

Delusion and the road to dictatorship - Part I

By Alexander Tresckow

All Australians who are truly concerned about their nation's future would be well-advised to consult their history books, in the wake of the sensational revelations that have recently come to light about former Prime Minister Scott Morrison's unprecedented secret ministerial power grab. (See "[Preparing for crisis? Morrison's secret regime](#)", AAS, 24 Aug.) For it is only by viewing Morrison's egregious actions in their actual historical context, that one can appreciate the enormity of the threat to the well-being of the Australian people that these actions actually represent.

It is sad to say, but lamentably true, that Australia has allowed itself to devolve from the status of a functionally sovereign nation, as it once was under the leadership of John Curtin and Ben Chifley, down to the status of a snarling, imperial attack dog on an Anglo-American leash under the shameless misleadership of Scott Morrison. Australia is slated to become the "Ukraine of the Pacific", according to the grand design of its Anglo-American masters. Just as Ukraine has been armed by NATO for its "proxy war" against Russia, Australia is being primed to serve as a military proxy for the Anglo-American establishment in its ever-intensifying conflict with China.

This essay is written for the purpose of providing the people of Australia with an historical vantage point from which to constructively reflect—and then act—upon the alarming implications of Scott Morrison's ministerial power grab. That vantage point, strangely and provocatively enough, is the 1930-34 period in Germany. There are four noteworthy and disturbing parallels between Germany of the early 1930's and Australia of the 2018-22 period:

- 1) The economic chaos that shattered life in both societies;
- 2) The astronomical levels of rage, frustration, and desperation that pervaded the German population then and the Australian population now, as a consequence of that economic chaos;
- 3) The extraordinary extent of the dominant and determining influence that Anglo-American political leaders and policy makers exercised over German affairs in the early 1930's, and over Australian affairs to a similar or greater degree today; and
- 4) The levels of delusion that crippled the thinking and political orientation of the majority, non-Nazi German population in the early 1930's, and the comparable levels of delusion that warp the thinking of all too many Australians today.

Economic chaos and widespread rage

A German population which had been ravaged by hyperinflation in 1923, when the price of a loaf of bread skyrocketed from 160 marks to 200,000,000,000 (billion!) marks, was suffering from a 29 per cent unemployment rate by the end of 1932. The 1929 Wall Street stock market crash had ushered in a global depression.

2018-22 Australia's lack of a sound industrial development policy, and its pursuit of the accumulation of financial aggregates at the expense of the creation of economic infrastructure and the production of tangible wealth, has brought it to the brink of an economic blowout. Today's COVID pandemic has wrought havoc in many Western economies, intensifying pre-existing supply chain problems, and fueling



Hitler's regime would not have been possible without support from powerful parties, including Bank of England head Montagu Norman and the British Royal family. Top: Wallis Simpson, Edward VIII and Adolf Hitler. Above: The Duke of Windsor (in 1937, after his abdication) inspecting SS troops. The SS was the foremost agency of security, terror, and genocide in the Third Reich, running all the concentration and extermination camps. Photos: Wikipedia; open.edu

inflation. Food and fuel prices have skyrocketed, such that inflation in Australia is officially expected to be 7.75 per cent by December, while the inflation rate in the United States recently topped 10 per cent. "Mortgage stress" is at an all-time high in Australia, threatening to explode its gobsmacking mortgage debt bubble in imitation of the 1929 Wall Street crash.

The German population manifested its towering rage against the economic chaos that it had been suffering, when it went to the polls in the federal election of 14 September 1930. Whereas in the 1928 elections the Nazis had garnered only 810,000 votes, in 1930, one year into a deepening world depression, they received 6,379,672 votes—an 8-fold increase over 1928! The Nazis went from being the smallest Party in the parliament, to being the second largest, having captured 18.3 per cent of the popular vote. Such was the rage and desperation in an explosive minority of the German voters.

The growing rage in today's Australian population at the government's failures and blunders in the economic realm, has tended to be manifested and sublimated in the vehement manner in which people have expressed their unhappiness about the way that the Australian government has failed to effectively meet the challenge of the COVID crisis. The government, on its part, operating from its Anglo-American play-book, has chosen to deflect and channel peoples' justifiable fury at its manifest failures in the realm of fighting COVID, into a campaign of vitriolic hatred and rage against China.

Anglo-American strategic dominance—then and now

All too few people recognise the fact that, *without the support of Montagu Norman, who, as the Governor of the Bank of England in 1920-44 was universally recognised as the world's most powerful banker, and Norman's closest of personal friends, Hjalmar Schacht, the President of the German Reichsbank in 1923-30, Hitler never would have become Germany's Chancellor in 1933.* Hitler's Nazi Party was disintegrating in December 1932, as it teetered on the brink of financial dissolution, and was wracked by internal dissension. Hitler was depressed to the point of contemplating suicide. Thanks largely to the emergency efforts of Norman and Schacht, the Nazi Party's coffers were replenished in January and February 1933. Norman and Schacht were so close that Norman became the godfather of one of Schacht's grandchildren. As William L. Shirer wrote in *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*: Schacht met Hitler in 1931, "and for the next two years devoted all of his considerable abilities to bringing (Hitler) closer to his banker and industrialist friends and ever closer to the great goal of the Chancellor's seat.... In 1932 this economic wizard, whose responsibility for the coming of the Third Reich and for its early successes proved to be so immeasurably great, was writing Hitler: 'I have no doubt that the present development of things can only lead to your becoming Chancellor...you can count on me as your loyal supporter... with a vigorous Heil, Hjalmar.'"¹ Schacht went on to become Hitler's Economics Minister in 1934-37 and the President of the German Reichsbank in 1933-39. He was later prosecuted for his crimes at the Nuremberg Trials.

It was Schacht who arranged for Alfred Rosenberg to meet Montagu Norman in 1931. Rosenberg was the racist chief ideologue of the Nazi Party. He was one of the main authors of key Nazi ideological creeds, including its racial theory, persecution of the Jews, Lebensraum ("living space" under which Germany must conquer and populate with "Aryans" the territories to its east), and its rejection of and hatred for Christianity. Rosenberg found a kindred soul in Montagu Norman. According to Norman's "trusted personal secretary, Norman had three hatreds—the French, the Catholics, and the Jews."² Rosenberg was convicted of crimes against humanity at Nuremberg and executed on 16 October 1946.

As for Montagu Norman otherwise, he was truly the financial angel of the Third Reich. After having cut Germany off from any credit from England in 1931 and 1932, he directed the Bank of England to provide Hitler's new government with emergency credit shortly after it was installed on 30 January 1933. He then made a special visit to Berlin in May 1934 to arrange further secret financial stabilisation of the new Nazi regime.³ In a further brazen act of support for Hitler's Nazi regime, Norman had his Bank of England sell 1.1 billion dollars (in today's value) worth of gold on behalf of the Nazi Reichsbank, which gold had been seized by the Nazis after they had invaded Czechoslovakia in March 1939. And Norman conducted that sale on behalf of the Nazis, despite a prior legal directive issued by the British government, which had mandated the freezing of all Czech assets after the invasion! Two months after the outbreak of World War II, after the Nazis had invaded Poland, and Britain had declared war against the Nazis, Norman again sought to transfer proceeds of an additional sale of Czech gold to Hitler's

Germany! But on that occasion the British government blocked his efforts to do so.

With respect to the question of Anglo-American involvement in—and domination of—Australian affairs today... One need look no further than the 2021 AUKUS military agreement, and the fact that Australia has become a "partner" of NATO! Why on earth should Australia, located in the Southwest Pacific Ocean, 17,000 kilometers from the North Atlantic Ocean (bearing in mind that NATO does stand for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), become a "partner" of NATO, with an eye toward becoming a "member" at some point in the not-too-distant future? And what was the compelling reason for the signing of the AUKUS military pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States on 15 September 2021? Under the terms of that pact, Australia is to acquire eight nuclear-powered submarines at an inflation-adjusted cost that ranges between US\$116 and US\$171 billion dollars, by sometime in "the mid-2040s".⁴ Former Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating condemned the pact, noting that "this arrangement would witness a further dramatic loss of Australian sovereignty, as material dependency on the United States robbed Australia of any freedom or choice in any engagement Australia may deem appropriate."⁵

Before proceeding any farther, it is important to address a question that skeptics and cynics often bring up when confronted with evidence of American and/or British support for, and collaboration with Nazis. "So what, that was long ago ... that has no bearing on developments today", the cynics assert. But, in fact, nothing could be further from the truth. The world is, of course, well aware of the support and weapons that the United States is providing to the openly Nazi Azov Regiment in Ukraine today. That is hideous enough. But what is even worse, arguably, is the US CIA's knowing collaboration with Nazi mass-murdering war criminals for decades after World War II! Take the case of Emil Augsburg. It is outlined in an article written on 1 May 2001, by Martin A. Lee entitled "The CIA's Worst-Kept Secret: Newly Declassified Files Confirm United States Collaboration with Nazis." The opening lines of the article read as follows:

"Honest and idealist ... enjoys good food and wine ... unprejudiced mind..."

"That's how a 1952 Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) assessment described Nazi ideologue Emil Augsburg, an officer at the infamous Wannsee Institute, the SS think tank involved in planning the Final Solution [which murdered over 6,000,000 Jews in the Nazi concentration camps]. Augsburg's SS unit performed 'special duties', a euphemism for exterminating Jews and other 'undesirables' during the Second World War.

"Although he was wanted in Poland for war crimes, Augsburg managed to ingratiate himself with the CIA, which employed him in the late 1940s as an expert on Soviet affairs. *Recently released CIA records indicate that Augsburg was among a rogue's gallery of Nazi War Criminals recruited by US intelligence agencies* shortly after Germany surrendered to the Allies.... [Emphasis added.]

"Many Nazi criminals 'received light punishment, no punishment at all, or received compensation because Western spy agencies considered them useful assets in the Cold War', stated the Interagency Working Group (IWG) team of US scholars, public officials, and former intelligence officers

1. *Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, William L. Shirer, Simon and Schuster. New York. 1960, p. 145.

2. *A Century of War: Anglo-American Oil Politics and the New World Order*, F. William Engdahl, p. 96.

3. *A Century of War*, Engdahl, p. 97.

4. "Australia's AUKUS nuclear submarines could cost as much as \$171 billion, report finds", Tory Shepherd, *The Guardian*, 13 Dec. 2021.

5. "Australia's embrace of nuclear submarine technology cements role as regional foil against China", Andrew Probyn, ABC News, 16 Sept. 2021.

(who helped prepare the release of 18,000 pages of CIA material on this matter).

"These are 'not dry historical documents', insists former Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman, a member of the panel examining the files. As far as Holtzman is concerned, the CIA papers raise critical questions about American foreign policy and the origins of the Cold War.

"The decision to recruit Nazi operatives had a negative impact on US-Soviet relations and set the stage for Washington's tolerance of human rights abuses and other criminal acts in the name of anti-Communism. With that fateful sub-rosa embrace, the die was cast for a litany of CIA interventions around the world."⁶

Geopolitical roots of World War II—and III?

It was the geopolitical doctrine of Halford Mackinder⁷, embraced with equal fanaticism by the "elites" of the British Empire and the Eastern Establishment of the United States, that drove Anglo-American policy-making in the 1930s, as surely as it does today. "He who controls the Eurasian Heartland controls the world", said Halford Mackinder, in a nutshell. In an article entitled "How Britain Covered Up the Friendship Between Hitler and Edward VIII", Andrew Morton writes: "When Hitler occupied the Rhineland in March 1936—against all international agreements—he relied on the new British King to support him.... Moreover, Edward loathed Bolshevik Russia and, until his dying day, never forgave or forgot how the Communists ordered the murder of his godfather Tsar Nicholas II and family in 1918. It shaped his political thinking, believing that a strong Germany would act as a bulwark against Russia, *hoping that one day the two countries would slug it out between themselves while Britain enjoyed the fruits of empire.*" (Emphasis added.)⁸

As Colonel David Stirling, the founder of Britain's elite Special Air Services, said almost 50 years after the end of World War II, "The greatest mistake we British did was to think we could play the German Empire against the Russian Empire and have them bleed one another to death."⁹

In fact, King Edward VIII, who abdicated his throne to become the Duke of Windsor in December 1936, wanted the Germans to bomb Britain, in order to pave the way for the creation of an Anglo-German alliance! By means of exhaustive archival research, Karina Urbach has documented that Don Javier Bermejillo, a Spanish diplomat who was a close personal friend of the Duke of Windsor, reported on 25 June 1940, that "Windsor stressed if one bombed England effectively this could bring peace.... the Duke of Windsor seemed very much to hope that this would occur: 'He wants peace at any price.'" This report was passed on to the Spanish

dictator Francisco Franco, who in turn forwarded it to the German government. The bombing of Britain subsequently commenced on 10 July 1940.¹⁰

Sadly, today, 118 years after Halford Mackinder published his "The Geographical Pivot of History" paper, Australia is allowing itself to be deployed as a continent-sized chess piece/battering ram in Asia against China, just as Ukraine is being deployed against Russia, and the Germany of the 1930s was unleashed against the Soviet Union.

The balance of this paper will be devoted to a study of the way in which Hitler, with the backing of his Anglo-American geopolitical sponsors, consolidated dictatorial power in Germany. It will focus intensively on the dynamics of delusion. It was the phenomenon of delusion that was the undoing of democratic Germany. Lessons learned from that era could well prove to be decisive for the future of Australia, if it is to restore itself as a truly sovereign nation state today, at a time when the danger of nuclear war grows greater by the day.

Hitler named chancellor

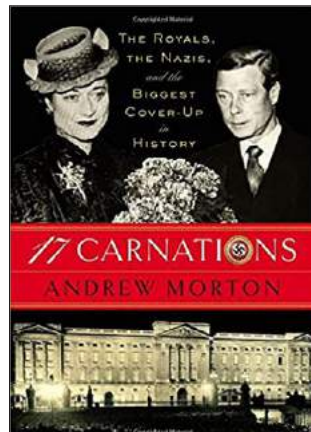
Adolf Hitler was installed as Chancellor of Germany on 30 January 1933, by the aged President Paul von Hindenburg, during the depths of a raging world depression. Hitler's hold on power as he was sworn in as Chancellor was anything but absolute. Even though Hitler had been installed as Chancellor, his Nazi Party remained in the distinct minority in his own Cabinet, holding only 3 of the 11 posts. Furthermore, the treacherous technocrat Franz von Papen, a former Chancellor and close personal friend of President Hindenburg, was named Hitler's Vice Chancellor. He had secured a promise from Hindenburg that Hitler would never be allowed to meet with the President except when in the presence of von Papen, who was to act as a kind of "Co-Chancellor", and keep Hitler on a "short leash".

In his first Cabinet meeting on 30 January, Hitler proposed that new Reichstag (lower house of parliament) elections be held on 5 March, hoping that his Nazis would be able to secure a majority of the vote. The members of the Cabinet endorsed Hitler's call for elections, but only after he assured them that the Cabinet's composition would remain unchanged—irrespective of the outcome of the elections. They, like von Papen, were deluded in their belief that they were effectively "controlling" Hitler and the government.

The last 'democratic' election

Calls for decorum and restraint notwithstanding, the "election campaign" was an utterly brutal one. In early February, Hitler's government banned all Communist Party (KPD) meetings, and banned their press. Leading Socialist newspapers were also suspended, and Social Democratic Party meetings were alternately banned or broken up by Ernst Röhm's brown-shirted SA thugs. The Catholic Center Party was also targeted for SA disruption. Fifty-one anti-Nazi activists were reported as murdered during the 34-day campaign, while the Nazis claimed that 18 of their members were killed.

Events took a dramatic turn for the worse on 27 February 1933. That night, the Reichstag—the equivalent of the US Capitol building—was burned down. While a mentally unstable Dutch Communist by the name of Marinus van der Lubbe was ultimately convicted and executed for the crime, it is clear that he was neither physically nor mentally capable of having been the mastermind/perpetrator of the crime. Abundant evidence, including reports of statements from



The Duke of Windsor encouraged the Nazi bombing of England to establish an Anglo-German alliance. Pictured: An Andrew Morton book on the subject.

6. Originally published in Foreign Policy in Focus. Republished by the [Institute for Policy Studies](#), available online.

7. "Geopolitics: The deadly legacy of Halford Mackinder", Australian Almanac, AAS 13 and 20 April.

8. *New York Post*, 1 March 2015.

9. *A Century of War*, p. 94.

10. "Former King Wanted England Bombed and an Anglo-German Alliance, Archives Reveal", by Karina Urbach, *The Conversation*, 8 June 2015.

Reichstag President and later Gestapo chief Hermann Göring himself, indicates Göring was directly responsible for the crime.

On the day after the fire, the Göring-von Papen Prussian government issued a long statement, claiming that it had found Communist documents which “proved” that: “Government buildings, museums, mansions, and essentials plants were to be burned down.... Women and children were to be sent in front of terrorist groups. ... The burning of the Reichstag was to be the signal for a bloody insurrection and civil war. ...”¹¹

Göring’s Prussian government promised to publish the “documents proving the Communist conspiracy”, but somehow it never got around to doing so.

Rule by emergency decree

Meanwhile, on the same day, 28 February, Hitler prevailed upon Hindenburg to sign an emergency decree—*Notverordnung*—“for the Protection of the People and the State”. It suspended seven sections of the constitution which guaranteed individual and civil liberties. It specified that: “Restrictions on personal liberty, on the right of free expression of opinion, including freedom of the press; on the rights of assembly and association; and violations of the privacy of postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications; and warrants for house searches, orders for confiscations as well as restrictions on property, are also permissible beyond the legal limits otherwise prescribed.”

This emergency decree also authorised the Reich administration of Hitler to take over the functioning of any state government, if it were deemed necessary.

Armed with the dictatorial powers of the *Notverordnung*, Hitler jailed over 4,000 Communist officials, as well as large numbers of Social Democratic and Liberal leaders, during the concluding week of the campaign. More restrictions were slapped on the non-Nazi and non-Nationalist press. Even members of the Reichstag, who were supposed to be immune from arrest, were incarcerated.

With Hitler’s propaganda chief Josef Goebbels doing the orchestrating, the full weight of the government was deployed on behalf of the Nazi Party election effort. Goebbels brought Hitler’s campaign events and speeches to every hamlet and village in the country. The effects of Hitler’s campaign spending and brown-shirted thuggery were thus amplified manifold.

With all that, the Nazis won only 44 per cent of the vote on 5 March, falling well short of the majority Hitler had demanded.

The Enabling Law

What did the non-Nazi majority of his Cabinet and the newly elected Reichstag proceed to do? They congratulated Hitler on his fine campaign! Worse, on 23 March, they proceeded to enact, by overwhelming majority, the *Ermächtigungsgesetz*—the “Enabling Law”. It was this law which ratified Hitler’s virtually unlimited powers to rule by emergency decree, as was otherwise specified in the *Notverordnung* of 28 February. This act constituted a legislative initiative of practically historically unrivalled self-delusion and suicidal madness. Since the passage of the Enabling Law embodies the distilled essence of the form of delusion which grips many of the Australian people and their correspondingly deluded elected representatives today, it is worth examining the



Hitler with President Hindenburg in 1934. Hitler had promised he would not implement any measures contrary to the will of the President. This was accepted by members of the cabinet and leaders of the other parties who believed Hitler could be tamed by the political establishment. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

circumstances surrounding this particular, lamentable, historical moment in some detail.

More than an absolute majority for the Nazi Party in the Reichstag, Hitler wanted complete freedom from the “shackles” of the Weimar Constitution. He enjoyed virtually unlimited powers in the form of the 28 February *Notverordnung*, and could, therefore, arbitrarily circumvent it, given the declared state of emergency. Yet, obsessed as he was with maintaining both the appearance of overwhelming public support and a plausible veneer of “legality”, Hitler demanded a change in the Weimar Constitution which would grant him virtually dictatorial powers for an open-ended period of time. Since any constitutional change required the approval of at least two-thirds of the Reichstag, Hitler busied himself with securing this objective.

The Nazi Party had 288 seats in the Reichstag, and its collaborators in the Nationalist Party had 52 seats, giving Hitler 340 votes upon which he could rely. Since there were 647 seats in the Reichstag, at least 432 votes were required to secure a two-thirds majority. If one declared the 81 Communist members to be “ineligible” for seating, as Hitler’s government ultimately did—and did so “legally” under the *Notverordnung*—then there would be only 566 seats in the Reichstag, and 378 votes would therefore represent the requisite two-thirds majority. Hitler courted the Catholic Centre Party of Monsignor Kaas and former Chancellor Heinrich Brüning, to put himself over this threshold, accordingly.

He did so against the backdrop of the spectacular political theater that he and his newly appointed Minister of Propaganda, Josef Goebbels, staged at Potsdam. The anti-Semitic, anti-Christian, gnostic Adolf Hitler selected the Christian Garrison Church in Potsdam, where the bones of Frederick the Great lay buried, and where the Hohenzollern Kings had worshipped, as the centerpiece for all activities associated with the opening session of the new Reichstag.

Hitler’s Potsdam machinations had achieved the desired effect. The credulous who wished to be deluded about his actual murderous intent, or who chose to blind themselves to the hideous strategic implications of his Anglo-American sponsorship, now had the theatrical pretext to do so. Nowhere were these delusions more rampant than in the “negotiations” that produced the Enabling Law.

11. *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, William L. Shirer, p. 195.

Continued next week.

Delusion and the road to dictatorship - Part II

Part I of this article appeared in AAS 14 September.

By Alexander Tresckow

'Negotiations' in fantasy-land

The "discussions" which the members of the Cabinet and various non-Nazi Party leaders conducted with Hitler, during March 1933, about various clauses and features of the Enabling Law, were coloured by the following principal delusions: 1) Hitler was a "German" politician, just like them, and therefore would "play by the same rules"; 2) Hitler could be "tamed" by the combined forces of the German political establishment; 3) Hitler's Anglo-American patronage need not be addressed; 4) Hitler's government would soon be shattered on the shoals of the world Depression; 5) Hitler was a "man of his word", who would "keep his political promises"; 6) President Hindenburg represented an effective and efficient institutional counterweight to Hitler's most extreme tendencies; and 7) when in doubt, always opt for the "lesser evil".



Hitler announces the Enabling Law. Photo: Wikipedia

So, on 23 March the Center Party's leader Monsignor Kaas was offering words of reassurance to his restive and fearful Party members, based upon solemn promises that he had received from Herr Hitler! He told the Centre Party Reichstag members that Hitler had personally promised him that, even after the passage of the Enabling Law: 1) No measure contrary to the will of President Hindenburg would be implemented; 2) future laws adopted by his regime would be designed only after thorough consultation with a "working committee" of the Reichstag; 3) "equality before the law" would be maintained for everyone in Germany except Communist Party members; 4) Catholic Center Party officials would not be persecuted; 5) neither the existence of the individual German states nor the rights of the Church would be limited; and 6) the judiciary would remain "independent"—free from any political interference. He concluded his speech motivating his party's Reichstag members' affirmation of the Enabling Law by reminding them of their duty to "prevent the worst" from happening. He observed that Hitler's regime could achieve its designs "by other means", and that it were better, therefore, that it be done by this "legal" pathway.

Perhaps the most prominent other leader of the Catholic Center Party was former Chancellor Heinrich Brüning.

Brüning believed that Hitler would be brought down, as he himself had been, by the economic turbulence of the Depression. Until that happened, it were best to "avoid the worst"—i.e., the *Notverordnung*, or Nazi seizure of absolute power "by other means"—by containing the Nazis through legislative measures. Then the legislative efforts of the Reichstag could be complemented by treaty agreements with other nations, that would supposedly serve to further hem in the Nazis.

After all, said Brüning, the Enabling Law included at least a minimum of important safeguards and restrictions against

Hitler's unbridled impulse for dictatorship. Among these safeguards, which non-Nazi opponents of Hitler had been allegedly able to extract from him were: 1) The Enabling Act empowered not Hitler personally, but rather the entire Cabinet, to address the emergency conditions confronting Germany. It stipulated furthermore, that the Act had the force of law, only as long as two-thirds of the Cabinet posts remained in non-Nazi hands; 2) it was subject to renewal or repeal, after four years; 3) it was prohibited from deviating from the Weimar Constitution, insofar as encroaching upon the independent existence of the Reichstag and the Federal states was concerned; and 4) it was to constitute no form of limitation on the independent powers of the President. Indeed, Hitler swore to operate within these "limitations", as he addressed the Reichstag on 23 March 1933, the day the Enabling Law took force:

"The government will make use of these powers only insofar as they are essential for carrying out vitally necessary measures. Neither the existence of the Reichstag nor that of the Reichsrat [the upper house of Parliament] is menaced. The position and rights of the President remain unaltered.... The separate existence of the Federal states will not be done away with. The rights of the churches will not be diminished, and their relationship to the state will not be modified. The number of cases in which an internal necessity exists for having recourse to such a law is a limited one."

With these "assurances" in hand, the Reichstag proceeded to enact this fateful legislation by a vote of 441-84. Only the Social Democrats voted against the bill.

Not to be outdone by the fantastically delusory behaviour of the political parties in the Reichstag on the 23 March, Max Warburg, one of the leading bankers in Germany, a close friend of Hjalmar Schacht, and one of the most prominent figures in the German Jewish community, wrote an extraordinary letter to his American associates on 27 March. In that letter, Warburg reassured its recipients that the new Hitler government was good for Germany: "For the last few years business was considerably better than we had anticipated, but a reaction is making itself felt for some months. We are actually suffering also under the very active propaganda against Germany, caused by some unpleasant circumstances. These occurrences were the natural consequence of the very excited election campaign, but were extraordinarily exaggerated in the foreign press. The Government is firmly resolved to maintain public peace and order in Germany, and I feel perfectly convinced in this respect that there is no cause for any alarm whatsoever." (Emphasis added.)

Descent into Hell

The rapidity with which all of the institutions that Hitler had so piously pledged to protect, disappeared, was truly breathtaking. On 7 April he dissolved the separate powers of the historic Federal states, and absorbed them all as "administrative bodies" of the Reich. He appointed Reich "commissioners" to oversee the administration of these formerly proud and powerful entities. Under the constraints of the same Enabling Law, which Hitler had claimed would ensure that "the

separate existence of the Federal states will not be done away with", no one raised a voice of efficient opposition. As for the Reichstag itself, within less than four months, it had become a one-party institution. On 14 July 1933, a law was decreed which declared:

"The National Socialist German Workers Party [Nazi] constitutes the only political party in Germany. Whoever undertakes to maintain the organisational structure of another political party or to form a new political party will be punished with penal servitude up to three years or with imprisonment of from six months to three years, if the deed is not subject to a greater penalty according to other regulations."

What had happened to all of the other parties whose vote totals had amounted to 56 per cent of the German electorate, on 5 March?

The Communist Party, with its 4,848,058 votes, had been banned from participation in the Reichstag.

The Social Democratic Party (SPD), with its 7,181,629 votes, disappeared with nary a whimper. On 10 May Hermann Göring's police seized the offices of the SPD and its newspaper. On 19 May, hoping to curry renewed favour with Hitler, the SPD Reichstag faction voted unanimously in favour of Hitler's foreign policy, and condemned those Social Democrats abroad, who dared to criticise the Führer. But their 11th-hour propitiatory efforts proved to be of no avail, as Hitler formally banned the SPD on 22 June, on the grounds that it was "subversive and inimical to the state".

The Nationalist Party, with its 3,136,760 votes, the much-vaunted coalition partner of the Nazis, "voluntarily" dissolved on 29 June. On that date, Alfred Hugenberg, who had initially served as Hitler's Minister of Economics and Agriculture, resigned. Eight days prior, police and brownshirts had seized the Nationalist Party offices throughout the country.

The Catholic Bavarian People's Party, with its 1,075,100 votes, dissolved itself on 4 July.

The Catholic Centre Party, with its 4,424,900 votes, the party which Hitler had so assiduously courted less than four months earlier, the party which had been the bulwark of the Weimar Republic, quietly dissolved itself on 5 July.

And so it was, that the majority of the non-Nazi Reichstag self-destructed, driven by its own wishful delusions, into a one-party rubber stamp for that Anglo-American-sponsored geopolitical madman otherwise known as Adolf Hitler.

The Nazi Labour Front

The trade unions, with memberships totalling over eight million workers, disappeared in an even more precipitous fashion. As was the case with the non-Nazi political parties, it was their own delusions that paved the way for their abrupt dissolution. The leadership, of course, had already badly discredited itself by failing to adopt either the Lautenbach or Woytinsky job creation/economic development plans.¹ They compounded that strategic error by attempting to appease Hitler in early 1933. Or, to put it in a way that might be more understandable to Australians today, they tried to "go along to get along" with Hitler.

On 17 March the chairman of the Christian Union Federation declared that his membership would be confining its attention to local economic and social concerns, and that they would leave the making of state policy to "others". The time had arrived for the advent of a truly professional (i.e., non-political) people and workforce, according to the chairman. On



The Social Democratic Party and trade unions capitulate: "On 1 May 1933, as Hitler was singing the praises of German labour at a rally of over 1.5 million in Berlin, the Nazi police-state machinery was being set into motion for the annihilation of the trade unions the next day."

21 March the board of the ADGB, which represented more than 80 per cent of Germany's unionised workers, expressed its readiness to abandon all of its political functions and interests, and limit itself to the realm of purely and simply social concerns, "no matter what type of national government is established."² Eight days later, the board promised to effect a complete break with the SPD which had so infuriated Hitler with its vote against the Enabling Law, as well as to begin "wide-ranging cooperation" with German employers.

The same deluded board appealed in vain in early April to President Hindenburg, beseeching him to curb Hitler's brutal and blatantly illegal conduct against various trade unions. Hindenburg, not surprisingly, did nothing. On 4 April Hitler's regime enacted a "Law on Factory Representation and Economic Association". This empowered any employer with the right to fire any employee on the grounds of "suspicion of activity inimical to the state", at the same time that it excluded the employee from any right to appeal the employer's action. Furthermore, the law stipulated that "the highest state authorities, or another authority designated by said authorities, can order the termination of membership of such factory council members, who are engaged in economic or political activity that is contrary to the interests of the state. They can also select, from eligible personnel within the enterprise, the new factory council members."

Thus, the Nazi authorities usurped for themselves virtually unlimited powers, to hire and fire within any particular firm. It was an ignoble day for the unions, who responded by grovelling all the more.

On 10 April Hitler had a law enacted, which declared 1 May to be "National Labour Day", and as such, a paid holiday for all workers. The deluded and fearful trade union leadership circles were universally ecstatic about this "overture of respect and appreciation" toward German labor, in his supposed recognition of labor's traditional May Day holiday. One trade union paper even declared the 1 May holiday to be "The Day of Victory".

Meanwhile, Hitler's Nazi thugs were working furiously and secretly to prepare for the abolition of the trade union movement on 2 May! Their efforts were headed up by Robert Ley, who would become notorious in the early weeks of May as the head of the new Nazi Labour Front, which was to supplant the old (outlawed) trade union organisations. On 21 April, with admonitions of "strictest secrecy", Ley sent out a letter to all of the relevant Nazi Party, SA, and SS functionaries,

1. "Wilhelm Lautenbach's Concept of Productive Credit Creation", Hartmut Cramer, *EIR*, 18 April 2003; and "How the German Trade Unions Could Have Stopped Hitler", Gabriele Liebig, *EIR*, 11 April 1997.

2. Bracher, Karl Dietrich, "Die national-socialistische Machtergreifung" (Cologne: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1974), pp. 250-251.

informing them that “on Tuesday morning, 2 May at 10:00, the Gleichschaltung [elimination of opposition] actions against the free trade unions will commence.” They were to be supervised by the local Nazi Party *gauleiters* (district leaders). All bank accounts and offices were to be seized, and all the specified union officials and branch managers of the trade unions’ banks were to be taken into “protective custody”, i.e., thrown into concentration camps.

So, on 1 May, even as Hitler was singing the praises of German labour at a rally of over 1.5 million people in Berlin, the Nazi police-state machinery was being set into motion for the physical annihilation of the trade unions the next day. What is particularly notable about the mass arrests of trade union leaders, and Nazi Party-SA seizure of offices and bank accounts, is that there was not even the hint of a legal pretext cited to justify the action! That is, the trade unions were not accused of violating any particular laws, nor were they even repressed by the state, as such. It was the Nazi Party and its SA brownshirts, not state or local police, who conducted the arrests and confiscations!

Such were the depths that Germany had descended to, under Hitler’s Enabling Law. Virtually no one raised a voice in protest, as the criminal Robert Ley proudly proclaimed the birth of the Nazi Labour Front, dissolved all the trade unions, and absorbed their membership under his new umbrella.

Hitler vs. the Jews and the churches

Hitler enacted a law on 1 April proclaiming a boycott of Jewish shops. He also enacted laws excluding Jews from public service, the universities, and a variety of other professions. This was the beginning of the process of stripping the Jews of their citizenship—one of the first steps in the monstrous plan to dehumanise Germany’s Jews, that led, inexorably, to the Final Solution, and the murder of six million Jews.

Hitler was also anti-Christian. He launched an aborted campaign to establish a “German Christian” church. There were nearly 45 million Protestants in Germany, most belonging to the Lutheran and Reformed Churches. Hitler wanted to establish a new “Reich Christian Church”, to be headed by his friend and fellow Nazi, Ludwig Muller.

Hitler ultimately had to step back from his aggressive campaign to formally subordinate the Protestant Church to the Reich. But he was shrewd enough to recognise that the Protestants’ imagined victory against him in this realm, was itself a valuable form of delusion that he could exploit in other theaters. For example: Where were the Protestant voices of protest to be heard, after Hitler liquidated his opposition in an orgy of mass murder on 30 June 1934? Having secured a nominal victory against Hitler’s “German Christians” in their narrowly defined sphere of interest, they did not see the need to address the larger, more fundamental, and more horrifying realities threatening Germany. But for the noble Dietrich Bonhöffer—a leading Protestant pastor, who attempted to rally people against Hitler, and was executed by the Nazis in 1945—and a handful of others, the silence was deafening, and strategic thinking in these quarters was altogether lacking.

The Blood Purge

Capitalising on a combination of the delusions of his enemies and the terror that was unleashed in the population by Ernst Röhm’s brutal SA legions, Hitler proceeded to further consolidate his one-party dictatorship in late 1933 and early 1934. Fifty concentration camps were established in the first year of his reign, where tens of thousands of “enemies of the state” were detained in “protective custody”, without the benefit of trial or legal counsel. But even as he was

strengthening his hold on the population-at-large, there were growing rumblings of unrest within his own party—within the SA, in particular. The ranks of Röhm’s SA were expanding, as membership rolls exceeded 2 million. Röhm and some of his associates began to speak of themselves as the “People’s Army”, and talked of changes that should be made in the doctrines of the Armed Forces, accordingly. Röhm submitted a memorandum to the Cabinet to this effect in February 1934. Many of Röhm’s colleagues were speaking of the need to conduct the “second phase” of the yet uncompleted Nazi revolution. Hitler responded by reaffirming the Reichswehr as the “sole bearer of arms” for Germany, and by flatly rejecting the idea of a “second revolution”. He otherwise praised Röhm’s conduct in lavish terms, and lauded the “important work” that had been accomplished domestically by the SA.

As tensions among Hitler, the Reichswehr, and the SA increased during the Spring, Hitler finally resolved on a course of action, deploying Göring’s special police and Heinrich Himmler’s SS thugs to “liquidate” Röhm and the entire leadership of the SA in the “Night of the Long Knives” (Box, p. IV).

He claimed in a speech to the Reichstag on 13 July that Röhm and all the others were involved in an insurrectionary plot against Germany. As in the case of the Reichstag fire, Hitler never produced a scintilla of evidence. He defiantly declared to the deputies, “If anyone reproaches me and asks why I did not resort to the regular courts of justice, then all I can say is this: In this hour, I was responsible for the German people, and thereby I became the supreme judge of the German people.”

Von Schleicher was killed in this slaughter, his alleged crime that he had conspired with a foreign diplomat against Germany, Hitler said. Hitler’s obedient Cabinet had already “legalised” the slaughter, when on 3 July they had endorsed Hitler’s actions as necessary for the “defence of the state”.

Out of all the senior officers of the Wehrmacht, only General Hammerstein-Equord, who had been Commander-in-Chief of the Army at the time of the Nazi seizure of power, raised a voice of strong condemnation against the murders of Generals Schleicher and von Bredow. He organised the retired Field Marshal von Mackenson to join him in his protest campaign. Their efforts were pitifully limited, and succeeded in merely prompting Hitler to admit, on the occasion of a secret meeting of military leaders and party officials on 3 January 1935, that the murder of the two generals had been “in error”, and that their names would be restored to the honour rolls of their regiments.

As for the population-at-large, they had been desperately seeking relief from the rampages of Röhm’s brown-shirted thugs. Hitler, in one unspeakably bloody, lawless evening, had apparently provided them that relief. But this was a numb population, whose former standards of law and justice had become warped and twisted by the preceding 18 months of non-stop convulsion.

The final consolidation

President Hindenburg died on 2 August 1934, less than six weeks after Hitler’s bloodbath. At noon, it was announced that Hitler’s Cabinet had enacted a law the preceding day, which combined the offices of the President and Chancellor, and that Adolf Hitler had assumed his new responsibilities as head of state and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. The title of President was abolished, and Hitler was to be referred to thereafter as “Führer and Reich Chancellor”.

All members of the Armed Forces were required to swear a new oath which stated: “I swear by God this sacred oath, that I will render unconditional obedience to Adolf Hitler, the

Führer of the German Reich and people, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and will be ready as a brave soldier to risk my life at any time for this oath." Some of the military command later said they hated it—but they signed!

So it was, that on 19 August 1934, the German people went to the polls in a plebiscite to "vote" on Hitler's new leadership responsibilities. Ninety-five percent of the registered voters went to the polls, and over 90 per cent voted to affirm Hitler as the "Führer". That is, over 38 million Germans voted to ratify Hitler as Führer, and approximately 4,250,000

voted against the Führer. Only 18 months earlier, Hitler had received fewer than 17,300,000 votes, in a multi-party election, in which over 38 million voters had participated. What a change! What a descent into Hell!

That descent was paved with the delusions of the Germans, not unlike the way Australia's descent into Hell is being paved with delusions of a similar nature today. It is time that Australians stopped deluding themselves. It is time that we learned the lessons of history from the deluded German experience of 1930-34.

Schmitt's justification of Hitler's Blood Purge

On the night of 30 June 1934—the "Night of the Long Knives"—Chancellor Adolf Hitler ordered the murders of many tens (perhaps hundreds) of his political opponents. Among them were Gen. Kurt von Schleicher, who had preceded Hitler as Chancellor; von Schleicher's wife; Gen. Ferdinand von Bredow, von Schleicher's long-time aide-de-camp; and many leaders and associates of the SA Brown-shirts of Ernst Röhm, including Röhm himself. The murders were perpetrated by death squads handpicked from the ranks of Herman Göring's Gestapo and Heinrich Himmler's SS.

The savagery with which they were carried out almost defies description. General von Schleicher and his wife answered a knock at their door, only to be shot dead on the spot. General von Bredow met a similar fate. Gustav von Kahr, the man who had successfully suppressed Hitler's Munich Beer Hall Putsch attempt in 1923, was found in a swamp near Dachau, hacked to death with pickaxes.

Loyal associates were executed, because "they knew too much". Father Bernhard Stempfle, who had helped edit Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*, but who had spoken too loosely about the circumstances surrounding the suicide of Hitler's former girlfriend, Geli Raubal, was found in a forest near Munich with his neck broken and three gunshots through the heart. Karl Ernst, the SA man who was deployed by Göring to set fire to the Reichstag on 27 February 1933, was dispatched to Berlin for execution. Three other members of his Reichstag arson team met the same fate.

There was no hint of "legal justification" for this purge, before the fact. Hitler simply wanted to eliminate leading elements of his real, imagined, and potential opposition, so as to terrorise all others into submitting to his dictatorship. He commenced his efforts to veil his mass murder with a veneer of legality on 3 July when he submitted a draft law for the Emergency Defense of the State to his Cabinet, which stated simply, "The measures taken on 30 June and 1 and 2 July for the suppression of high treasonable and state treasonable attacks are, as emergency defence of the state, legal." Minister of Justice Franz Gurtner declared that Hitler's draft did not create new law, but merely confirmed pre-existing law. The Cabinet then unanimously adopted Hitler's bill.

Ten days later, Hitler made a two-hour speech to the Reichstag (13 of whose members had been executed on 30 June) and the nation, brazenly justifying his actions. "Mutinies are broken according to eternal, iron laws", he said. "If I am reproached with not turning to the law courts for sentence, I can only say: In this hour I was responsible for

the fate of the German nation, and thereby the supreme judge of the German people.... I gave the order to shoot those most guilty of this treason, and I gave the order to burn out, down to the raw flesh, the ulcers of our internal well-poisoning and the poisoning from abroad!"

It then fell to Carl Schmitt to present an elaborated legal justification of Hitler's actions, in the August 1934 edition of the *Journal of German Lawyers*. Schmitt had already been providing legal cover for Hitler's drive toward dictatorship during the prior 18 months. In an article entitled "The Leader Protects the Law", Schmitt claimed that every murderous and criminal act ordered to be carried out during the bloodbath of 30 June and its aftermath, was both legal and courageous. Schmitt asserted that the Leader/Dictator, acting in a time of crisis, by definition both is and creates the law. The action of the Dictator is not subordinate to justice; it is, itself, the "highest justice". Furthermore, the greater the crisis, and the more "exceptional the action or deed of the Leader/Dictator, the greater the purity/essence of the law so created. ...

"The Leader protects the law from the worst abuse, when he, at the moment of danger, by virtue of his leadership as the supreme judge, directly creates the law. 'In this hour, I was responsible for the fate of the German nation, and as such [I became] the supreme judge of the German people...' [said Hitler to the Reichstag]. The true Leader is always also judge. From the realm of the Leader, flows the realm of the Law.... In reality, the act of the Leader was the true authority. The deed is not subordinate to justice; it is, in fact, the highest justice. It was not the action of a republican dictator, who, in a legal vacuum, while the law momentarily turns a blind eye, creates *faits accomplis*, and thereby, on the basis of such newly created facts, perpetuates the fiction of a seamless, continuing legality. The power of the Leader as judge springs from the same fount of law, from which spring the rights of the people. In times of the greatest emergency, the supreme law proves itself worthy, and only in such great crises, does there appear, to the highest degree, the juridical, vengeful realisation of this law. All law is derived from the people's right to existence. Every state law, every judgment of the courts, contains only so much justice, as it derives from this source.... The content and the scope of his action, is determined only by the Leader himself."

Thus, in a continuing or permanent state of emergency, the Leader continuously creates "new law", with each new "exceptional deed".

— Alexander Tresckow