

In defense of the German resistance

Helga Zepp-LaRouche writes on the anniversary of the July 20, 1944 coup attempt against Hitler.

Every person who knows history—and I mean actually *knows* history, the patriots of this world, regardless of what nation they belong to—must regard what has been done to the German people over the past 51 years as one of the most monstrous injustices of all time. I am not merely speaking about what has now become a hardened and worldwide prejudice that everything German can somehow be equated with the Nazis. Thirty-nine years of targeted propaganda, primarily spread by people who have long-time sympathies with Hitler, has so firmly implanted this historic lie into so many minds in the United States and elsewhere, that even today—39 years after the end of World War II—many Americans still automatically think of Nazi Germany upon hearing someone with a German accent. Unless this injustice is set right, the so-called free West will suffer a cruel fate.

So, for the benefit of all those who either consciously or unconsciously assume that all Germans supported Hitler, and hence might be inclined to give any credence to the thesis of “collective guilt” promulgated by Hugh Trevor-Roper and John Wheeler-Bennett, I must remind you that at the elections which led to Hitler’s seizure of power, only 33% of all Germans voted for Hitler, with an electoral participation of only 75%. That is, only about 25% to 27% of all legal voters voted for Hitler, and out of these at most 10% were convinced Nazis, whereas the rest were just as witting or unwitting as most voters in every country, ingenuously hoping that Hitler would get rid of the mass unemployment and social chaos.

The “other Germany,” however, was quite alive in the hearts of the population—people who believed in Germany as a nation of culture and a free republic. What is overlooked by those who shut their minds with prejudices, is that during the Weimar Republic days, the German population in general, as well as genuine resistance organizations such as the *Reichsbanner* with its 3.5 million members, had no historical precedent in recent history upon which they could draw in order to adequately illuminate the looming danger. Moreover, they overlook something which no one can or will face—the horrible nightmare into which people were plunged following Hitler’s seizure of power, and the unheard-of speed with which this brutal dictator eliminated all opposition from Social Democrats, trade unionists, Communists, Catholics, Protestants, and even from people who just disagreed. A

reign of terror in thought, a veritable Inquisition, along with mortal fear, soon paralyzed the “other Germany,” while people abroad not only looked on impotently, but even praised Hitler in their newspaper editorials. No—many millions of Germans rejected Hitler from the depths of their soul, but, lacking any help from abroad, any organized resistance was impossible under the reign of the dictatorship. And the powers abroad, as I will show, failed miserably.

Anti-Hitler plotters under fire

Today, on the 40th anniversary of the attempted coup against Hitler, an unprecedented international propaganda campaign is underway against the men of July 20. With unabashed hatred, this propaganda claims there never was any German resistance against Hitler, and indeed, that the men of July 20 were much worse than Hitler himself. Leading the campaign are the Soviets, who are showing their irritation over the participation of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsäcker in the July 20 celebration in West Berlin, reviling this memorial service for feeding the Federal Republic’s “chauvinism and great power ambitions.”

At the same time a whole army of little professors and other hypocrites have gathered together to drag the honor and motivations of the plotters through the mud. All this is being done with the unmistakable intention of loosening Germans’ positive identity even more than it is already, so as to plunge the population of the Federal Republic into utter demoralization. Why? So that the morally defeated German population can then be plucked like a ripe apple. Cui bono? Who benefits?

It must be emphatically stated, that this specious international campaign has the backing of all the forces in the East and West, which are currently working to decouple Western Europe from the United States—which means nothing less than selling out Western Europe to the Soviet Union. Since the key to the success of this strategy is the withdrawal of the Federal Republic from NATO and the Western camp as a whole, this anniversary of July 20 is providing these decouplers a convenient opportunity to destroy the last shreds of national sovereign identity within the population.

July 20 clearly illustrates the tragedy of the entire German

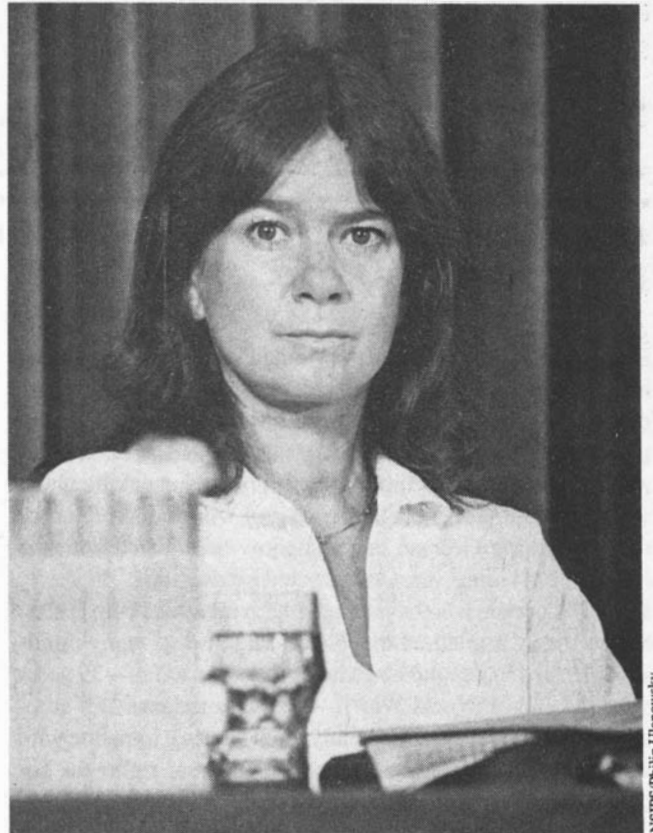
people; the plotters, all slander attempts notwithstanding, were willing to risk their lives for the reestablishment of a state according to law, and were guided by positive patriotic goals, even if they came from a broad political spectrum. The great misfortune, however—and this will come as a shock to many Americans—was that under the conditions of dictatorship I described above, and without any help from abroad (particularly from the United States or England), they knew they could not possibly succeed, and precisely for this reason, they put their trust in these other nations. By doing so, however, they fell into the hands of precisely the same international circles which had brought Hitler to power in the first place and whose hatred of Germany and everything its culture represented far outstripped their willingness to help remove the Hitler they had initially supported, even if he had become a Frankenstein monster in the meantime.

The history of how the Nazi regime came about, you see, does not start in 1933. The crucial chapter in modern history which brought forth this unwholesome creature begins back in 1815 at the Congress of Vienna, at a time when Europe's entire oligarchy conspired together in their Holy Alliance against the ideals of the American Revolution, the German Classics, and the Wars of Liberation against Napoleon, striving instead to return Europe to a "god-given class state."

Oligarchs hated Germany and German culture

It was the unbounded hatred the British and other European oligarchies felt toward the ideal of free humanity celebrated in German culture—the hatred of a Nietzsche, a Dostoevsky, a Wagner—which ultimately moved these circles not only to artificially construct a Hitler, but to finally put him into power. The other participants in this oligarchical project, such as the British theosophists, the followers of the British "Order of the Golden Dawn," and the proponents of the geopolitics of Karl Haushofer and Houston Stewart Chamberlain, are all thoroughly documented in *The Hitler Book*, recently published by the Schiller Institute.

It was largely because of this affinity in world outlook, that these oligarchical circles, in 1932, allowed Hjalmar Schacht to argue them into providing substantial resources to help Hitler into power; only Hitler, Schacht argued, would be able to implement the monetarist policies of the City of London and Wall Street, as John Maynard Keynes so openly wrote in the 1936 foreword to one of Schacht's books. Only this can explain the beneficent attitude toward Hitler displayed by countless editorials in the *New York Times* up through 1936. And only in this light can we explain the 1938 appeasement attitude of Neville Chamberlain, the cousin of Houston Stewart Chamberlain, who was all too familiar with Hitler. And so, it came to that ominous 1938 meeting in Munich—even though the German resistance networks had already informed the British government about Hitler's plans to attack Czechoslovakia.



NSIPS/Philip Ulanovsky

Helga Zepp-LaRouche at the July founding conference of the U.S. branch of the Schiller Institute.

And thus, one of the leaders of the resistance, Carl Goerdeler, could write: "In spite of all our warnings, Chamberlain ran after Hitler in 1938. . . . If England and France had only taken the risk of a war upon themselves, Hitler would have never used force. And then he would have been to blame, and not—as is now the case—the good elements of my own people. It would have been the end of Hitler."

And still in 1940, a British document reports: "There is no doubt there are prominent circles in Germany which are striving for a compromise peace, even if they do not succeed soon in achieving a complete victory. [Even that is a lie, since the resistance was directed against Hitler's expansion plans.]

removing Hitler, or that in the long run they would be any better than the gang which runs Germany now."

That was the crux of the matter: Hitler had indeed turned into a Frankenstein monster, and had, contrary to expectations, begun expanding not only to the East, but had also opened up the Western Front. But to the oligarchical financial circles who brought him to power, he still appeared a better alternative than those parts of the Wehrmacht which wanted to save Germany as a nation.

Documents from the British-influenced OSS recently released by the U. S. National Archives also illustrate the hope-

less situation of the German resistance, and prove how little grounds the Allies have for putting themselves on a pedestal.

Anglo-Americans boycotted German resistance

These documents, which include one concerning July 20 with the code name "Breakers," report about the countless attempts on the part of the German resistance, partially through the mediation of Canaris's military counterintelligence network and partially through emissaries in Istanbul, Lisbon, Berne, London, etc., to establish contact with the American government in order to demand it collaborate with the resistance. The OSS reports state laconically that they could not enter into negotiations with the resistance because the British foresaw an Anglo-American occupation for Germany in the near future, with participation of the Russians, and so their own relations with Moscow did not permit such negotiations!

The material includes the following statement:

The proposal in essence set forth the willingness of this group (of younger officers) then known as the Hermann group, to accept military defeat and occupation by the Allies in order to prevent a Russian invasion of Germany. An essential condition to the foregoing was the establishment of a line against the Russians based on Lemburg-Tilsit.

The group expressed its readiness to undertake military cooperation with the Allies on the largest possible scale with a view toward ousting Hitler and paving the way as speedily as possible for Anglo-American occupation of Germany.

Additional attempts to enter into negotiations ensued in Berne in January 1944, whereby further details were provided as to the extent and personnel of the resistance, and detailed plans were set forth for coordinated action between an Allied occupationary force and the coup against Hitler. These reports emphasized that the conspirators, although belonging to various differing political tendencies, were all working toward a future Western orientation for German politics.

In April 1944 Beck and Goerdeler sent yet another message to Berne, in which they swore that a coup was possible, but that its success depended upon cooperation from the United States and England, and that above all, after the Nazis were toppled, negotiations were to be begun with the Western powers, and under no circumstances with the Soviet Union.

This same message emphasized the conservative character of the conspirators, as well as their readiness to work together with all elements within the left, with the exception of the Communists.

The OSS text states further that "The group expressed its anxiety to keep Central Europe from coming under Soviet domination. If capitulation were to be made primarily to the

U.S.S.R., the negotiations would have to be carried on by another group. Such Wehrmacht commanders in the West as von Rundstedt and Falkenhausen, the declaration maintained, would be ready to assist Allied landings once the Nazis were removed from power. To these overtures the OSS representative said little beyond expressing his strong conviction that the U.S. would never act without previous consultations with the U.S.S.R."

Eastern Europe handed to Moscow

This and other sources provide adequate proof of the insupportability of the arguments brought up in the current campaign against the German resistance. Rather, such arguments give rise to the suspicion that it was precisely this explicitly pro-Western attitude, and the readiness to establish democratic domestic policies, which caused great discomfort, at least to the circles around Allen Dulles, who was in contact with the resistance from his base in Switzerland. Behind the Allies' refusal to collaborate with the German resistance, which could have saved literally millions of lives, was the same motive underlying the order given to General Patton not to immediately continue marching toward the East, but rather to go south; had this order not been given, the Soviets' advance would have been halted and the occupation of what was to become the Eastern Zone prevented. This was the same motive behind the delay in opening the Western Front: these circles' hatred of Germany was stronger than their hatred of Hitler. The German resistance was deliberately and repeatedly left in the lurch, and was finally left to run directly into the Nazis' bayonets.

If people today act as if there had never been a German resistance, or when they consciously claim these were only a tiny force, the OSS source documents clearly show the real estimation of the situation. In the document "The Attempt on Hitler's Life and Its Consequences," the following passage can be found in Section 1, "The Background," A. "Principles for the Evaluation of the German Morale," Point 7:

There is no potentially powerful revolutionary movement from below, *although underground organizations of considerable strength do exist*. These can become active only, if a coup d'état paves the way for the destruction of the Nazi controls.

8. Such a coup could not be expected before the invasion. It can only come if the Army leadership fears the loss of the German Army, which it needs as the instrument for domestic control and political bargaining with foreign powers. But there is little doubt, that the German Generals hope and will continue to hope until the opposite is clearly demonstrated to them, that they can create differences between the U.S.S.R. and the Western Powers and thereby retain at least the remnants of their instrument. With regard to the

U.S.S.R. they see some hope in the Free Germany Committee and the German Officers Union. They also may remember Stalin's statement of 21 October 1942, when he said that he desired only the destruction of the "Hitlerite Army."

The Army undoubtedly will continue to hope to bring about some understanding between Germany and the Western Powers against "the danger of Bolshevism," which it will present as the major danger to Europe. Futile as these hopes may turn out to be, it is likely they influence and determine the outlook of the Generals, just as they shaped the policies of Hindenburg, Groener, Seeckt, Reinhardt and Schleicher in the fatal days of 1918 and 1919.

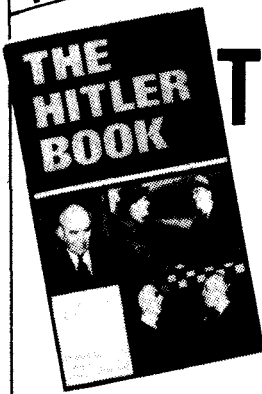
Yes, these hopes were in fact in vain, and the only people to profit from them were the Russians. Perhaps, in spite of its diverse nature, the German resistance was much more far-sighted than the geopolitical cunning of the Dulles brothers. And in spite of some redeeming features, Roosevelt's undifferentiated anti-German attitude poisoned the peace following World War II, even apart from the policies of Churchill, Truman, McCloy, Morgenthau, et al. History is never as black and white as many would have us believe.

Today, 40 years after the heroic deed of July 20, which is all the more deserving of our acclaim because of how it was clearly abandoned by circles abroad which are now inflating themselves with hypocrisy—today the Western Alliance is in grave danger. As is shown by the most recent Soviet maneuvers and their campaign against an alleged neo-revanchism in the Federal Republic, the Federal Republic itself is in especially great danger. Let us therefore check-mate the game played by Soviet agents and agents of influence, and by the scribblers in the editorial rooms of *Der Spiegel* and the *New York Times*, who aim to further wear down the German population until it falls into the Soviets' open arms.

Considered from the standpoint of a patriot, regardless of what nation one comes from, there is no doubt that the German people are among the most hard-hit victims of the Hitler regime, which destroyed their identity and happiness for generations to come. If the first assault upon Germans' positive humanist identity was from the conspiracy of the Holy Alliance, then the second was the Nazi seizure of power, and the third was the "re-education" program directed against German culture following the war on the basis of an ostensible "collective guilt." And if the current attempt to reinterpret the events of July 20 succeeds, then Germany will be completely destroyed.

This is precisely what we must not permit, and in revealing this historical truth we also have found the route to our liberty. And just as there was an "other Germany" within the Third Reich, I am firmly convinced that we can put up effective resistance against the threat from the East and can establish for ourselves a sovereign humanist republic.

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