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Schlabrendorff

To: General Donovan

File

Subject: "The German mind and outlook"

I am very much obliged that you have given me the opportunity to read this book. As a whole it is excellent. Naturally as a German I can't agree with all sentences. The best of the book is the fact, that it is written only through scientist and sine ira et studio. I admire the deep knowledge of the German science, philosophy, literature and art. Specially good are the following chapters: "German views of the state" by Gooch, "Goethe and the modern world" by Willoughby and "Nationalism and the German intellectuals" by Roy Pascal. Good seen are the differences between National-Socialism and other German minds like Kleists political verse. This mind is fundamentally different from Nationalsozialism. "It has noble and justifiable principles, in no way incompatible with reason and right" (p. 166) Most remarkable I find the words: "There were two real factors on which reactionary nationalism was built. On the one hand, the weakness of German democracy, in which the masses were at the mercy of malignant economic forces; on the other hand the ~~poison~~ poison of an international system in which it seemed reasonable that a nation without foreign possessions must strive to take the place of them with empires. Only the elimination of these two factors can provide a guarantee that German nationalism in its terrible form will cease to exist." (p. 190)

v. Schlabrendorff