

## Who Still Talks Nowadays of the Extermination of the Armenians?

### Partial Text of Talks on Poland

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
**NUREMBERG, Germany, Nov. 23** —  
*Following are excerpts from the documents reporting the talk Hitler had with his Commanders in Chief about Poland:*

#### Excerpts from Second Talk

The victor shall not be asked later on whether he told the truth or not. In starting and making war, not the right is what matters but victory.

Have no pity. Have a brutal attitude. Eighty million people shall get what is their right. Their existence has to be secured. The strongest has the right.

#### Talk With Goering

*Following are excerpts from the records of a talk which Hitler gave to Reichmarshal Hermann Goering and the commanding generals at Obersalzberg, August 22, 1939:*

I have found out that Japan does not go with us without conditions and that Mussolini is menaced by a weak-headed King, and the treacherous scoundrel of a crown prince. I have decided to go with Stalin. On the whole there are only three great statesmen in the world, Stalin, myself, and Mussolini.

Stalin and I are the only ones who see only the future. So I shall shake hands with Stalin within a few weeks on the common German-Russian border and undertake with him a new distribution of the world.

Our strength is in our quickness and our brutality. Ghengis Khan had millions of women and children killed by his own will and with a gay heart. History sees



#### Disdains Views of World

What the weak western European civilization thinks about me does not matter. Thus for the time being I have sent to the East only my "Death Head Units" with the order to kill without pity or mercy all men, women and children of the Polish race or language. Only in such a way will we win the vital space we need. **Who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?**

Col. Gen. [Walther] von Brauchitsch has promised me to bring the war against Poland to an end within a few weeks. I have witnessed the miserable worms, Daladier and Chamberlain, in Munich and Poland. They will be too cowardly to attack. My pact with Poland was only meant to stall for time.

And besides, gentlemen, in Russia will happen just what I have practiced with Poland. After Stalin's death — he is seriously ill — we shall crush the Soviet Union.

The small countries do not frighten me. After Kemal's death Turkey will be ruled by morons and half-idiots. Carol of Rumania is a thoroughly corrupted slave of his sexual desires. The King of Belgium and the northern kings are weak puppets, depending on the good digestion of their overfed and tired peoples.

#### Calls Hirohito Cowardly

We must take into account the defection of Japan. I have left to Japan a whole year's time to decide. The Emperor is the companion piece of the late Czars — weak, cowardly and irresolute, may he fall before a revolution.

Let us think of ourselves as masters and consider these people at best as lacquered half-monkeys who need the feel of the knout.

I have only one fear and that is that Chamberlain or such another dirty swine comes to me with a proposition or a change of mind. He will be thrown downstairs

No, for this, it is too late. The invasion and extermination of Poland begins Saturday morning. I will have a few companies in Polish uniform attack in Upper Silesia or in the protectorate.

Whether the world believes it doesn't mean a damn to me. The world believes only in success. Glory and honor are beckoning to you gentlemen...And now on to the enemy. In Warsaw we will celebrate our meeting again.

*The speech was listened to enthusiastically. Goering jumped on the table. Blood-thirsty thanks and bloody promises. He danced around like a savage. The few doubtful ones remained silent.*

*During the meal Hitler stated he must operate this year as he would not be living long. His successor would not be able to do so; furthermore, the situation would be desperate in two years at the latest.*

## HITLER'S REFERENCES TO THE ARMENIANS

---

A number of statements Hitler made in the 1920s and 30s indicate that he was knowledgeable about both Armenians and Turks in general, about the historical record of the persecution of the Armenians, and their demise in Turkey through “extermination.”

### 1924:

In one of the earliest surviving written documents containing statements and speeches by Hitler covering the period up to 1924, the future Nazi leader makes an allusion to the Armenians as victims of their lack of courage for combativeness.<sup>2</sup>

The “solution of the Jewish question,” he added, requires, therefore, “a bloody clash.” Otherwise, Hitler noted, “the German people will end up becoming just like the Armenians” (...*das deutsche Volk wird ein Volk wie die Armenier...*).<sup>3</sup>

### 1931:

Edouard Galic published his book *Ohne Maske* in 1968 in which the texts of two newly uncovered confidential 1931 interviews with Hitler were published. It develops that eight years before the famous speech delivered at Obersalzberg in 1939, Hitler had made exactly the same statement when he cited the historical fact of “the extermination of the Armenians.” During the second interview in June 1931 he discussed his future plans of massive deportations and the inevitable ruination of the victim populations involved. He was being interviewed by Richard Breiting, the powerful editor of the great German daily *Leipziger Neueste Nachrichten*, the organ of the conservative-nationalist Germans. Departing from his rigid policy, Hitler allowed Breiting to take short-hand notes swearing him, however, to secrecy. Here is his remark:<sup>4</sup>

Everywhere people are awaiting a new world order. We intend to introduce a great resettlement policy...Think of the biblical deportations and the massacres of the Middle Ages...**and remember the extermination of the Armenians** [*erinnern Sie sich doch an die Ausrottung Armeniens*]. One eventually reaches the conclusion that masses of men are mere biological plasticine.<sup>5</sup> We will not allow ourselves to be turned into niggers as the French tried to do after 1918. The Nordic blood available in England, northern France and North America will eventually go with us to reorganize the world.

### 1933:

When in July 1933 Hitler was interviewed by the editor of the Turkish newspaper “*Milliyet*” he said that the movement in modern Turkey had been for him a “shining star.” Turkey had based itself upon the primitive native peasantry of Anatolia, and similarly one of Germany’s greatest tasks was the building up (Aufbau) of the German peasant class.<sup>6</sup>

### 1939

On November 24, 1945, *The New York Times* printed a number of texts of Hitler’s talks under the caption: “Partial Text of Talks.” It noted: “These are excerpts from documents reporting the talks Hitler gave to Reichmarshal Hermann Goering and the commanding generals at Obersalzberg, August 22, 1939.” The statement by Hitler, “who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians,” is from a very crucial document that was transmitted to British diplomats in Berlin in August 1939 by Louis Lochner who was for more than two decades chief

of the Berlin Bureau of The Associated Press and for six years President of the Foreign Press Association there. It is a summary of one or two speeches Hitler delivered to the Chief Commanders and Commanding Generals at Obersalzberg, August 22, 1939, in preparation for the impending invasion of Poland. In that speech Hitler is telling the high ranking military officers to be brutal and merciless for a quick victory (*Seien Sie hart, seien Sie schonungslos, handeln Sie schneller und brutaler als die andern*).<sup>7</sup>

## 1943

Hitler, at the Klessheim Conference (April 17, 1943), plunged into a speech full of invectives against the Jews as depraved parasites, as “tubercular bacilli that threatened a healthy body.” He was arguing in the sense that nations which could not defend themselves against what he viewed as the pernicious influence of the Jews were doomed to suffer the fate of “once so proud a people as the Persians, who now had to continue their miserable existence as Armenians.”<sup>8</sup>

## NOTES:

---

<sup>1</sup> The explicit reference to the Armenians in Hitler’s speech “who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians” is made in a paragraph furnishing the context of one of Hitler’s notions. That notion provides for the creation of a new world order requiring mass murder for which Hitler cited the example of Genghis Khan who “sent millions of women and children to death knowingly and cheerfully (fröhlichen Herzens). Yet, history sees in him only the great founder of States.” This line of thought is introduced to conclude that the extermination of the Armenians served a similar purpose. The Turks destroyed them mercilessly allowing Mustafa Kemal to establish a new state system, and the world not only consigned the annihilation of the Armenians to oblivion but has accepted the new order of things because, “The world believes only in success” (Die Welt glaubt nur an den Erfolg.). *NYT*. 11/24/45, p.7, col.2. [Note: art work, facsimile of the NYT front page, and photograph of Hitler have been added.]

<sup>2</sup> Eberhard Jäckel and Axel Kuhn eds., *Hitler. Sämtliche Aufzeichnungen 1905-1924* (Stuttgart, 1980), 775. The respective document is identified as one emanating from the German Federal Archives (*Bundesarchiv*) R48 I, Reichs Chancellor’s Office (*Reichskanzlei*), dossier no. 2681, pp.85 ff. [*Yale Journal of International Law*, Vol. 23, No.2, 1998, p.537]

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Breiting, Richard, 1882-1937. Uniform title: *Ohne Maske*. English.; Title: *Secret Conversations with Hitler; The Two Newly - Discovered 1931 Interviews*. Edited by Edouard Calic. With a foreword by Golo Mann. Translated from the German by Richard Barry. [1st American ed.] New York, John Day Co. [1971] Description: 191 p. 21 cm. Notes: Translation of *Ohne Maske*. "Transcript of Richard Breiting's shorthand notes": p. 17-93. Bibliography: p. 180-186. Calic, Edouard; *Unmasked* [n.8], 81; in the German original, 101. Here is an excerpt from Ludwig Krieger’s Memorandum regarding the interview [*Yale Journal of International Law*, Vol. 23, No.2, 1998, p.540]:

“The transcript checks with the original...Having been a shorthand writer at Hitler’s briefing conferences in his headquarters during the Second World War, I recognize Hitler’s style and reactions throughout the record. Breiting’s papers as a whole confirm the sequence of events. Both from the factual and political points of view; the checking of these papers has been of extreme interest to me. Breiting’s shorthand record is assuredly of great historical value since, as far as I know, no shorthand notes of private discussions with Hitler in the pre-1933 period exist.”

<sup>5</sup> The term “biological plasticine” is derived from the work of German political geographer and ethnographer Friedrich Ratzel, (1844-1904) who developed the theory of the organic state and introduced the concept of *Lebensraum*, or “living space,” which relates human groups to the spatial units where they develop. In his work, Ratzel introduced many concepts, including *Lebensraum*, and ideas that would eventually be called Social Darwinism. These would later be appropriated for use beyond Ratzel’s original intentions and ideas. His concept of

---

Lebensraum in particular was seized upon by the German National Socialists as a basis for some of their policies in the 1930's. Though Ratzel pointed out the propensity of a state to expand or contract its boundaries according to rational capabilities, the subsequent misuse of the Lebensraum concept by the Nazi regime in Germany was largely based on the interpretation of Ratzel's concept by the Swedish political scientist Rudolf Kjellén. [see his essay "Lebensraum" (1901), often cited as a starting point in geopolitics, was a study in biogeography. When Ratzel developed the concept of Lebensraum, he hypothesized that the state naturally seeks to increase its size. If the state's neighbors are weak, the state will grow larger and spread into other states. As evidence, Ratzel believed that space was a great political force. Unfortunately, Ratzel's ideas were once again misinterpreted and used for the wrong purpose. People, such as Karl Haushofer and Adolf Hitler, used these ideas to formulate their own theories about world domination.[ibid]

<sup>6</sup> Reported in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, July 22, 1933; Quoted in *The Speeches of Adolf Hitler. April 1922— August 1939*. vol. 1. Norman H. Baynes. trans. and ed. (Oxford University Press, 1942), p.868. [The rise of the Turkish middle class was a direct consequence of the Armenian Genocide and the expropriation of the properties, goods, and monies belonging to Armenians throughout Anatolia.]

<sup>7</sup> See note 1

<sup>8</sup> R. Hillberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews* (Chicago, 1969), 524. The data are culled from a summary prepared by Dr. Paul Otto Schmidt, German Foreign Office interpreter, on the meeting at Klessheim. Hitler and Foreign Minister Ribbentrop were trying to induce Admiral Horthy, the Hungarian Regent, to proceed against the Jews of Hungary mercilessly, namely, to have them killed off. . [*Yale Journal of International Law*, Vol. 14, No.2, 1989]