

TRANSLATION

Excerpt from the Book: "Aufbau Einer Nation" by Hermann Goering. Written in 1933.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SECRET STATE POLICE (page 87)

Conditions in the Political Police were very bad. I had to deal here almost exclusively with trusted representatives of the Social Democrats, well tested elements and creatures of Mr. Severing. They were the notorious I A Division (Political Police). In the state it was at that time I could do nothing with it. It is true that the worst elements had been dismissed under my predecessor, Bracht. The important thing now was to do a complete job. For weeks I personally worked at its transformation, and finally I personally and alone conceived of and created the "Secret State Police Office". That was the instrument so much feared by the enemies of the state, which more than anyone else contributed to the fact that today there can be no question of a Communist or Marxist danger in Germany. Without consideration of their length of service, I recruited the ablest officials for the Secret State Police, put one of the most talented young officials in charge of it, and up to this moment have been increasingly strengthened in my opinion that I picked the right man. The accomplishment of Ministerial Councillor Diels and of his men will remain a page covered with glory in the history of this first year of Germany's ascent. I was forcefully supported in this task by the SS and the SA. Without their help I would not have been able to so effectively and quickly master the enemies of the state. Today I have once more reorganized the Secret State Police Office and have put it under my immediate jurisdiction. Through a net of regional offices, whose reports come to the central office in Berlin, I am daily, almost hourly, completely informed concerning everything that goes on within the far borders of Prussia. We know the last hiding place of the Communists, and no matter how often they change their tactics, no matter how often they give new names to their couriers, a few days later they are caught, registered, supervised, and raided. We had to proceed against these enemies of the state with utter unscrupulousness. It must not be forgotten that at the time of our accession to power, there were, according to the Reichstag election of March, six million people who believed in Communism, and eight million people who believed in Marxism. Certainly not all of these people were enemies of the state. The greatest part of them, innumerable millions, were good Germans, misguided by the phantom of this mad philosophy, misguided also by the weakness and instability of the bourgeois parties. It was the more important, therefore, to save these souls from their aberration, to take them back into the German people's community. It was just as necessary to pitilessly proceed against the agitators, leaders, and seducers. That is how the concentration camps were created, into which we had first to take thousands of functionaries of the Communist and Social Democratic parties. It is only natural that in the beginning excesses occurred. It is self understood that here and there innocent people were affected. It is self understood that here and there people were beaten, and acts of brutality were committed. But measured by what had been, By the greatness of the event, this German revolution of liberty has been the unbloodiest and best disciplined of all revolutions in history.