

October 8, 1935

Dear Sir:

I find it hard to believe that you know so little about Germany as appears from your letter of September 6. You demand for yourself the right of freedom of conscience? Do try to say publicly your opinion if it does not agree with that of the powers that be! Is it entirely unknown to you that nobody in Germany who is not a Nazi dares to express his opinion? Don't you know what is called contemptuously the German way of looking (der deutsche Blick)? the shy look to right and left, up and down, front and back, before anyone dares to say a word? Don't you know that any German who writes letters into a foreign country, asks his correspondent urgently, not to refer to politics and public matters, because the censor might see it and hold the recipient responsible for the views of the writer? Don't you know that the most disgusting hunt for the spoils of office and the most infamous system of espionage and denunciation pervades the whole life? Don't you know that appointments are made according to the number of the aspirant in the party lists without any regard to knowledge and ability, that thousands of petty tyrants terrorize the people?

I consider Hitler one of the narrow minded fanatics who have brought endless misery over this world. The first, unrevised edition of his book shows his absolute lack of knowledge. May be that he is an honest fanatic, but a man

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whose friends are such rabble like G<sup>o</sup>bbels and Streicher, is a low character.

You state, "It is said almost all over Germany: if a race, small in numbers, succeeded in dominating the German people for nearly ten years and obtained their success by its racial law, why should not we Germans establish such a law?" Ten years ago you did not believe in a Jewish domination of the German people. The German press, with the exception of a few Berlin papers, was in its majority a Hugenberg (national conservative) and center (catholic) press, and the great industrialists and their friends, Thyssen, Krupp, Duisburg, Hugenberg, came to be more and more masters of the situation. You yourself were probably quite close to this group. And now you discover all of a sudden, that they had no power which you say was all vested in the hands of the Jews. At that time that never occurred to you.

It does not make things any better that, as you say, Hitler's race theory is copied from that of the Jews. Three thousand years ago the idea of <sup>a</sup>the chosen people was intelligible. Not so today.

Educated Jewry, except a few zealots, has discarded the idea of the chosen people long ago and everyone felt as a citizen of the country in which he lived, filled with the same cultural ideals as his fellow citizens. It is remarkable that the foreign character of the Jews and the impossibility of their assimilation has not been discovered until now. For almost one hundred years the German people sing Heine's songs.

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As I understand, the Lorelei appears in Bavarian schoolbooks with characteristic lack of truthfulness as "by an unknown author." Since the song cannot be killed, the name of the Jewish author must be suppressed. As late as 1925 Professor Robert Petsch wrote in regard to the effect of popular ideas during the period of Storm and Stress and during the Romantic period of the 19th Century, that these are felt particularly in the poetry of Uhland, Mörike, and first of all in that of Heine. Similar opinions in regard to the complete Germanization of the Jews and their contributions to German culture may be found by the hundred. The writers could not discover anything but Germans in these men.

According to your point of view the Germans have taken over from the Jews the principle of the chosen people that has been discarded by the Jews. In this respect they have become more Jewish than the Jews themselves. I have too much love for the old Germany to desire for it the fate of the Jews. The German diaspora is great enough as it is.

For any intelligent person it is not worth while to lose as much as a word in regard to the shallow twaddle about race, since every honest scientist, whose view is not obscured by fanaticism, must be able to see through all the false premises and conclusions.

You criticize my term "Government by the rabble". Please, do not confound the two terms "people" and "rabble". The people is condemned to silence; the rabble is on top; not

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only on the street, but also in public offices. A reading of the official notices is sufficient to show what kind of people occupy high and low positions. I get my information from the stuff given out by these people themselves.

I believe that everything is quiet in Germany. A cemetery is also quiet. The troubles of 1932 were made by the people who form now the Government and the others are unfortunately too decent and too timid to resist. You cannot make any impression upon me by praising that kind of order. True order can exist only in a State in which law rules. This is no longer true in Germany. Contradictory new laws which are actually arbitrary ordinances by anyone who claims the right to give them, and the rights given to members of the party, give room for the grossest deeds of injustice.

If it is true that everything in Germany is as beautiful as you describe it, I do not understand why it should be that such a large number of "Aryan" men and women try with might and main to get away, because they cannot endure the moral torture to which they are constantly exposed. My knowledge of these facts is derived from many sources. It comes to the knowledge of all those who love the old Germany and who count the days until the Third Empire will collapse by the weight of its own idiotic policies.

Yours very sincerely,

*Franz Boas.*