

THE TRUE NATURE OF THE WAR

THERE are many puzzling features about this war. For instance: how is it that the Germans appear to have accomplished all they wanted so far in double-quick time? How is it that there is a powerful fifth column not only in every allied country, but also in every neutral country?

To provide an answer to questions of this kind, one must try and establish the true nature of the war.

In spite of what the communists say, this is not a war of rival imperialisms. It is not even a war of Great Britain *versus* Germany—a war of rival nations. It is a religious war—anyhow on the part of Germany. The reason why the Germans are prepared to sacrifice everything for victory, and were willing to dispense with most of the amenities and comforts of civilisation for years before they actually launched their attack on the world, is that they were buoyed up by great spiritual force and religious fanaticism. Spiritual force can only be met with spiritual force. Even if we possessed parity in numbers and equipment and were deficient in spiritual force, we could not beat the Germans. Islam, in the days when it was a young, militant, missionary religion, nearly succeeded in conquering the whole of Europe and destroying its civilization. There were moments when it seemed that nothing short of a miracle could succeed in holding the invading hordes at bay and preventing them from capturing the whole Mediterranean basin and most of Central Europe. But the miracle happened, and like all miracles it was in the first and last instance a change in the spiritual order of events.

The members of Hitler's Fifth Column (so-called) in allied and neutral countries are not traitors to their country in the ordinary sense; nor are the innumerable German and Italian nationals in the same countries who are only too anxious to contribute to the defeat of their own coun-

tries traitors to Germany and Italy, in the old sense. This, as we have stated, is a religious war; and religion cuts across all national boundaries and overwhelms all national sentiments.

What is the religion of these stalwart crusaders of the crooked cross? It is at one and the same time the oldest and the newest of all religions, namely Satanism. By Satanism I do not wish to imply any pseudo-mediaeval, neurotic, childish dabbling in 'black magic,' but the genuine thing. Hitlerism preaches by word, precept and example that all Christian values are false and inverted: the end justifies the means. Strength and force are their own justification; the weak have no rights as against the strong. The individual has no rights as against the State. A human being as such has no rights, except those arising out of pseudo-mystical theories of racial stock. Truth does not represent a value in itself; hence, the lie may be utilised in the service of conquest and tyrannical government (Satan has been described as the father of lies): science and learning may be falsified, suppressed and extinguished in the interests of the super-State. Justice, again, is only a relative value to be accorded to the favoured few, and cynically denied to the rest. Success in this world on a big scale justifies every sin and crime. The family as an institution has no rights over against the State. The appearances of glory are of more account than honour. Kindness, fair play, toleration and patience are forms of weakness which must be rooted out of the hearts of Nordic supermen. Finally, be it noted that Fr. Gerald Vann, O.P., writing recently in *BLACKFRIARS* stigmatised the propagation of anti-Semitism as the very hallmark of Satanism.

Hitler offered the German people everything that Satan offered the Christ in the Gospel narrative; and the German people swallowed the bait, hook, line and sinker. The German people have surely bowed down and worshipped Hitler.

The German people, then, is buoyed up and served by an immense spiritual force; for it must not be forgotten that the Scriptures tell us that Satan is a fallen angel. The most terrifying feature of Satanism is that it makes a direct appeal to the hidden depths of the unconscious mind of man; therefore, its missionaries make converts by means of the power of suggestion and by denial of the rational categories. Hence it is that every country contains countless unconscious Satanists, including many who regard themselves as good Christians engaged in a battle against atheistic Communism and the like. That is why I said earlier that fifth columnists cannot be regarded as traitors in the ordinary sense of the term; that is why they are to be found in the most unlikely places; they are the conscious or unconscious apostles of the New (age-old) Religion. Every country that Hitler and Mussolini have conquered so far has fallen from within. Wars are not won in the last instance by material weapons; and the conquered countries could not bring spiritual force to bear against spiritual force.

There is much justification in Mussolini's contemptuous application of the word 'demoplutocracies' to the England and America of to-day and the France of only yesterday. If our God has not been Satan, it has certainly been Mammon; and Mammon is one of Satan's younger sons. There has scarcely been a diplomatic move on the international political chess-board in the last twenty years by those countries which was not designed to preserve the material privileges of the favoured few, or to catch the votes of the ignorant masses (demoplutocracies!).

Most of us who are in favour of continuing the war know what we are fighting against; few of us have a vivid sense of what we are fighting for. That is not good enough. Unless we can attain to an effective conviction of fighting for the holiness of truth and justice and all the traditional Christian values, and mobilise all our spiritual forces in the combat, the war is as good as lost, whatever the exter-

nal outcome may be. If the forces of Christian humanism are defeated with the disappearance of the values resident in and realised by the individual, human evolution will take a completely new turn—regressive instead of progressive. Man will evolve in the direction of the ant-heap or the termitary. The world will be divided into groups of gigantic ant-heaps. Some ant-heaps will call themselves communistic; others will term themselves National Socialist or Fascist. The economic law makes it certain that within a short time the differences in economic and social organisation between the two groups will be negligible. There will only be a religious difference to divide them. The communist religion might be regarded as atheistic humanism supported by natural science. Although it is a false religion, it is infinitely higher in the scale than Satanism, for although it has no use for the first Christian command (loving and serving God), it seeks to fulfil the second commandment, which is like unto the first, and it has a respect for natural (as opposed to supernatural) truth.

Since wars are in the last instance always religious wars, the rival ant-heaps will eventually fight each other, and that final Armageddon might well lead to the Apocalyptic end of the human species.

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