler inflicted immense damage but once the allies got their act into gear, Germany was doomed, and no one shed a tear. After the war, Churchill traveled to Berlin to attend the Potsdam Conference. While in Berlin, he visited Hitler’s chancellery and bunker. Churchill said nothing. Churchill did not even go inside and inspect the Reichstag building. For a politician like Churchill who was known for his verbosity to be silent was surprising. He exhibited no gloating, not even a smirk. Two weeks later Churchill was out of power.

Truman also toured Berlin. During his tour, Truman stayed in his car and did not mingle with the people. There was nothing to say and so much to say. Berlin was in ruins and the people impoverished. Truman could have left the car and mingled with the people as a gesture of goodwill and to show them that they are not forsaken nor forgotten and that our goal was not harsh retribution but friendship. Instead, Germany became the front line for the Cold War and a political football in a political struggle for world hegemony with the USA and USSR as the chief players.

Today, having lost its status as a world power, Germany no longer harbors any aspirations for world power. It is just one of many nations that are dependent

on other countries for its security. Yet if conditions warrant, that could change. The future is uncertain. Right now, Germany is part of NATO. If NATO remains intact, then Germany can rely on NATO to ensure its security. But if NATO collapses, that could have far reaching consequences for Germany and the world. Time will tell.