

The Role of Defamation in the Outbreak of War

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The Cases of 1939 and 2022

By

Andrzej Jarczewski

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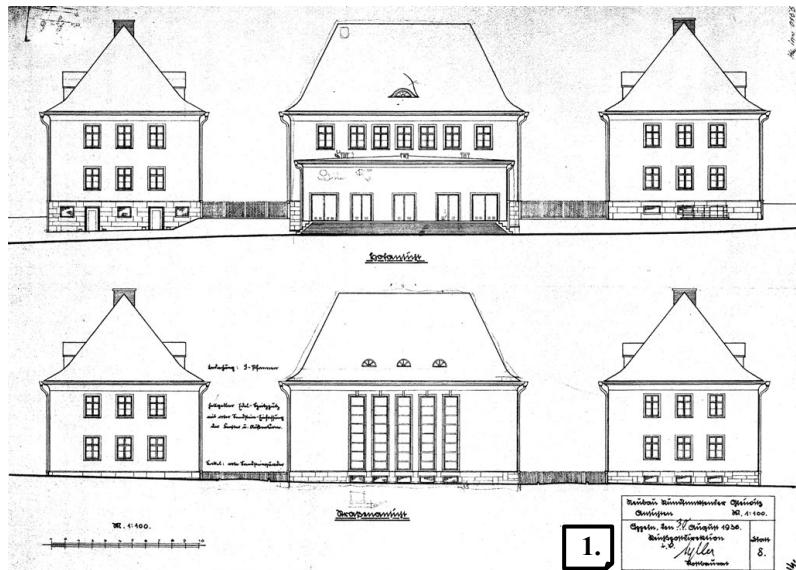
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ABOUT THE BOOK

This was planned as the documentation of the prologue to World War II — the attack of German agents on the German radio station in Gleiwitz on August 31, 1939. The book was almost ready, when, on February 24, 2022, Russia attacked Ukraine and began an invasive war waged with utmost bestiality toward women and children. The repeatability of the paths leading to those cruel wars is striking and deserves a comparative analysis. Therefore, both the title and the content have been changed.

President of Russia Vladimir Putin has learned not only from Stalin, but also from Hitler. To show this, I quote the full text of the Führer's now forgotten speech to the Reichstag deputies given on September 1, 1939. That very text has become Putin's propaganda guide and makes incredibly instructive reading. Its patterns facilitate the understanding of Russia's attitude toward Ukraine, most exhaustively expressed in a criminal article entitled "What should Russia do with Ukraine?" That official text, a virtual summary of *Mein Kampf*, was published after the outbreak of the war on the official Russian website, <https://ria.ru>.

I am writing this as the founder of the museum in the Gliwice Radio Station — a place so important for the history of wars, which was unavailable to historians till 2003 for political and then technical reasons. At that time I undertook the task of configuring the surviving equipment and restoring it to the original state from 1939. I reached numerous sources and was the first researcher to carry out a detailed investigation: I reconstructed the attack second after second and walked through it inch by inch. I confronted my discoveries every day with the knowledge of guests from afar, published articles and books, and cooperated with scientists and writers from all over the world.

Having encountered directly the immense amount of lies and crimes generated by World War II, I embarked on an in-depth philosophical study of the eternal issues: truth and falsehood, good and evil. Its results were published in my 2020 treatise¹ and numerous shorter works. That theoretical output is applied herein in a practical manner, sometimes in argument with the unidimensional methods of professional historians. This is because I am not a historian myself, but a philosopher and linguist who graduated as an electronics engineer (the latter has affected the shape of this book, which might at times resemble a radio station manual).

¹ Jarczewski A., *The Verbal Philosophy of Real Time*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle 2020, ISBN: 978-1-5275-4444-4.

The research^{2,3} resulted in a reconstruction of the events which had taken place during the hours, days and months preceding World War II. Moreover, new knowledge of the parallel facts and contexts allowed me to change the research perspective and consider the goals of other “special operations.” The results I have finally reached write off the entire previous narrative of the Gliwice prologue to the war — a valueless narrative based not on research, but on sensational pieces of reportage on the Nuremberg Trials. Thus, the subject of this book is the unknown aspects of the preparations for World War II as a model for the false justification of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which defends itself heroically. In 2022, we have ongoing access to the stream of information from the front, so I do not repeat that here. Instead, I present mainly the results of the research carried out in Gliwice and show the repeatable aspect of great crimes which stems from the essence of criminal systems, not from changing circumstances.

After years of studying that fragment of Europe’s history and geography, I am able to formulate the following conclusion: the Gleiwitz Incident was staged on August 31, 1939 to provide Hitler with arguments for his speech of September 1, 1939. However, that speech had a further goal: defamation. But what is the goal of defamation?

Defamation always has one purpose: **to blame the innocent in the world’s eyes so that nobody defends the “culprit” in case of a war.**

The issue of defamation suddenly revived in 2022 when Putin began the war (like Hitler, without actually declaring it) by making an absurd accusation of Nazism and militarism against the young Ukrainian democracy. This time the lie was as plain as a pikestaff, so the Western world did not believe it. They had not believed Hitler either, but they had still pursued the policy of appeasement to continue their business and win elections. “We will see what happens and worry later,” they had thought. And the world did see! It sees today too — and it cannot believe its eyes again.

Editorial remarks: The Gliwice Radio Station has been a department of the Museum in Gliwice since 2005. Therefore, it is a proper name written with capital letters and using the Polish name of the city. ‘Radio station’, in turn, is a technical term which refers to this and any other radio broadcasting station. In the years 1935–1945, the facility was called ‘Sender Gleiwitz’ and was a German radio station in Gliwice from the Polish point of view. ‘Gleiwitz’ and ‘Gliwice’ are two names of the same city. The same applies to ‘Breslau’ and ‘Wrocław’. In this book, the spelling is dictated by the temporal and national perspective relevant to a given sentence.

² Jarczewski A., *Provokado*, Gliwice 2008, ISBN: 978-83-8985-625-8.

³ Jarczewski A., *Dyfamacja gliwicka 1939*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe “Śląsk,” Katowice 2021, ISBN: 978-83-8183-102-4.

1. THE EVENT PERSPECTIVE

Hitler's speech of September 1, 1939, which was preceded by the Gleiwitz Incident, is poorly known. Historians usually quote a couple of sentences taken out of their context. I quote the full text below because only the knowledge of all the words shouted out on that day allows one to understand the acts leading to those words. For instance, why did Germany not declare war on Poland? Was that an act of disregard for the Hague Convention (III) of 1907? Absolutely not. A speech given outside the Reichstag building, in the nearby opera house (Krolloper), could not call the "order-restoring operation in Poland" a 'war' yet.

Putin used that pattern on February 24, 2022, when he called the full-scale war against Ukraine a "special operation." Consequently, the Russian media must not use the word 'war'. The nation should be convinced that the only aim is to replace the Ukrainian government with a more pro-Russian one. The same was done in September 1939. The German nation did not really know that an actual war had broken out. Hitler rather suggested that it was just restoration of the German rule of law in some barbarian country.

However, there might have been something else above (or beneath) the great political goals. It is known that Hitler admired Wagner's operas. He despised operetta, hence his ambivalent attitude towards Mussolini and his operetta-like fascism. National Socialism was a grand theater — an opera with the typical artistic motifs of betrayal, defamation and crime.

Hitler did not allow the burned Reichstag to be rebuilt because he wanted to perform on a theater stage. He was building something new: his own mythology — and he felt that the nation was waiting for it. He wished to play the roles of famous leaders the way he had watched them in great plays and films. As he was a skilled speaker, the opera house encouraged him to perform. The orchestration was provided by new media, the cinema and the radio, which added whatever a country's leader was not able to state officially.

This brings to mind the gigantic, long tables at which Putin humiliated President of France Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and even his own ministers and generals. That stage set should also be interpreted in terms of an event. The tables were prepared especially for TV in order to convey a megalomaniac message to the world: "I, Vladimir Putin, play the lead role and rule the world, with just a handful of marginal figures far behind me." The tables were to play their own banquet roles several days later following a blitzkrieg-like victory over Ukraine — but, for lack of victory, they had nothing to play.

In 1939, Hitler staged his operatic performance with a similar intention. The speech had been ready in his head for a long time, but he was aware that a successful improvisation needed to be prepared well. We know that speech today owing to its recording stored in the German Federal Archives in Koblenz.

Its study permits a conclusion that it is an excellent text in terms of its rally convention and the goal that it served. The speaker said the right things, the right way. The speech had been prepared since the beginning of August 1939. At that time, the author noticed certain gaps in his argumentation and ordered preparation of material to fill in the most important spots. To open up an additional perspective for the thesis about the event-oriented, multifaceted goal of the Gleiwitz Incident, I will ask a guiding question: what was the 1934 Nazi Party rally, so brilliantly filmed by Leni Riefenstahl?

Let me answer: that famous Reichsparteitag was not filmed at all. The 6th NSDAP Rally was an actor. It starred in *Triumph des Willens* (*Triumph of the Will*), a film made to a precise scenario without consideration for the costs of rehearsals which lasted many days, or for the inconveniences suffered by thousands of supernumeraries.

The rally was the leading actor, but not the only one. The cast also included Hitler himself and his plane, Rudolf Hess, the youth camp tents and the boat on the river. Leni Riefenstahl made a story, not a piece of reportage. She sent the boat to where it would be filmed by an “accidentally” (sounds familiar?) positioned professional camera. And what about the rally? Did it pass any important acts? Not at all. It was just a comedian enacting the scenario.

The event perspective allows one to understand other happenings too.

Did Hitler attend the memorial mass in Saint Hedwig’s Cathedral in Berlin on May 18, 1935 to honor Józef Piłsudski⁴, whose funeral was taking place in Poland on that day? Again, not at all. Hitler ordered the ceremony, or, better said, the event, to be prepared in such a way as to provide him with a staged photograph for strictly political purposes. He wished to suggest a secret bond between himself and Poland and thus weaken the mutual trust between Great Britain, France, Poland and other possible allies.

⁴ Józef Piłsudski (1867–1935) — a Polish leader who fulfilled various functions. In 1920, as the commander-in-chief, he defeated Bolshevik Russia and solidified Poland’s independence, regained shortly before that. His enemies considered him to be a dictator, but, compared with the leaders of the neighboring states, Hitler and Stalin, he was a solid democrat in a poor country taking its first steps in democracy after being ruined by Russia, Germany and Austria.

I do not include that picture here because I exclude publishing Hitler's photographs in my books in order not to reproduce his propaganda. In fact, I removed all of the criminals' portraits and their victims' photos from the Radio Station exhibition after peculiar experiences. Images still carry their message, as young visitors to the Radio Station from several dozen countries have proved to me numerous times. We do not always rule our own reactions to what we see because they are subliminal. The better the composition, the longer its message lasts and the farther it reaches — and the photo of Hitler in front of Józef Piłsudski's symbolic coffin which was veiled in the Polish ensign is a perfect picture in the event category analyzed herein.

Owing to the Polish embassy, the memorial mass was celebrated in line with the Catholic rite, but to Hitler, who had broken off his relationship with religion a lot earlier, the church was only a background — or a facade (as defined by Goffman). His method consisted in taking huge numbers of photos in tested poses and then selecting the relevant few which conveyed the intended message.

I object to the disregard for Hitler's esthetics. He was undoubtedly a master at selecting photos and sensing the general perception of propaganda. True, any of us would probably choose better and nicer photos than Hitler did. However, he did not choose what we could like; he opted for what affected the viewers in the desired way — and that required a goal-oriented talent.

Anyone interested in the photos concerned will easily find them on the Internet. Importantly, Hitler was accompanied by the high dignitaries of the Third Reich, but two benches had been partially emptied to prevent newspaper readers from being overly distracted by accidental persons. Inquisitive observers will also find other subliminal manipulations.

Furthermore, the newsreel showing Hitler's triumphant entry into Vienna on March 14, 1938 was prepared and directed with incredible care. Sergei Eisenstein's films in the USSR, the totalitarian choreography in North Korea and the precisely edited videos showing Vladimir Putin's fitness have all played a similar role and served similar purposes. It is presently hard to find a newspaper which does not contain Putin's photograph — even in America.

The editorial teams obtain those pictures straight from Moscow together with their hidden message. This shows which icon is the current spiritual nourishment of every Russian.

The tactics of Hitler's circle was a specific prefiguration of the 21st-century event industry. Of course, it was not called this way, and the relevant theory or specialized companies did not exist.

Hitler made up for that with the talent of Goebbels⁵ (and his own talent, which was evident in this area), used the services of devoted producers and spared no expense for those purposes.

Let me consider another example. An important event in the preparation for the war was Hitler's frequently cited speech to the commanders in Obersalzberg on August 22, 1939. Minister of Foreign Affairs Joachim von Ribbentrop would soon land in Moscow to sign a pact on the division of Europe; in the meantime, Germany's most important commanders drove and flew hundreds of kilometers up to near the freshly abolished border with Austria in order to take part in something that would surprise them.

Today we would call it an incentive event. The staff officers and commanders who had been making the war preparations for several months gathered in one place to be given priceless insight into their Führer's plans. For example, they learned that the war would be preceded by a covering and defamatory operation, though the city of Gleiwitz was not mentioned of course. It went without saying that generals vowed that way would "work" better.

Hitler felt an intense **need for a great spectacle** — a need for a war. He was disappointed with the capitulation of England and France regarding Czechoslovakia at the Munich Conference on September 30, 1938, so he escalated his demands toward Poland in such a way as to finally secure the outbreak of the desired war. It remains uncertain whether Hitler waged the war primarily for political purposes or whether he kept inventing intermediate goals to eventually enact that great military spectacle. The history of criminology and psychiatry has documented a multitude of crimes committed only to "create an event."

A triumphant war is a dream of every leader who has gained full power over his country: there is little more to obtain at home, so one must look around abroad. Hitler's way began with the remilitarization of the Rhineland (1936), followed by the Anschluss of Austria (1938), the annexation of selected Czechoslovakian territories at the Munich Conference (1938), the subduing of the entire Czech state and reducing Slovakia to vassalage (1939), the occupation of Poland and France... It went easy — too easy. In politics, such achievements are viewed merely as a run-up before a big leap.

Putin has gone along a similar way: from the Second Chechen War (1999–2009), through Georgia (2008) and the annexation of Crimea

⁵ Paul Joseph Goebbels — the Reich Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda. He instructed his collaborators numerous times that every action by the media was eventually supposed to serve the Nazi propaganda. He learned the effectiveness of cinematic propaganda from Eisenstein's Soviet films.

(2014), to Donetsk and Luhansk. The conquest proceeded slowly and did not attract much interest of the Western world which was busy with more serious affairs — its own problems. It went easy and the run-up was taken, so the time came to leap onto Ukraine. A leap too far, perhaps. Or is it still just a run-up?

There are many more similarities between the actions taken by Hitler and Putin. I include domestic assassinations of oppositionists and operations conducted abroad in this very group. Let me mention just two of them: the poisoning of Skripal in London (March 4, 2018) and the abduction of British agents in Venlo, the Netherlands (November 9, 1939). The latter was led by Hitler's best agent, who will be discussed in greater detail herein. His name was Alfred Helmut Naujocks and he was in command of the group that attacked the radio station in Gleiwitz.

I have formulated a preliminary conclusion regarding the Gleiwitz Incident at the very beginning, so I now have to justify it or reject it based on known evidence and new research.

Hitler's speech of September 1, 1939 is the first point of reference for this book. The second source of precious information is the American prosecution's documentation of several preliminary questionings that SS-Sturmbannführer Alfred Naujocks underwent in Nuremberg. It includes Naujocks's testimony, which was typed in German and bears his handwritten corrections⁶. Those are the documents I treat seriously, skipping all the newspaper articles from that period and the numerous resulting suppositions put forward by historians — they are mere thrillers or, if you like, the waste paper of science.

Naujocks's (and the public prosecutor's) radiotechnical knowledge was poor, so the testimony in question needs certain additions, and those are possible only after one has investigated the venue and at least broadly understood how a radio station works. However, except the technicalities, as those were unfamiliar to him, Naujocks generally testified the truth. He lied only about one thing. A man was shot at the radio station.

While such murders are never committed by action commanders, they still require an explicit order. Naujocks did not admit that he had ordered the murder because the Nuremberg Trials punished such orders with the death penalty.

The third source enabling one to see Gliwice from a broader perspective is Edmund Osmańczyk's book *Dowody prowokacji. Nieznane archiwum Himmlera*⁷ (Evidence of Provocation. Himmler's Unknown Archive).

⁶ <http://www.footnote.com/image/232386004/1945%7CNaujocks/#232386850>

⁷ Osmańczyk E., *Dowody prowokacji. Nieznane archiwum Himmlera*, Czytelnik, Warszawa 1951.

The author reached materials documenting the preparations for attacks on 223 border facilities, most of them belonging to the German minority in Poland. The documentation contains instructions, maps and photographs of the facilities before destruction.

It was confirmed after the war that Germans had indeed carried out several dozen actions from that long list. Before those findings, nobody in Poland realized that it was a centrally planned “special operation” because everyone had too many things on their minds at the end of August 1939 to try to link the incidents taking place near the 1912-kilometer-long Polish-German border.

The fourth source is the excellent book (though its title contains three mistakes⁸) by Alfred Spiess and Heiner Lichtenstein: *Unternehmen Tannenberg. Der Anlass zum Zweiten Weltkrieg*⁹ (Codename Tannenberg. The Pretext for Unleashing World War II). In the 1960s, German public prosecutor Alfred Spiess carried out a reliable investigation by questioning many witnesses who already lived in the western part of the divided German state.

Assisted by journalist Heiner Lichtenstein, he described his efforts as a man familiar with the reality of the Third Reich. Except a few technical and topographical details and the title (probably given by the publisher), Spiess’s findings have not been undermined yet. Thus, they make a reliable source of knowledge about the issue in question.

The results of the first “inspection to the crime scene” are presented in *Provokado*² — my already mentioned book published in 2008. It documents the detailed research of the facility to which Spiess and other authors did not have access. I styled that book as a narrative for pupils and gave it the Esperanto title *Provokado* because the Esperanto morpheme ‘-ad-’ conveys the meaning of durability, continuity and repeatability. I used it to signal that history never ends and that fabricated lies still act to the detriment of Poland.

I try to **understand the facts and the words**, remembering that, from Hitler’s point of view, the Gliwice case was governed by the convention of Wagner’s operas. (Putin has copied that convention as a farce: he has labeled his private army of murderers operating in Africa, the Middle East and, recently, Ukraine, “the Wagner Group.” Their supervisor, oligarch Yevgeny Prigozhin, is called “Putin’s Chef.”)

⁸ The three mistakes in the title of that book are as follows: 1) the operation had no codename; 2) it was not a cause or a pretext; 3) the purpose was to prevent a world war rather than to provoke it. This will be explained below.

⁹ Spiess A., Lichtenstein H., *Unternehmen Tannenberg. Der Anlass zum Zweiten Weltkrieg*, Wiesbaden und München 1979.

The leading actor had already posed for thousands of photographs. He had spent many hours in front of a special mirror in which he saw himself from various angles. He also had an authentic plastic talent, albeit not developed in an academy. Like a performer, he was able to select the facial expressions, gestures and words which would affect the recipients the way he desired. It did not need to be pretty. It had to be effective. And it was.

Before quoting the full text of Hitler's speech of September 1, 1939, let me present a passage from what I consider, despite all the reservations, to be another source of knowledge about the Führer: *Hitler's Table Talk, 1941–1944*¹⁰. The book contains the following words, said by Hitler on October 14, 1941: “[Orders] are a matter of half an hour, or three-quarters of an hour. But first of all every operation has to be studied and thought over at length. It sometimes takes up to six months for the thought to be elaborated and made precise.”

The Third Reich leader was a criminal, but not a fool. He considered his variants in due advance. Therefore, he must have been rehearsing his oration in the mind for a really long time before September 1. He also ordered many issues to be prepared in such a way as to give that speech — one of the most important addresses in the history of the world — a solid appearance of credibility. The response to the speech from various capital cities, and in particular from the Germans themselves, conditioned the outcome of the war.

Let me cite one more passage uttered by Hitler (dated September 25, 1941), which clearly shows his larcenous thinking: “As regards myself, I shall never live to see it, but one day my successors must be in a position to bring out from a drawer every historical date that justifies a German claim. Once our position is consolidated, we shall be able in this sphere to go back as far as the [migration period].”

It is a clear hint: one should fabricate such evidence, or at least such propaganda, as to be able to rob another country even in the far future. Whatever cannot be taken by force will be taken by deception. This method proves prolific; it has many followers and, unfortunately, is still used against Poland by various circles which combine new media with old principles. Nowadays I have ceased to use the term ‘provocation’ in relation to the Gleiwitz Incident because no provocation was involved there. It was a multifaceted defamatory operation. Let me begin with the act of defamation itself: the Krolloper stage, commanders in full dress uniforms, and the performer-in-chief.

¹⁰ Hitler A., *Hitler's Table Talk, 1941–1944*, introduction and preface by Trevor-Roper H.R., Enigma Books, New York 2000.

Address¹¹ by Adolf Hitler¹²
Reichstag¹³, September 1, 1939

Deputies, Men of the German Reichstag!

For months we have been suffering¹⁴ under the torture of a problem created by the Diktat of Versailles¹⁵ — a problem which has now become insufferable in its depravity and degeneracy.

Danzig was¹⁶ and is a German city.

¹¹ When reading this masterpiece of a genre which was later called ‘narrative war’, one must continuously look behind in order to identify the events cited as known to the listeners. One should also look forward in order to notice that Hitler does have successors who carry on the war narrative without using the word ‘war’. They only want to restore the “rule of law” in Poland or Ukraine based on their own conditions.

¹² Hitler A., *Rede vor dem Reichstag am 1. September 1939*, Bundesarchiv Koblenz. English version based on the archives of the Avalon Project at the Yale Law School.

<https://fcit.usf.edu/holocaust/resource/document/HITLER1.htm>
accessed on April 26, 2022).

¹³ The Reichstag building, partially burned in 1933, could have been rebuilt in a few months. Hitler prohibited the overhaul not only to lower the rank of the parliamentary system ostentatiously. In that building, he would have been standing on strange ground honored by the democratic tradition; in the opera, nobody even thought of democracy.

¹⁴ ‘We have been suffering’ — a verb in first person plural: the speaker seemingly identified himself with the listeners, while in fact he imposed his views on them. The first words of the speech shortened the perspective: the Treaty of Versailles had been in force since 1920, but the propaganda exaggerating the alleged German harm in Gdańsk [Danzig] intensified a few months before the speech. That propaganda, along with a range of incidents arranged by Germans, is treated herein as the preparation of arguments to be used in the speech. Nonetheless, some Poles did commit foolish acts in August in view of the new threat — but the scale of the Polish guilt was absolutely disproportionate to the scale of the German crime.

¹⁵ ‘Diktat’ — replacing neutral words such as ‘treaty’ with emotive ones. This is followed by a device which correctly though illogically begins the tirade and precedes a suggestion that the only issue for now is Gdańsk. Putin has made no attempt to conceal his view that the dissolution of the USSR was an equivalent of the Treaty of Versailles.

The Corridor¹⁷ was and is German. Those territories owe their cultural development exclusively to the German people. Without the German people, all those eastern territories would still be plunged in the depths of barbarism¹⁸.

Danzig was torn from us! The Corridor was annexed by Poland. As in other German territories of the East, all the German minorities living there have been persecuted¹⁹ in the most distressing manner. More than one million people of German blood had²⁰ to leave their homeland already in the years 1919–1920.

As always, I sought to bring about a change by peaceful means, by offering proposals to remedy this unbearable situation. It is a lie when the outside world says that we sought to carry through our revisions only by pressure.

Throughout 15 years before National Socialism came to power there was ample opportunity of carrying out those revisions by peaceful settlements and understanding. Nothing of the sort was done. On my own initiative I have, not once but several times, made proposals for a revision of the unbearable conditions.

¹⁶ The history of that peripheral city as known by an educated German, let alone an average one, did not reach the times when Gdańsk was the main Polish port.

¹⁷ The term ‘Corridor’ was coined after the Treaty of Versailles. The German corridor to East Prussia was latitudinal, while the Polish Corridor (German nouns are capitalized) was longitudinal (see map 44).

¹⁸ The entire German culture is soaked with a belief that Germans are culturally superior to the nations living behind Germany’s eastern border. Like in *Mein Kampf*, Hitler referred to a stereotype which is still accepted in Germany, albeit it is now formulated differently.

¹⁹ The speech is based on the category of guilt. It was of course Poles who were guilty, while Germans suffered. Punishment was not mentioned at that point. Hitler constantly brought up the charge of Polish persecution of Germans; those nonexistent persecutions had been fabricated to provide him with speech material. This is the subject of the present book.

²⁰ Having been reborn in 1918, Poland agreed with Germany on free choice of the country to settle — even though it contradicted Poland’s interests as it would lose educated professionals. The people leaving were allowed to sell their entire property or take it with them. No compulsory displacements were noted on either side of the border.

Certainly, the optants who feared repression chose the option which ensured them safety. Some of them later returned and, owing to the Geneva Convention of 1922, were not persecuted. This issue is important here because it concerns Franciszek Honiok — the man killed at the radio station.

All those proposals, as you know, have been rejected. There is no need for me to enumerate them: my proposals for limitation of armaments²¹ and even, if necessary, disarmament²²; my proposals for limitation of warmaking [Kriegsführung]²³; my proposals for the elimination of certain methods of modern warfare which I consider hard to reconcile with international law. You know the proposals that I have made concerning the necessity of restoring German sovereignty over the territories of the German Reich²⁴.

You know²⁵ the endless attempts I made for a peaceful clarification and understanding of the problem of Austria, and later the problem of the Sudetenland, Bohemia, and Moravia. It was all in vain . . . (*hum, applause, shouts*).

In the same way, I have also tried to solve the problem of Danzig, the Corridor, etc., by means of proposals and their peaceful discussion. That the problems had to be solved was clear (*applause*)!

That the Western states were unconcerned with the time table is understandable. Yet that time is of concern to us. It was and had to be of concern especially to those suffering the most²⁶.

²¹ This was repeated by Putin in 2022 in relation to Ukraine.

²² The slogans ‘limitation of armaments’ and ‘disarmament’ were adopted by the militarized Soviet Russia, which financed pacifist movements all over the world.

²³ ‘Kriegsführung’ was a technical term there and did not apply to what had just begun in the territory of Poland. The entire German propaganda of the time was filled with information on what was considered as ‘breaking the rule of law’ in Poland, although the term itself was coined after 2015. The German citizens were not ready to accept a war, so they needed to be convinced that Germany was only restoring the rule of law in the neighboring barbarian country.

²⁴ An important point in Hitler’s conception: regaining the territories which had ever belonged to the Reich, regardless of the manner in which they had been seized. This has returned in Putin’s rhetoric.

²⁵ An opera has its own tension. Hitler seemingly addressed only the deputies, but he knew that millions of Germans sitting by their radios were listening to him as well. He was not afraid that somebody from the audience would shout, “You are lying!” The Reichstag members were actually an audience familiar with the general outline of that opera. The listeners knew that Hitler was lying, but they wanted to hear that libretto again because they had already believed that their leader was really able to break the Treaty of Versailles, and that desire united the entire nation at the time.

²⁶ A perfect rhetorical device. Its practical meaning was: “We will supply suffering victims by ourselves.” In 2022, Putin accused Ukraine of the mass crimes committed by Russians.

In my talks with Polish statesmen I discussed the ideas which you already heard in my last speech to the Reichstag. No one could say or even believe that this was in any way an inadmissible procedure, or one carried out under undue pressure.

However, I eventually formulated the German proposals, and I must repeat once more that there is nothing more modest or loyal than those proposals.

I should like to say this to the world: I alone was in the position to make such proposals (*applause*), for I know very well that in doing so I brought myself into opposition to millions of Germans (*applause*). Those proposals were rejected. And not only this! They were answered with mobilization, increased terror²⁷ and pressure against ethnic Germans in those territories, and the slow strangling of the Free City of Danzig — economically, by customs policies, and in recent weeks by military and transport means.

Poland has directed its struggle²⁸ [Kampf] against the Free City of Danzig. Moreover, Poland was not ready to settle the Corridor question in a reasonable way which would render justice to both parties²⁹, and it did not think of keeping its obligations toward minorities³⁰.

Here I must state something definitely: Germany has kept those obligations!

²⁷ Accusing a victim of terrorizing its assailant; a constant element of defamatory propaganda. Speaking the same of Ukraine, Putin has proved to be a skilled follower.

²⁸ True, Poland did take up a struggle against the Free City of Danzig, but it was an economic one. Poland built the city of Gdynia and a port, which weakened the economy of Danzig as the city profiting from the water transit of goods to and from Poland. It was one of the greatest achievements of the Second Polish Republic because it rendered the country independent of the unreliable intermediary: Danzig [Gdańsk] had already demonstrated its hostility in 1920 during the Polish–Soviet War by refusing to pass the weapons transported to Poland.

²⁹ “Rendering justice” consisted in depriving Poland of access to the sea.

³⁰ Both parties fulfilled their respective obligations toward the Polish minority in Germany and the German minority in Poland relatively well. Germans became more aggressive only in the last months preceding the war; aware of the danger, the Polish authorities were very diligent in ensuring that no anti-German incidents took place. That strict policy produced no exceptions, and finding the actual examples of persecutions of Germans in Poland proved impossible. Still, such examples were necessary for the analyzed speech, so they were fabricated in large numbers. In 2022, the same arguments were used in relation to Donetsk and Luhansk — the Ukrainian territories partially seized by Russia in 2014.

The minorities who live in the Third Reich are not persecuted³¹. No Frenchman can stand up and say that any of the 50,000 or 100,000 Frenchmen living in the Saar territory is oppressed, tortured, or deprived of his rights. Nobody can say this!

I have been calmly observing the situation for four months now. Yet I have issued warnings repeatedly. And I have intensified these warnings of late.

As long as three weeks ago, I had the Polish Ambassador informed that if Poland should send further notes to Danzig, in the nature of an ultimatum; if it should implement further discriminatory measures against the Germans there; or if it should attempt to destroy Danzig economically via customs; then Germany could no longer be expected to stand by without taking action. I left no doubt that it would be a grave mistake in this context to compare the Germany of today with the Germany of days past (*applause*)!

There were attempts to justify the oppression of Germans by claiming that they had committed acts of provocation. I cannot imagine the nature of provocations on the part of women and children who themselves were maltreated³², abducted and deported, or the nature of provocations on the part of those who were sadistically and bestially tortured only to be murdered in the end. I do not know about that. Yet one thing I do know: that no honorable great power can long stand by passively and watch such events (*acclaim*)!

I made one more final effort to accept a proposal for mediation from the British Government³³. I did that despite my inner belief that the Polish Government, especially given its dependence on the wild, debauchery-soaked military circles, did not consider reaching a true agreement seriously. The British suggested that, while they were not willing to negotiate

³¹ Persecuted Jews were not recognized as a minority; neither were Gypsies, communists or homosexuals. Acknowledged minorities were not persecuted yet.

³² No such facts were recorded. Even the bloody incidents prepared and carried out by Germany in 1939 did not include maltreatment of German women or children. On September 1, 1939, Germans commenced mass murders of Polish women and children. In the war against Ukraine (2022), Russians resort to unimaginable cruelty. The Russian propaganda blames Ukrainians for those atrocities — this will be easier to understand after reading chapter 4. The Russian conception of truth.

³³ One should notice the relatively positive attitude toward England and France in the speech. On October 10, 1938 it was the other way round: Poland was a friend, while England and France were degenerates.

themselves, they would open a direct line of communication between Poland and Germany to initiate talks once more. I must declare that I accepted this proposal, and I drafted the basis for those negotiations which is known to you.

For two whole days I sat with my Government and waited to see whether it was convenient for the Polish Government to send a plenipotentiary or not (*shouts of outrage*)!

Last night they did not send us a plenipotentiary, but instead informed us through their Ambassador³⁴ that they were still considering whether and to what extent they were in a position to accept the British proposals. They would impart as much to England later.

My Deputies! Should someone expect the German Reich and its head of state to accept this, and should the German Reich and its head of state tolerate this, then truly the German people would deserve no better than to take leave of the political stage! But I am wrongly judged (*acclaim*) if my love of peace and my endless patience are mistaken for weakness or even cowardice (*acclaim*)!

Therefore, last night I informed the British Government that in these circumstances I could no longer find any willingness on the part of the Polish Government to conduct serious negotiations with us. Consequently, these proposals for mediation have failed. For we had indeed received a response to our negotiation proposals which consisted of general mobilization in Poland³⁵, followed by new atrocities. The previous night there were as many as 21 border incidents; last night there were 14, of which three were very serious³⁶.

I have therefore resolved to speak to Poland in the same language that Poland has used toward us for months past (*loud acclaim*)! When statesmen in the West declare that this affects their interests, I can only regret such a declaration. Yet it cannot for a moment make me hesitate to fulfill my duty (*acclaim*).

³⁴ The point was that Polish ambassador Józef Lipski was not authorized by the government to sign capitulation.

³⁵ The mobilization was ordered in response to the movement of the German troops.

³⁶ Hitler did not indicate the three “very serious” incidents, but everybody knew from the radio that he meant mainly Gleiwitz. The two remaining “serious” incidents (in Pitschen and Hochlinden) constituted a “media reserve” in case the League of Nations or another international organization attempted to verify certain facts on site.

What more is wanted from us? I have solemnly assured them, and I repeat it here, that we ask nothing of those Western states and will never ask anything. I have declared that the border between France and Germany is a final one.

I have repeatedly offered friendship and, if necessary, the closest co-operation, to Britain, but love cannot be offered by one side only. It must find response on the other side.

Germany has no interests in the West. Our West Wall is the border of the Reich on the west for all time. Moreover, we have no aims of any kind there for the future. This position of the Reich will never change. Other European states partially understand our attitude. Here I wish, above all, to thank Italy, which has supported us during this entire time. You will understand that we do not wish to appeal to a foreign power for assistance in this struggle (*confirming acclaim*).

This is our task, and we will complete it by ourselves. The neutral states have assured us of their neutrality, just as we had guaranteed it to them earlier. With this assurance we are in solemn earnest. As long as others do not violate their neutrality, we will likewise respect it scrupulously, for what could we demand or even want from them?

I am happy to be able to inform you of a special development at this point. You know that Soviet Russia [Sowjetrussland] and Germany are governed by two different doctrines. There was only one question that had to be cleared up. Germany has no intention of exporting its doctrine. Given the fact that Soviet Russia has no intention of exporting its doctrine to Germany, I no longer see any reason why we should still oppose each other³⁷ (*acclaim*).

³⁷ It is still debated whether Germany would have begun the war against Poland had Hitler and Stalin not signed the pact. It would certainly have sufficed if the USSR had maintained the friendly neutrality which had already been established via secret contacts and economic collaboration, the latter being incredibly beneficial to Germany. However, a new perspective emerged: Hitler's speech was intended for many domestic and international listeners, including Mussolini, the English and French governments, the international public and... history. The structure of the text required that argument, hence Hitler's pressure on Ribbentrop to sign the pact on the division of Europe in Moscow regardless of the cost of Stalin's possible additional territorial demands. The advancement of Germany's preparations necessitates a conclusion that the outbreak of the war would have been prevented only by an extraordinary change of circumstances such as a Soviet–Polish–British–French alliance. However, Stalin's long-term conception (an attack on the war-enfeebled West) excluded such arrangements.

Both of us are aware that any struggle [Kampf] between our two peoples would merely benefit third parties. We have, therefore, resolved to conclude a pact which rules out forever any use of violence between us. It imposes an obligation on us to consult about certain European questions. It allows us to establish economic cooperation and, above all, it assures that the strength of the two great states is not wasted against each other. Every attempt of the West to bring about any change in this shall fail!

And of one thing I would like to assure you here today: this decision means a fundamental change for the future³⁸ and is a final one (*acclaim*)!

I believe that the entire German people will accept my political stance with contentment (*acclaim*). Russia and Germany fought against each other in the World War and they both suffered damage in the end. That cannot and shall not happen a second time (*applause*)! The Pact on Non-aggression and Mutual Assistance entered into force already upon its signature, and was ratified yesterday on the highest level in Moscow and Berlin (*applause*). In Moscow this pact was as warmly welcomed as you welcome it here³⁹. I can only endorse word for word the speech of Russian Foreign Commissar, Molotov. Regarding our goals, I am determined to solve 1) the Danzig question⁴⁰ and 2) the Corridor question; and to see to it that 3) a change takes place in the relationship between Germany and Poland that shall ensure peaceful coexistence⁴¹ (*acclaim*). Meanwhile I am equally determined to fight until either the present Polish Government is willing to bring about this change or until another Polish Government⁴² is ready to do so (*acclaim*).

³⁸ In the 21st century, Germany carried out those guidelines till 2022. After the Russian invasion on Ukraine it has turned out that Germany has no plan B and is uncertain how to behave.

³⁹ That was sincere. Germany and Russia traditionally want to collaborate — until one party decides that it is able to destroy the other.

⁴⁰ After that speech, the Reichstag passed the incorporation of Danzig (Gdańsk).

⁴¹ An eristic masterpiece: instead of mentioning war, one speaks of restoring the situation in such a way as to enable “coexistence.” Hitler obviously meant a master-slave coexistence, but it was uttered in the interstate context. Unacquainted listeners learned that nobody meant war and that the actual issue was the rule of law — nothing more than changing the government in Poland. The new Polish government would only be expected to implement the German interests better.

⁴² Another suggestion that Germany only wanted to replace the Polish government with a new one which would give up certain Polish territories and accept other conditions.

I wish to clear the German borders of the element of uncertainty — that everlasting atmosphere resembling a civil war⁴³ (*applause*).

I wish to take care that our border in the east enjoys the same peace as our other borders (*applause*). I want to take the measures necessary in a fashion that does not contradict what I have pronounced to be my proposals to the world before you, my Deputies. This means I do not want to fight against women and children⁴⁴. I have ordered my air force to restrict itself to attacks on military facilities⁴⁵. If, however, the enemy thinks this gives him license to fight by other methods, he will receive a response that will deafen him and blind him (*acclaim*)! Last night, for the first time, Polish regular soldiers⁴⁶ fired on our territory.

Since 5:45 AM⁴⁷ we have been returning the fire (*acclaim*)!

⁴³ The border incidents simulating a “civil war” were identified by Polish researchers. They had been prepared to ensure that Hitler’s speech was based on facts. Without a war, those facts would have been unproductive.

⁴⁴ On that same day (September 1, 1939), Germans murdered and seriously injured hundreds of women and children by dropping bombs on the defenseless Wieluń and other Polish cities since the dawn, and civilian refugees were being mass murdered on Polish roads by the air force itself while Hitler was uttering those very words. In the previous sentence, Hitler said that those were “proposals to the world” — notice the export of the German rule of law. Today we see such scenes in the news from Ukraine, which Putin is trying to “denazify” this way.

⁴⁵ A lie to whitewash the deputies’ conscience. No such order was given! Just the opposite: on August 22, 1939, during his meeting with commanders in Ober-salzberg, according to credible notes taken by General Franz Halder, Hitler precisely defined the goals of the war: “Whatever the weak West European civilizations say about me does not concern me at all. I have issued an order — and I will have anyone who utters a word of criticism executed by a firing squad — that the aim of the war is not some demarcation line, but physical extermination of the enemies. I have deployed SS Totenkopf troops in the east and ordered them to **kill any and all men, women and children of the Polish race and speaking the Polish language** pertinaciously and ruthlessly because only in this way can we obtain the living space that we need.”

⁴⁶ Those were two units of German soldiers wearing Polish uniforms, ordered to carry out actual attacks on empty German border facilities (Hochlinden and Pitschen).

⁴⁷ Hitler’s written order (signed on August 31 at 12:30 AM) of the attack on Poland on September 1, 1939 stated 4:45 AM. The troops which were in the right positions started the fire around that time, though certain incidents (for example in Tczew) had begun earlier. For a dozen years, I kept asking the trips of German pupils visiting the Gliwice Radio Station about the outbreak time of the war against Poland. Not even 90 per cent, but 100 per cent of them replied, “5:45 AM.” This means that German children learn history from Hitler’s speeches.

From now on bombs will be met by bombs (*acclaim*)!

Whoever fights with poison gas will be fought with poison gas (*acclaim*). Whoever departs from the rules of humane warfare⁴⁸ can only expect that we shall do the same. I will continue this struggle, no matter against whom, until the safety of the Reich and its rights are secured⁴⁹ (*acclaim reaches its peak*).

For over six years I worked on the building of the German armed forces [Wehrmacht]. Over 90 billions were spent in that time on the building of these forces (*acclaim*). They are now the best equipped forces and defy any comparison with what they were in 1914. My trust in them is unshakable!

When I called on these forces and when I now ask sacrifice of the German people — if necessary, every sacrifice⁵⁰ — then I have a right to do so, because today I am as willing as I was before to make any personal sacrifice (*acclaim*). I am asking of no German man more than I myself was ready to do through four years (*applause*). There will be no hardships for Germans to which I myself will not promptly submit (*applause*). My whole life henceforth belongs to my people. I now wish to be nothing other than the first soldier of the German Reich (*acclaim, shouts*).

Therefore, I have put on this uniform⁵¹ which has always been the most holy and dear to me. I will not take it off again until after victory is ours, or I shall not live to see the day! Should anything happen to me in the struggle, then my first successor shall be Party Comrade Göring (*acclaim*). Should anything happen to Party Comrade Göring, my next successor shall be Party Comrade Hess (*acclaim*). You shall owe them as the Führer the same blind loyalty and obedience you owe me.

Later, as adults, they demand that Poland observe “the rule of law” according to the German model.

⁴⁸ Let me highlight the consistently technical use of the word ‘warfare’ [Kriegsführung] instead of ‘war’. It was preventively preceded with a mention that fire had been opened in the territory of Germany.

⁴⁹ That message is still spread in the 21st century with the assistance of ideological allies from various countries (including Poles acting to the detriment of their own state), although its present foundation is “the rule of law.”

⁵⁰ “Every sacrifice” of the German nation was publicly announced. The nation itself heard those words.

⁵¹ We are in the opera: dress code is mandatory. That element of the setting was carefully directed as “the great act of putting on the uniform by Germany.” Hitler designed for himself an opera-styled uniform in the feldgrau color, without the insignia — but with the Iron Cross.

Should anything happen to Party Comrade Hess, then the Senate shall be called in accordance with the law and shall choose the most worthy — that is to say the bravest — successor from its midst (*applause*).

As a National Socialist and a German soldier I enter into this struggle with a stout heart. My whole life has been nothing but one long struggle for my people, for its resurrection, for Germany (*acclaim*). That struggle has been governed by only one creed: faith in this people. One word I have never learned: that word is capitulation (*acclaim*).

If anyone thinks that we are facing a hard time, I should ask him to remember that once a Prussian king with a ridiculously small state opposed a far stronger coalition, and three battles later he stood victorious in the end, for he possessed that believing heart of the kind we need in these times as well. I would therefore like to assure all the world that there shall never be another November 1918 in German history (*acclaim*)!

Just as I am ready myself to stake my life any time — anyone can take it for my people and for Germany — I ask the same of everybody else. Whoever thinks he can oppose this national imperative, whether directly or indirectly, shall fall! We will have nothing to do with traitors; they shall face only death (*loud acclaim*)! We are all faithful to our old principle: it is quite unimportant whether we ourselves live, but it is essential that our people live, that Germany live (*acclaim*).

I expect from all of you as the Reich's emissaries that you shall do your duty wherever you may be assigned. You must carry the banner of ideas forth regardless of the cost. May no one approach me to report that morale is low in his region, district, unit or cell. The one responsible for morale is you — the responsibility is yours! I am responsible for the morale of the German people. You are responsible for morale in your regions and districts. No one has the right to discard this responsibility.

This is not the time for us to inquire about feelings; we should be interested only in our duty. The sacrifice demanded of us under this duty is no greater than the sacrifice made by numerous earlier generations. All the men who had to set out on this most bitter and strenuous of paths for Germany before us sacrificed nothing else than what we must also sacrifice. Their sacrifice was not less valuable or less painful, and therefore was not easier, than the one demanded of us.

I also expect every German woman to integrate herself into the great community in struggle — in an exemplary fashion and with iron discipline! It goes without saying that the German youth will fulfill the expectations and demands of the National Socialist state with a radiant heart.

If we form a community bound together by vows, ready for anything and determined never to capitulate, then our will shall master every difficulty. I wish to conclude with the declaration that I once made when I began the struggle for power in the Reich. Back then I said: "If our will is so strong that no hardship can subdue it, then our will and our German might shall prevail."

Deutschland — Sieg Heil! (*Repeated "Heil!" in reply*).*

There are no photos of Hitler, Putin
or the like in this book.

There is no index either
as it would mainly be
a list of criminals.

There is not even a bibliography because
— except the three books
mentioned in footnotes 9, 2 and 3 —
the old literature on the Gleiwitz Incident
is a collection of confabulations.

* This 27-minute address is available at *swr.de*. First, Chairman of the Reichstag Hermann Göring greeted the deputies and gave Hitler the floor. The speech was preceded by applause and shouts which later recurred many times. Hitler began calmly, but he put expression in the right moments and skillfully guided the enthusiasm of his audience. In oratorical terms, the speech was very good, albeit seemingly chaotic. At the end, the assembly sang the national anthem "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles" and "Horst Wessel Lied."

2. FIRE THROUGH THE RADIO

I have reversed the chronology of the Gliwice story. The book begins with the operatic finale (Hitler's recitative of September 1, 1939), the next page contains the radio announcement to which Hitler referred in the opera, the course of the announced attack follows, and the preparations for the attack conclude the account. This is required by the reversed logic of the events because, in contemporary terms, they took place in reality and virtual reality. The latter sphere — the propaganda — was more important.

A narrative about a fact means more than a bare fact. Our knowledge of facts usually comes from other people's narratives and only rarely from our own observation. The lead role was given to the German radio propaganda, and the impact of the radio in the 1930s can be compared to that of all the current media combined. Radio messages, strengthened by the newsreels screened before every film, enjoyed the ultimate social trust.

Before quoting the agency announcement broadcast and transmitted on August 31, 1939 by the major German radio and telegraph stations after the attack in Gleiwitz, let me remind you that the text in question **had been written BEFORE those actions and served as their scenario**. The announcement was aimed at laying the ground for Hitler's subsequent speech, not at describing any previous facts. In reality, the performance followed a different course than planned. It was the goal of the action that mattered, not the way of attaining it. Hitler did not need any attack; he only demanded facts, or just a narrative, on which he could base his opera speech. The preparation of material for that narrative was coordinated by head of SD⁵² Reinhard Heydrich, who was formally subordinate to Heinrich Himmler but remained among the few people authorized to talk to Hitler directly. The announcement was to mention three incidents, and Poland would be accused of them. There were dangerous attacks to take place the day before the planned speech. Three locations were selected: the forester's lodge in Pitschen (currently Byczyna), the customs house in Hochlinden (Stodoly, a quarter of Rybnik) and the radio station in Gleiwitz (Gliwice).

Each of the first two operations was carried out by several dozen German soldiers and officers wearing Polish uniforms; in Gleiwitz, however, there were only seven SD agents **in civilian clothing**. The attackers in

⁵² SD (Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsführers SS) — the security service of Nazi Germany, operating in the years 1931–1945. It also dealt with intelligence and counterintelligence, constantly broadening its scope of activity. Not to be confused with SS.