

## 'The reshaping of Europe' from the Luxemburger Wort (28 September 1940)

**Caption:** On 28 September 1940, the Gauleiter Gustav Simon, regional head of the Nazi regime in Luxembourg, gives an address on the Nazi concept of a united Europe.

**Source:** Luxemburger Wort. für Wahrheit und Recht. 30.09.1940, n° 274; 93e année. Luxembourg: Imprimerie Saint-Paul. "Neugestaltung Europa", p. 1.

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## The reshaping of Europe

[...]

These are some of the specific statements made by the Gauleiter:

For the second time within a generation, the German population of Luxembourg has come into very close contact with citizens of the German Reich. In both cases, during the World War as well as the present war, Luxembourg has not found itself in this situation as a result of its own political actions but rather as a result of **great historical upheavals** that have taken place in Europe and inevitably not left Luxembourg unaffected. In both cases, Luxembourg's inhabitants are likely to consider these events particularly tragic: firstly, because the course of events was not intended by Luxembourg and, secondly, because major international events are often difficult to understand, comprehend and appreciate within the confined boundaries of a small country. I therefore consider it my duty to give the people of Luxembourg the opportunity to look beyond the framework that has, to date, restricted them and to participate in the overall momentous and historic developments in order better to understand the events which are happening on a small scale in their own country. For what is going on here is just one tiny part of the larger events that are currently taking place in Europe and throughout the world. Yesterday's announcement of the treaties between Germany, Japan and Italy has, once more, made the world realise that we are witnessing the birth of a new order.

### The great battle against Versailles

The so-called victors of Versailles did not even attempt to solve the existing problems, they simply added new problems, which, in many cases, laid the foundations for future conflicts in Europe and throughout the world. We should not forget that Germany was forced to cede Alsace-Lorraine, Eupen-Malmédy, Upper Silesia, Danzig, West Prussia and the Memel region and that 3.5 million culturally superior Sudeten Germans were subordinated to the rule of the Czechs. How many more questions arose simply because of the nonsensical reparations requirements which forced us, year after year, to pay billions and billions to our enemies!

It is natural that all these unresolved questions would eventually lead to a new crisis among nations and, once more, to the question of which nation would be called upon to solve the existing problems and to create the natural and rational order sought by all nations. After 9 November 1918, Germany seemed to be a country in chaos, and nobody in the world would have expected it to lead the renewal movement for a future restoration of order. However, the beginnings of an impending renewal were already apparent and the still small National Socialist German Workers Party under Adolf Hitler became particularly prominent. Without any financial means, the then unknown, former front-line soldier, Adolf Hitler, had created a symbol of hope for thousands and hundreds of thousands and thus became the saviour of his nation.

**We believe that Adolf Hitler has been sent by God to establish a new and better order in the world.**

The teachings of the Führer thus opposed in every aspect those of Germany after the Armistice. This small National Socialist Germany did not possess any means of power, but one was at hand: the belief of every National Socialist in Adolf Hitler and in Germany, the determination of every Brownshirt fighter to give his life rather than yield to the followers and the authority of post-Armistice Germany. We had the will to sever the shackles of Versailles and become a free German nation again. When, after an eight-year campaign, the Führer came to power by legal means, it was the hardest victory that the National Socialist movement had had to gain. Once it had secured this victory, it knew that the other aims on the National Socialist agenda would be achieved. And these were fulfilled with a speed and precision beyond any National Socialist's expectations. As early as 1933, all political parties in Germany were dissolved so as to make way for the one **United German Popular Alliance**, feared throughout the world today. If Britain reproaches us today for not tolerating freedom of expression or thought or the right to found political parties, it is only because it is afraid of this German unity of purpose and aware that it will one day be defeated by an undivided Germany! The Jewish question has certainly been addressed thoroughly and resolutely by the Führer, and he has solved

it without giving the Jews, who are supposedly so powerful, any opportunity to restrain us. The Führer also succeeded in eliminating unemployment in just a few years, and the rest of the world should not forget that this was achieved after Germany had inherited seven million unemployed from the Weimar Republic in 1933. The integration, as early as 1937, of these seven million people into the workforce was made possible without gold, foreign currency or natural resources, but solely through the four-year plan.

It was during the same period that Adolf Hitler started rearmament. In 1933, Germany had no heavy artillery or warplanes, nothing at all that could have been of any real significance in a war. The world would do well to consider what it meant completely to rearm from scratch within a few years and to raise an army unsurpassed and unmatched in number anywhere in the world. This German army demonstrated its fighting capability in Poland in 1939, as well as in Norway, Holland, Belgium and France in 1940, and the day will come when it will do so in Britain!

You will be aware that the Danzig question was the apparent reason for the outbreak of this war. The true reason, however, lay in the efforts of those satiated plutocrats to deny 80 million Germans their livelihood. This war might not have broken out if Britain had been able to imagine that, in Germany, after centuries of fragmentation, there would eventually come a time of unity and harmony. The British are wrong in thinking that this German unity could ever be destroyed again. We will make sure that the German people will cleave together **like a block of steel**, a block on which Britain's endeavours will be crushed and shattered.

It is already clear now that Britain's power on the continent is shattered and that a new order is now determining the situation in Europe and throughout the world. This New Order will not be created by powers that once happened to emerge as victors but by those states that prove themselves to be strongest and therefore the most capable and the best at the present time. There will be no more unsolved problems because the New Order will not tolerate one thing: the violation of large nations in their claim to fulfilment for the benefit of small nations who are unable to exploit a surplus of land and raw materials.

[Article published under German occupation. The article reflects not the opinion of this newspaper but that of the German occupation forces.]