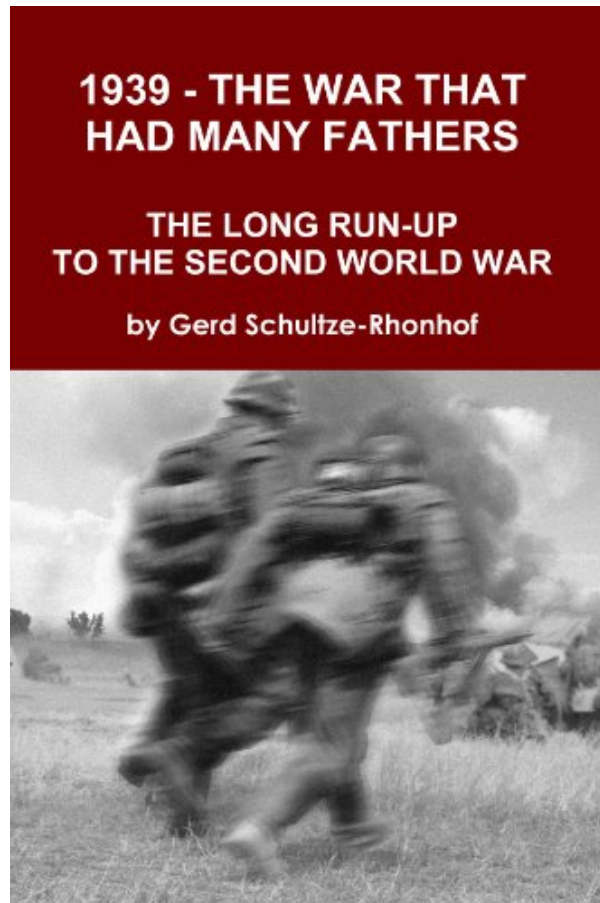


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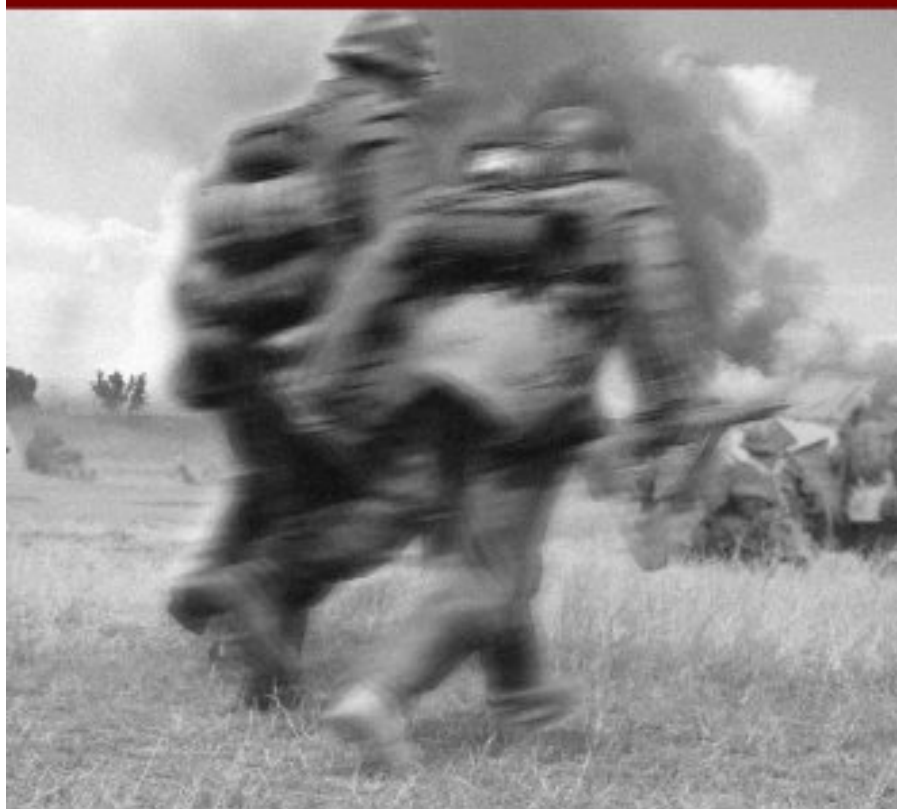
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The author's research leads to some surprising conclusions. Documents from foreign ministries, and notes and memoranda from British, French, Italian and American leaders, ministers, diplomats and military commanders, prove that quite a number of countries were involved in instigating World War II. Interconnections, hitherto overlooked, are made clear. "This war", writes Schultze-Rhonhof, "had many fathers." Much in our German history from 1919 to 1939 cannot be understood without cognizance of contemporary events in other lands: actions and reactions are closely linked together. Yet it was not only contemporary events in neighboring nations which contributed to the start of the war, it was also, and not insignificantly, the joint prehistory of the disputing parties. Almost every history has a prehistory.

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Five wars against the German Reich

By Thomas Dunskus

Gerd Schultze-Rhonhof's book, now going into its seventh German edition (this review is based on number 2), unfolds the period between the two major European wars of the 20th century and shows us that foreign policy deals with questions of power and not with issues of morality.

Going back to the armistice of 1918 and the ensuing "Treaty of Versailles" - never negotiated, imposed on the vanquished, and never ratified by the USA - the author makes it clear that, while all parties involved had undertaken to disarm, only the Reich carried out its obligations, whereas the victors saw no reason to do likewise. On the contrary, driven by their mutual distrust and probably also by the feeling that the new structure of Europe could not stand, they continued to rearm, even after the Reich had, in the second half of the 1920s, reduced its military force to the levels required and thus no longer presented an immediate danger.

This unstable but not explosive state would maintain itself over the next decade, but we must remember that, in line with the military efforts of Britain and France, the US government, after the "Roosevelt Depression" of 1937/38, carried out a huge rearmament program involving battleships and four-engined bombers which were surely not intended to be used against Mexican bandits.

One can understand the basic attitude of countries like Poland or Czechoslovakia which, having profited greatly in 1919, also rearmed seriously in the 1920s and 1930s. In the case of Poland, it is an irony of History

that this country, along with such areas as the Baltic states, owed its independence not to Versailles, but to the 1917 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk between the "Central Powers" (Germany and her allies), victorious in the East, and the crumbling Russian empire. One wonders, however, as to the motives which prompted the London government to pursue a similar policy of rearmament.

There is, obviously, the traditional explanation that Great Britain followed the basic principle of always furthering the interests of the Continent's weaker powers against the stronger one, but the real reasons are probably to be found at a more fundamental level. There is a document written by the Permanent Secretary of the British Foreign Office, Sir Robert Vansittart, dated 6 September 1940 on the subject of German approaches in Sweden aimed at bringing the war to an end. This document has been published by Martin Allen in his book "The Hitler-Hess Deception", but, while many other documents published by Allen have been called forgeries by the British National Archives (an incredible accusation when one considers the amount of work involved and the most uncertain benefits to be expected), this document has not been incriminated.

It contains the strange sentence: "The enemy is the German Reich and not merely Nazism and [certain people]... would let us in for a sixth war even if we survive the fifth". The meaning is, at first, totally obscure because Britain and Germany fought each other only once, in WW1, but it becomes clear if we read another statement in the same note: "... the German Reich and the Reich idea have been the curse of the world for 75 years...". Reading Vansittart's unspeakable propaganda leaflet "Black Record", it becomes evident that, for London, it was a matter of removing Germany as a power factor in Europe, something that the prudent armistice proposed by the Germans in 1918 had prevented at that time. Germany's mere existence as a state with a political agenda of its own was a serious threat and had to be fought.

Seen in this light, London's behavior in the 1920s and 1930s takes on a certain rationality. Schultze-Rhonhof explains that London's aim was one of cornering the Reich in such a way that it would invariably end up fighting, only to be defeated once and for all and, as Churchill said, "gutted and dismembered". Vansittart's own words were: "...the German Reich ... has got to go under, and not only under, but right under".

At the time of the Munich crisis, such a policy could not be implemented because Britain was not yet strong enough and American aid was quite uncertain; another year was needed to reach a level of rearmament which would allow Britain to fight Germany, but the time frame was narrow, because this window of opportunity would close in the early 1940s, once Germany had completed her own preparations.

The complete crumbling of the Czechoslovak state in the spring of 1939 - after Poland had already ripped out the Teschen area within a month of Munich - led to the decision of the country's president, Hacha, to visit Berlin. Slovakia had become independent, Hitler made today's Czechia a German protectorate, Hacha remained at his post and the country survived WW2 without major damage.

Once, however, Germany claimed Danzig and a corridor through the Corridor, England extended an unsolicited, unenforceable and never executed guarantee to Poland which prompted Warsaw to become deaf to all German proposals. Britain now had an excuse to declare war, but Hitler, while being a convenient scapegoat, was no longer of any importance.

London's policy was anchored in the 19th century, but failed miserably in 1945: Europe was in shambles, Poland was under Soviet domination, Soviet tanks stood an hour's drive from the North Sea and the British Empire was a thing of the past. Economically, Britain was bankrupt and indebted to the US; moreover, within a mere ten years the western rump of Germany would top Britain in industrial production.

Looking back, there is no way but to call British actions in 1939 infantile and the result a disaster. The German Reich had been painted as a bogey-man but this blocked the view of the real world. Having believed their own propaganda, the Allies felt entitled to destroy the historical substance of continental Europe, thus creating a cultural and mental wasteland which constitutes a major crack in the structure of the western world to this day and which will perhaps never be completely closed.

Gerd Schultze-Rhonhof, an officer, not a historian, has cast a valuable spotlight on how all this came about.

Addendum, 12 Aug 2012: When the author worked on this book, a dozen years ago, he may not have been aware of a text published in English at about the same time, which describes certain facets of British (and, to some extent) French politics in the years 1939 through 1941. The book, written by Patrick Osborn and entitled "Operation Pike (Britain versus the Soviet Union, 1939-1941)" is described as follows by the publisher:

"This groundbreaking study reveals the extent of British military planning against the Soviet Union during the first two years of the Second World War. These plans, formulated on the widespread belief that Soviet Russia was an active and willing partner in Adolf Hitler's war of conquest, were designed to bring the Soviets to their knees and deprive Nazi Germany of vital raw materials, especially oil. Churchill himself was one of the leading proponents of action that would have led to an Anglo-Soviet conflict even as the war with Germany raged on. Utilizing many never-before published documents, Osborn challenges conventional wisdom that Allied hopes were pinned on a Soviet entry into the war against Germany and proposes instead that, had the Nazis not successfully invaded France in May 1940, the Allies might well have launched their own offensive against the Soviet Union.

Anti-Soviet rumblings began shortly after the Red Army seized eastern Poland in September 1939, and became more strident after Joseph Stalin invaded Finland later that year. Truly serious planning did not take place, however, until after Stalin's disastrous war with Finland ended in March 1940. Immediately following the abrupt end of that conflict the Red Army sent substantial reinforcements to the Black Sea region, the area most threatened by Allied attack. In March-April 1940, the British undertook secret reconnaissance flights to obtain photographs of important targets inside the Soviet Union. The swift collapse of France in May 1940 insured that British bombers were not launched against these targets, but suspicion lingered between Britain and the USSR throughout the war, contributing to Stalin's refusal to believe Winston Churchill's warnings that Hitler was preparing to invade the USSR in 1941."

A reviewer on amazon.co.uk, Brian Flange, has this to say about the book:

"Sometimes the things that almost happened are every bit as interesting as the things that actually did. After this book, Patrick Osborn deserves some sort of prize for prompting more interesting 'What if ...?' scenarios than almost any other historian I can recall.

Osborn's pioneering volume looks in great detail at a fascinating (and rather hair-raising) sidelight on the history of World War Two. Mainly, the book describes British (plus some Anglo-French) plans for military operations against the Soviet Union during (and even after) the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939-41.

Amongst the surprising bits of information I acquired herein, I gather Anglo-French plans to bomb Stalin's oil-fields were well advanced by May 1940 and would probably have been put into action had it not been for Hitler's invasion of France. Osborn argues convincingly that Britain and France came close to fighting Hitler and Stalin simultaneously.

There is a wealth of material and food for thought here, and it's almost impossible not to speculate about how

history would have unfolded if 'Pike' (or similar operations) had gone ahead. 'Operation Pike' is long on facts, sources and information but it's clearly written, very well-organised and never dull."

It may well be that the Germans knew about these plans early on and it is certain that they discovered the respective files in France when they occupied the country in the summer of 1940. This may explain the intensity of the behind-the-scene negotiations between German and British agents in the latter half of 1940 and the first half of 1941, which culminated in the flight of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy, to Scotland six weeks before the Germans moved into the Soviet Union.

British air raids on Germany which began in late 1939 and, by mid-1940, were serious enough for many German schools to be moved east from cities in the Rhineland and from Berlin, went into a strange lull in the summer of 1941; it was only in late 1942 that they restarted with a vengeance. Could it be that London had given Berlin the go-ahead for its attack on the Soviet Union, assuring the Germans of some kind of armistice for the first year of the war in the east? Might that be the reason for the permanent incarceration of Hess who, after all, had committed no specific crimes and had rather exerted a moderating influence on Hitler's policies?

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Truth for Germany

By Blacksunne

This excellent work of historical scholarship makes mincemeat of the propaganda claims of the Allied powers, which they try to maintain and even to enshrine in law to this day. For a certain international Establishment the demonization of Germany as such, and German National Socialism in particular is an essential pillar of globalism and the New World Order that they wish to bring about. For this reason, in their view, a balanced account of the origins of WWII must be resisted. But for those who want Europe to survive, as opposed to sinking down to the level of an appendage of Africa and Western Asia, it is essential to win a sense of the actual origins of that war. The case for Germany is the case for truth. Only truth can free us from the lies that are killing us.

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Brilliant and Fascinating Insights

By Truth Seeker

This book should be required reading for anyone who wants to understand the 20th Century and its wars - WWI, WWII, and the Cold War which followed. The author, a career General in the West German Army, has meticulously researched the German and British archives, and paints a devastating picture of an endless series of mistakes made by ambitious, unimaginative and ignorant men in many countries, and an endless series of small steps culminating in a horrifying catastrophe. Those whom we thought were heroes are revealed to have been stupid and psychopathic villains, and those whom we thought were villains are revealed to have been sincerely trying to do the best they could for their nations and the world. It is like watching a slow-motion train wreck happening, being powerless to stop it. It is a huge book - some 600+ pages - but it is packed with hidden facts and suppressed truths which you will not find in any other history book. It has only one flaw, which is why I give it 4 stars instead of 5, and that is, that it was obviously written in German, and the translation into English is often awkward, and takes getting used to. Once the reader gets past that, the book is a monumental work of an extremely important history, which we should all read, to reveal to us how warped and twisted is the "truth" we are taught in school and in the Western media. We have been cruelly lied to, and it has cost us over 100 million human lives in the 20th Century. This book reveals those lies, in all their sordid detail.

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