

Myanmar Literature Project

မြန်မာစာပေစီမံကိန်း

Hans-Bernd Zöllner (ed.)

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Material on Four Books about Germany

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Nwe Ni Aung was born in 1965 in Yangon, got a bachelor degree in Mathematics with honours in 1985 and started her working life as primary school teacher at 1989. Then she changed to the Central Statistical Organization of Myanmar as a statistician. After serving as a government employee for 16 years, she quit her occupation there. Living with her reading enthusiast father and his home library, became very much interested in

reading. Now, she is the local manager of the Myanmar Literature Project and home teacher for matriculation students.

Maung Maung Aye was born in 1945 in Upper Myanmar. He got his degree in Arts in 1974 and started his occupation as a typist. In 1967 he moved to the Burma Broadcasting Services for 14 years. In 1983 he became an editor of the Working People daily Newspaper. He is now serving as a chief editor of New Light of Myanmar daily Newspaper.

I Introduction (Hans-Bernd Zöllner)

A Personal Note

For the editor of this series, as well as of some of the contributors, this Working Paper is a rather special one because it deals with writings of Burmese authors about their home country, Germany, at a time of history that is, in retrospect, regarded as a very dark one by Germans. This confers a personal touch to this introduction.

One may say that it was the books documented here that brought the whole project of investigating the Nagani Book Club about. The editor started his research on Burmese history studying German-Burmese relations after and before World War II. In the course of these studies, he learnt about the existence of the Nagani Book Club and its publication of several books on Germany.¹ This information roused the interest in the contents of these books, but this curiosity could not immediately be satisfied because no details were available – not even of the titles, authors and publication dates of these books. This lack of data prompted the editor to look at Nagani books, and to document thoughts and ideas about the contemporary world they tried to convey to their readers.

The curiosity about the Nagani authors' perception of Germany was spurred by personal experiences of Burmese notions on Adolf Hitler, who dominated German politics during the hot period of the Burmese struggle for independence, and before the Japanese army conquered British Burma. Many Germans are irritated, and not just in Myanmar by the fact that in countries of the East Hitler still is regarded as a "great man". Many travellers can recollect occurrences like this: A taxi driver after learning that his passenger comes from Germany states "Oh Germany, great country, great men – Helmut Kohl, Helmut Schmidt, Adolf Hitler."

An encounter like this gives rise to quite a number of problems and questions. First: How to respond adequately to the speaker without offending him but at the same time not compromising the disdain of Hitler and his politics. - Second: How to contextualise the comment. Was the remark an attempt to please you, and, if yes, on what popular conceptions of "Germany" and his previous encounters with Germans was the statement based? Third: How would people from different strata of Burmese society – now and then - assess and substantiate their stand towards Germany (and other countries)?

¹ According to Suu Kyi, Nagani published 19 books on Germany (Suu Kyi (1991) *Intellectual Life in India and Burma under Colonialism. Freedom of Fear and Other Writings*. London, Penguin Books, p. 132).

The books under review in this volume may be helpful in finding answers for some of these questions, and at the same time may give rise to more questions. Before some preview on the four books introduced here is given, a short on the Burmese-German relations until the critical pre-war period shall be offered.¹

Feelings of Sympathy towards Germany

The first Germans came to Burma after the first Anglo-Burmese War as specialists in the service of the East-India Company, and later the British colonial administration. After the Second War (1852) and the opening of the Suez Canal (1869), quite a number of German merchants started business in various Burmese seaports. German consulates were opened in Akyab, Bassein, Moulmein and Rangoon and in 1890 the German Club, founded in 1867, built a formidable club-house.²

The main business of the merchants was to export rice and to import salt, cloth, cutlery and other goods, making Germany the second biggest trade partner of the province after the British Empire. The German merchants were respected because most of them learned to speak Burmese³ and – more important – because they came from a country that had no colonies in Asia and thus seemed to be “different”.

The feeling of sympathy towards Germany took shape during and after World War I and the dashed hopes on the side of the emerging nationalist movements that the Burmese assistance in the war on the side of the British would pay off in terms of political reforms aiming at Home Rule. Thus, a sentiment of shared oppression by a strong and dominant Britain against weak and inferior nations developed.⁴

¹ The following information is based on the editor's dissertation. Hans-Bernd Zöllner (2000) *Birma zwischen „Unabhängigkeit Zuerst – Unabhängigkeit Zuletzt“*. *Die birmanischen Unabhängigkeitsbewegungen und ihre Sicht der zeitgenössischen Welt am Beispiel der birmanisch-deutschen Beziehungen zwischen 1920 und 1948*. [Burma between „Independence First – Independence Last“. The Burmese independence movements and their perception of the international world exemplified at the Burmese-German relations between 1920 and 1948] Münster, Lit.

² The house was built on Commissioner Rd. (today: Bogyoke Aung San Rd.) opposite Rangoon General Hospital. In 1914 it was taken over by the British and in 1917 sold to a Catholic Convent. Today, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd live there.

³ „While few Englishmen, conditioned by their immense sense of superiority, had little or no interest either in the country or the Burmese, many of their German counterparts took the trouble to learn the language. Thus, representatives of German firms, when negotiating a business deal, were able to enjoy the goodwill of the Burmese merchants in the region.“ (Noel F. Singer (1995) *Old Rangoon. City of Shwedagon*. Gartmore: Kiscadale, 153). – The same esteem was expressed towards some German scientists who worked in Burma like the biologist D. Brandis who invented a scheme to take care for the teak forest and E. Forchhammer who served as professor of Pali at Rangoon College and Provincial Epigraphist from 1881 until his premature death in 1890.

⁴ After World War II, a Burmese analyst wrote about the attitude of the Allies towards defeated Germany: “The present Allied policy in Germany, consequently, needs a complete reorientation. The Great Powers should not repeat the mistakes made at Versailles by fashioning a peace treaty with Germany that might sow the seeds of a

With the rise of National Socialism and Hitler, a new situation emerged. The developments in Europe had to be integrated into the Burmese world view and consequences had to be drawn for the future developments in Burma.¹ Parallel to the splits in the nationalist movements, a variety of opinions on Germany developments shows as illustrated by the following quotation from the nationalist newspaper “New Burma”:

Some young Burmans heartily talk over the non-violent Rapes of Hitler, eulogising the successful practicalism of Nazi Philosophy. National Socialism - this will do for Burma of Alaungpayas.² National Socialism is the spontaneous outburst of the mass-mind in Burma. I am, on the contrary. The days of heroes and hero-worship are ‘gone with the winds’ of Thibaw.³

The “Hitlermania” in some sections of Burmese society at some time was prepared for and supported by the symbol of the Nazis and reports about Hitler’s life style. The Swastika was a symbol of the Buddha. The Burmese kings were supposed to descend from the Buddha’s “Sun Race”, the Sakya Clan. Hitler, it was told, was a teetotaler, a vegetarian and a bachelor, in other words he could have the qualities of a Buddhist saint. One popular fantasy drew a connection to a prince known as the Setkya Min (a Burmanisation of the universal monarch’s title *cakkravartin*) who was sentenced to death and executed after the attempt of a revolt in 1838. Hitler might be the reincarnation of the prince. Another part of the imagination was the role played by the famous magician Bo Bo Aung who was believed to have saved the prince. Up to today, Bo Bo Aung is one of the most popular figures invoked mainly in times of political crises. His story played a central role in the foundation of the Freedom Bloc on October 1939.⁴

The vision of a global alliance of descendants of the Sun Race was, at least for a short time, boosted through the German-Japanese alliance since the first Japanese Emperor is believed to be a descendant of the sun goddess and the sun is the emblem of the flag of Nippon, the “Sun’s Origin”.⁵

Third World War before the end of this century”. (Soorma, C.A. (1954) *Some Recent Trends in World Affairs*. With a Foreword by Dr. Ba U, President of The Union of Burma. Preface by U Khin Zaw, Director, Burma Broadcasting Service. Rangoon (no publishing house mentioned), 20).

¹ For some material on the assessments of the relationship between the situation in Burma and the international situation on the part of the nationalist movements see Working Papers 8 and 13.

² Founder of the last Burmese royal dynasty who – like Hitler, Stalin and a yearned for future Burmese leader – had been an ordinary man before rising to the top.

³ Columnist Ratana Sein in *New Burma*, 19.10.1938, 9.

⁴ See Ba Maw (1968) *Breakthrough in Burma. Memoirs of a Revolution, 1939-1946*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 67-69. – According to the “Catalogue of Books” kept by the British administration, quite a number of books on Bo Bo Aung were published in the late 30s. One of the titles was “Bo Bo Aung and Hitler”.

⁵ The name of the land has nothing to do with the myth about the origin of the country’s emperors.

Besides these popular fantasies, there were other, more direct political connections. U Saw, one of the rising politicians of the time was supposed to be a strong follower of German and Italian fascism. His newspaper *Thuriya* (“The Sun”) might have serialised a Translation of Hitler’s “My Struggle” into Burmese.¹

A Period of Accelerating Tensions, both Internally and Externally

The four books introduced in this volume were published within one year, between August 1939 (Shwe U Daung, *What Hitler has Done*) and August 1940 (Tha Dun, *Germany*). This period covered significant events in Europe as the outbreak of the war in September 1939, the successful German *blitzkrieg* highlighted by the occupation of Paris in June 1940 and the beginning of the Battle of Britain in August 1940.

Parallel to these developments and directly connected with them, the situation in Burma grew more acute. The outbreak of the war prompted the establishment of the Freedom Bloc on October 1, 1939. The rallies of the Bloc and the speeches delivered there caused the imprisonment of the alliance’s leaders because of offences against the Defence of Burma Rules. In August, 1940, Dr. Ba Maw, Nu and others were arrested while Aung San, together with a comrade escaped to China.

The developments in Europe as well as in Burma inevitably headed for an “either-or-result” that left no room for compromise. Given the antagonism between the two political blocs in Europe, only victory or defeat was to be achieved or suffered by both sides. In Burma, the nationalist movements from the beginning had nurtured a climate of no-compromise set into practice by the boycott movements that were started in the 1920s. In the debate on the “War Resolution” in the Burmese parliament on February 23, 1940, the Burman Members of Parliament with the exception of some office holders only differed in the tone of rejection in joining the British fight against Germany, while it was quite clear for the British members that such an attitude in the present struggle, in which the freedom of the civilised world was at stake was totally off the mark.

The common logic of the struggle both in Europe and Asia – war and fight for independence – followed the principle of “The enemy of the enemy is my friend” and was expressed in a slogan that had been already coined the Irish freedom struggle and later circulated both in India and Burma: “Britain’s difficulty is Freedom’s opportunity”.²

¹ Maung Maung (1969) *Burma and General Ne Win*. Rangoon: Religious Affairs Dept. Press, 63.

² In India, it was Subhas Chandra Bose, regarded as his friend by Dr. Ba Maw and the political mentor of Aung San, who widely used this slogan.

On this backdrop, the books on Germany published after 1939 – and not just by Nagani but by other publishers as well¹ - can be regarded as attempts to give the Burmese readers some background information about the present situation centring on Germany the fate of which was closely connected to the fate of Burma.

British Difficulties and Burmese Problems

The logic of a strategy based on slogans like those mentioned above resulted in some problems for people like Nu, Than Tun and Tun Aye. All of them were fiercely anti-British, but they disliked fascism as well as British colonialism. As Ba Hein put it in his “Student Revolution” with reference to the development of the students’ political awareness:

The students, as they also faced difficulties, started to think deeply about the root cause of their difficulties. They started to see their insecure future that was full of worries under the colonial system. Thus they began to develop into nationalists.

But when we look at the students of that time as a whole, they would not yet take up to fight against colonialism, which had thrown the whole nation into deep poverty. They had not yet understood that only if one would fight together with the workers and peasants, one could destroy the colonialist system. Instead, the hot-blooded nationalist students misunderstood and became fascinated with the big thugs of capitalism, Hitler and Mussolini, and developed fascist tendencies. Strong nationalism often leans towards fascism. This was quite true also in Burma.²

As Ba Hein, the founders of Nagani favoured socialist ideas to be adopted in Burma, there were great sympathies, towards the Soviet Union as the champion of the oppressed people, as Aung San put it in his essay on “World War and Burma”:

In the light of the above, the Soviet Union is recognized as a shining example for the freedom fighters and the proletariat of the world not only in this war but also in the previous ones.

But the Soviet Union had signed a non-aggression pact with Germany on August 23, 1939 and, therefore, could not be regarded as a “pure” role model. Hence the title question of Thein Pe’s book on Germany and Britain: “Who is Wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain?” had to be answered this way: both were wrong. The logical consequence was that Burma could not rely on either of them – and foreshadowing the post-war insight into the Soviet Union’s communist hegemonic policies, on no country having implemented socialism - but to go

¹ According to the “Catalogue of Books” kept by the colonial government, in April 1939 a booklet of 16 pages entitled “Bo Bo Aung and Hitler” was published. (For the legend of Bo Bo Aung see vol. 1 of this series, pp. 21-23.) Thein Pe wrote another book on Germany (Dare you Germany?) in March 1940 and a publishing agency called Pyithu-Ah-nar (Peoples’ Power) Publications located at Scott market 151, the place where the Nagani Book Club was founded, brought out a book written by Dagon Lun “Death and Hitler”. Further, many books on the war were brought out by other publishing houses which covered the role of Germany.

² Working Paper 10, p. 19.

alone. The antagonisms of the war together with the finding that all political systems worldwide were flawed, led to an attitude of internal self-reliance and external walling-off.

Germany – Among Others

The National Anthem of Germany, adopted in 1921 for the first German Republic, in the first words of its first stanza emphasises “Germany, Germany, above all (or: everything), above all in the World.” During the Nazi regime, only this first stanza was sung at official ceremonies.¹ The notion of German supremacy was, of course, not shared by the Burmese nationalists for at two connected reasons. First, their main aim was to re-erect the glory of Burma as expressed in the Dobama Song, which was to become the National Anthem of the country after independence.² Secondly, they were fundamentally opposed to any claim of dominance on the side of what country in the world ever.

The interest in Germany, therefore, was based on the fact that it played a crucial role among others in world politics. This aspect is underlined by the title of the term paper written in 1970 covering the Nagani books dealing with Germany: “Capitalism and Germany as told by Nagani”. Burma could learn something from German history set in a global context, particularly from the country’s revival after the defeat in World War I up to its actions in the current war with Britain and France. This pragmatic attitude is illustrated in the encyclopaedias published by Nagani authors³ and reflected in the various aspects under which Germany is seen in the four books introduced in this volume and in some other Nagani books dealing with various aspects of German history.

Shwe U Daung’s book drew two lessons from Hitler and his politics for Burmese readers. Besides a strong warning against fascism of any kind in order to counter feelings of sympathy towards the fascist system in Germany, Hitler’s rise to power could be used as a model of how to build up an effective leadership structure. Thein Pe used the German leader’s politics to depict Britain’s politics as similar to Germany. Ba Khaing stresses the need of knowledge of world history as a basis for gaining independence in the right way. Finally, Tha Dun’s book focuses on the biography of two German politicians, Bismarck and Hindenburg who played crucial roles in Germany’s modern history. Bismarck was the architect of the united German Empire in 1871, under the presidency of Hindenburg who became famous as general in World War I Hitler was elected German chancellor.

¹ After the war, the Federal Republic of Germany adopted the third stanza of the song as her National Anthem. The same applies to the united Germany after 1991 (for details, see the Wikipedia article *Deutschlandlied*).

² For the text of the *Dobama* Song, see vol. 6 of this series, pp. 85-87. For a history of the song, see Zöllner 2000, pp. 145-160 and Than Htut 2001 Two Songs. *Myanmar Historical Research Journal* 8: 41-50.

³ See Working Paper 12 of this series.

Whereas the above mentioned books introduced in this working paper cover Germany's history as a part of world history, other Nagani books are about specific events connected to Germany and citizens of the country who did not make it into the books covering world history. In October 1939, shortly after the outbreak of the war in Europe, the story of a German spy in the United States was published, entitled "Invisible Soldiers". One month later, Khin Khin Lay's "Rays of War" told the story of the British nurse Edith Cavell who during World War I worked in a Belgian hospital and was sentenced to death by a German court martial and executed in 1915 because she had helped prisoners of war to escape to the Netherlands. Shortly later, Khin Khin Lay wrote a novel located in Munich depicting the brutality of the Nazi system ("World Enemy", published March 1940). Both books were printed by the Nagani Press with government that is British money. It is intended to document both books and the story related to them in the next Working Paper of this series. – Finally, at the end of 1940, Nagani published a book written by Thakin Ba Thoung about a German cruiser attacking British ships in World War I the English model of which was written by a British prisoner of war.¹ Other Nagani books at least partly deal with Germany as the two political dictionaries documented in Working Paper 13 do.

About this Volume and the Need for Further Research

This volume provides only a small part of the material on how "enlightened" Burmese writers assessed the rise of fascist Germany within the global context of that time and how they drew conclusions from such assessments for the attainment of Burma's independence. The book reports on the works of Shwe U Daung, Thein Pe and Ba Khaing presented here are complemented by commentaries by some European experts with an interest in Myanmar - German relations and two answers to these commentaries.

This exchange of views concerns the question of the relations between Burma/Myanmar and the world which may be regarded as crucial for understanding the country's development (and non-development) since independence. As Arthur Minsat who did research on the Burmese-German relations after World War II points out, the apparently cordial relations until 1988 might have been accompanied by some mistrust on the Burmese side. Given the fact that relations to Britain as the former colonial power were – and are – strained by a reasonable high amount of mistrust one could and maybe should ask for the concepts of "friendship" between Myanmar and the world as well as the other way round.

¹ The list may be not complete because at the time of the publishing of this paper not all Nagani books had been evaluated.

Another basic question comes into sight if we look at one of the motives to write the books introduced here, the attempt to counter public sympathy with Nazi Germany. This effort can be seen as a consequence of a big difference between the views of a large majority of the Burmese population and members of the enlightened elite. Since it must be doubted that Nagani and other publication houses were successful in educating “the people” as a whole, the question arises how this divide affects Burma’s/Myanmar’s history until today.

The book written by Tha Dun deserves special attention. The long foreword written after the first victories of the German army presents an interesting theory about why Hitler aimed at dominating the world. It was a kind of united Europe under German leadership focussing on controlling the world’s economy.

For an assessment of the Burmese perception of Germany in the context of the global developments of that time, a detailed investigation into the articles of the Nagani Weekly might be helpful. Here, the editors clearly tried to offer information that was of interest for a broad public. The short information about these texts provided in this volume is just an appetizer for such an endeavour. Finally, the term paper written in 1970 on the Nagani books dealing with Germany exhibits a rather matter-of-fact evaluation which gives rise to the question about the academic pursuit of country’s historiography in Burma/Myanmar.

Summing up, the material introduced here might be of interest not just for Germans who are interested how the people of Myanmar may look at own country’s history vis à vis global trends.

As usual, the process of transcription of proper nouns from German and English to Burmese and back to English caused some difficulties for identifying persons and places mentioned in the reviews and Translations. The editor tried to adjust such terms to the original spelling and provided some footnotes which may help to get some more information about lesser well known persons mentioned in the book reports.

Hamburg, March 2010

II. Material on Shwe U Daung, *What Hitler Has Done*

1. Kyaw Hoe, Bibliographical Information

(Translation: Gunnar Peters)

26) Shwe U Daung: *What Hitler has done*. Rangoon, Nagani, 1939. 266 p. Nagani Selection Series

Detailed account on Hitler and Nazi policy. 25 Chapters, from Hitler's background to the Rome-Berlin axis and the problem of the colonies. The introduction says: "The reader should read this introduction first." Finding an analogy in the saying, *Having shiny gold bars, but an empty stomach*, the book describes how, with Germany's growing power in the world, the citizens' rights of Germans were more and more restricted. Under Nazi rule there was no right to strike, no general freedom, many people were arrested, and denunciation was rampant among colleagues at work. Towards the end he quotes Shakespeare's "Sweet are the uses of adversity; Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, Wears yet a precious jewel in his head." He suggests that the stable Nazi government's organization could be taken as an example for the takeover of power by the people of Burma in order to improve the inhumane situation of the poor.

The backside of the book contains advertisements for Nagani's *Saturday Journal* and the book *Pan-thar-ma-sa-u*.¹

The time of the beginning World War offered the big chance for the Burmese people to enter the fight for independence, as suggested by a title of a Nagani article "If we do it, we have to do it now. If not, we will never do it." Out of hatred of the English, unreflective sympathy for their German enemies had been spreading within the population during that time. As in a prophesy, the Swastika arm-band wearing Hitler was seen as the new Ruler of the World (Setkya Minn). This was not a small danger. It seemed urgently needed to open the eyes of the simple Burmese people, and to expose the Nazi ogre in this war. Therefore, Nagani published several books about the evilness of the fascist system. This book is one of them. This propaganda has been successful: Within ten years after these books came out, the whole country rose up in rebellion against the fascist occupation, as the world could witness.

August 1, 1939; 5000 copies.

¹ Ba Thaug's novel, number 30 and 31 in Kyaw Hoe's list.

2. Shwe Sin Aung, Book Review on Shwe-U-Daung, *All That Hitler Did*

Translated into English: Moe Moe Kun

“All that Hitler Did“ is a book published by Nagani Book Club in Burma’s pre-WW(II) times. It is a Translation of a book in which the life, political attitudes and power struggles of Hitler, the German war dictator were described. The translator of the book was Shwe-U-Daung.

Brief biography of the translator / author

Shwe-U-Daung was born in Wardan Ward, Mandalay on 24th October, 1889. His parents were U Ayeyar and Daw Shwe. His father served King Thibaw as a clerk at the King’s Parliament and his mother as a scribe. Shwe-U-Daung studied at the Buddhist Nunnery School, Mandalay Dakkhinawun Monastery and at A.B.M Schools. He passed the entrance exam of Calcutta University in 1908. He joined Agriculture and Cooperative General’s Office as a forest clerk. He got married at the age of 21 for the first time. He quitted the job in 1914 and got married for the second time. He divorced with his second wife and married again with Daw Soe who was a native of Mya Taung Village, Kathar District.

Shwe-U-Daung was able to start reading the world’s classic novels when he was in e 8th standard. He started writing the novel “Yangyi Aung“ in 1915. He wrote the novel “Yadanabon“ by adapting Mrs. Henry Wood’s “East Lynne“.

Thanks to his work “Yadanabon“, he got an opportunity of a job at Thuriya Magazine as an editor. The Pali name of the magazine “Thuriya“ means “Sun” in English. The Sun was symbolized by the Peacock called “Daung“ or “U Daung“ in Burmese. It was after the name of the magazine that he chose his pen-name “Shwe U Daung“, Golden Peacock.

In 1920, he did not get along with the magazine publisher and was discharged as a result. He worked at a school in Kanni Village as an English teacher for two years. At the age of 36, he became a monk and then returned to lay life because he suffered from malaria.

1926, he worked as a secretary at New Burma Daily Press for some time. In 1930, he joined Bago Christian Literary Club as a translator and made Translation of about 20 books. In 1936, Thuriya magazine reemployed him as an editor. - In 1962, he served Working People Daily as a Chief Editor and retired in 1968.

The novels “Yupanandi” and “Detective Maung San Shar” that he wrote by adapting the novels “She” written by Haggard¹ and “Sherlock Holms” by Conan Doyle respectively were very popular books.

Some other books of adaptation he produced were “Wunkanda“, “Radanapura“, “Khjn Set May“, “Pyi Paukkan“, “Jamedar Ko Ko Gyi“, “Rupakalyani“, “Pahtarnan Saya Thein“, “Zaw Heik“, etc.

Some of his translated works are the novel “Yadana Thaik“ from “The Count of Monte Cristo“ by Alexander Dumas, “Baskerville Hkwaygyi“ from “The Hound of Baskervilles“ by Sir Arthur Conon Doyle, “Thuyegaung Thone Yauk“ from “The Three Musketeers“ by Alexander Dumas, “Anna Karenina“ from “Anna Karenina“ by Leo Tolstoy, “Myaw Ta-lintlint“ from “Great Expectations“ by Charles Dickens, “Koyandaw“ from “Companions of Jehu“ by Alexander Dumas, “Seik-htar-watain“ from “The Old Mortality“ by Sir Walter Scott, “Thway Soke Myay“ from “The Jungle“ by Upton Sinclair.

He also wrote many religious, literary, social and political articles including Dhehtay Dhehta Mattan.

“Tathettar Hmattan Hnint Atway Akhawmyar“ (The Record of life and the Thoughts) is his distinguished biography. He achieved Sarpay Beikman’s 1952’s and 1955 Translation awards for his “Myaw Ta-lint-lint“ and “Thway Soke Myay“, the Translations of Charles’ Dickens’ “Great Expectations“ and Upton Sinclair’s “The Jungle“. He was also awarded the Sarpay Beikman’s Knowledge Prize for his biography “Tathettar Hmattan Hnint Atway Akhawmyar“. He attended The World Peace Congress s a delegate of Myanmar.

He died on 10th of August, 1970.

Summary of “All That Hitler Did“

Hitler’s father was a cobbler. His mother was his father’s third wife. She worked as a domestic / servant to earn for her living. Hitler had no interest in the school lessons when he was young. His hobby was learning geography and world history. Between the age of 13 and 18, he wasted time, studying nothing. When he was 18, he worked as a general labourer in Vienna, Austria. Then he went to Munich and worked as a painter. When World War I broke out in 1914, he volunteered for service in Force No. 16 of the Bavarian army. After fighting 48 battles, he was rewarded some medals. After being wounded in a battle on 14th October, 1918, he decided to become a politician.

¹ Sir Henry Rider Haggard (1856-1925) was an English writer of adventurer novels set in exotic locations (editor’s note).

In September 1919, he joined the nationalist German Workers' Party with the name of "Adolf Hitler". Because he was quite eloquent and had obviously a strong spirit of propagating the party, he was given propaganda tasks. He had influence even on the chairman of the party, Anton Drexler,¹ and could have complete control over the party. He prescribed the 25-point Party program comprising of a mixture of exaggerated nationalistic demands, corruptions of socialist ideas, and racist and anti-Semitic doctrines.

Hitler read the party programme at the first mass meeting of the German Workers Party held in February, 1920.

Hitler established the newspaper *Völkischer Beobachter* (Peoples' Observer) as the official daily party organ to persecute Jews, especially Jewish merchants. The number of the party members was over 3,000 then. Furthermore, he tried to persuade Germans by means of not only declaring that the party would solve all the problems of German society but also highlighting in his speeches the Treaty of Versailles, the unemployment problem, and the persecution of Jews. By doing so, he gained the public's trust. Thereafter, his party became powerful as National Nazi Party on 30 June 1934, Socialists were suppressed.

January 30, 1933

The Hitler government was formed on January 30, 1933 and Hitler was appointed chancellor. After gaining power, he set up a four-year plan of obtaining national unity, achieving economic growth and enjoying equality with other nations. He controlled the key administrative positions and placed them under the Central Parliament. The existing parliament was abolished and then he got rid of those who were anti-Nazi. At that time, there was disunity among the democratic party members, communists and the centrist members who were contemporaries of the Nazi party. Goering was one of Hitler's right hand men as well as his executor. On July 14, 1933, all parties but the Nazi Party were outlawed. About one million workers became Nazi party members. On 19 August 1934, the cabinet appointed Hitler as dictator. The public also supported the dictatorship of Hitler.

After being empowered, Hitler made his best effort to maintain the growth of the Nazi party and persistence of the party's stance. A secret detective force led by Walter Buch² crushed traitors and anti-Nazi party members. Moreover, a secret political police force led by Himmler was also a spy organization for the Hitler government. The police force had full powers to arrest anyone and punish people without trials. The whole of Germany was afraid of Buch and

¹ For details on Anton Drexler (1884-1942), see Wikipedia (editor's note).

² For details about Walter Buch (1883-1949), see Wikipedia (editor's note).

Himmler. In January 1935, the only single Municipal Act was enacted in support of the regional administration.

Brown-shirt and Black-shirt troops were prominent among the activities of Hitler. Brown-shirt troops were established basically with workers, students, vendors whereas black-shirt troops were composed of high-class people, rich and educated ones.

Brown-shirt troops played mainly the role of making the Nazi party more popular and more powerful. But, after gaining power, Hitler established black-shirt troops. Brown-shirt troopers expected to be merged with the national army. However, Hitler neglected brown-shirt troopers and gave priority to the black-shirt troopers. The black-shirt troop became an executive organization which was to follow orders of the central government. Then, brown-shirt troops became dissatisfied not only with Hitler but also with the national Army. At last, Hitler began to crush brown-shirt troops, his pioneer friends. Brown-shirt leaders were arrested in Munich. The brown-shirt leaders in Berlin were executed. Hitler's execution of brown-shirt troops in 1934 was a world famous event.

After that, Hitler made ready to raise the strength of his military power in direct contravention of the Versailles Treaty. He also incited the public to accept that only a strong army could make Germany develop with full security in all aspects. On March 10, 1936, the Military Service Law was promulgated. The number of soldiers was raised to six hundred thousand from one hundred thousand allowed by the Treaty of Versailles. At a military parade, he showed to the world how strong his army was. He formed several strong divisions. The role of the air force being very important in war, he appointed Goering as air force chief and tried to have a strong air arm. Under the terms of naval treaty with the British, he built a number of new naval vessels to have a strong navy. The wealthy Germans living abroad were made to declare their wealth to the government. Restrictions on imports were made in order to save gold and money. Foreign companies were not allowed to remit their money. According to Dr. Schacht's¹ plan of 1934, imports were controlled and exports promoted. The barter system was used in foreign trade. In 1935, a trade surplus of Mark 110 million was registered. Nevertheless fluctuation in the value of the Mark occurred and Germany did not earn trade creditability. High expenditure for unemployment benefits, creation of jobs and for armament resulted in an imbalance of income and expenditure.

¹ Hjalmar Schacht (1877-1970) was a German banker, economist and politician who served the Nazi government until 1939 (editor's note).

Germany was not used to issue financial statements to the world. To avoid economic difficulties, Hitler interfered in the internal affairs of Austria and Czechoslovakia. He also tried to make profit from the sale of treasury bonds in the country. Prices of consumer goods were controlled. Government confiscated the commercial profit exceeding 6% as her revenue. Investors were badly affected because the government vied taxes on business, employed more labourers than necessary, destroyed machineries, and collected fund for the Nazi party.

Hitler solved the problem of unemployment at best. Out of 20 million German workers, six million were unemployed. When Hitler took over power, five million unemployed people got jobs. But workers were controlled with very strict disciplines. Hitler used to say that German workers absolutely support National Socialism, never making complaints, so they were satisfied with their conditions.

Moreover, availability of raw materials is important for the progress of a country. Out of 34 main raw materials, Britain received 25 kinds of raw materials within the country and had to import only nine from foreign countries. Germany could produce potash and coal only and had to import 31 items from abroad. Therefore, Germany had difficulties in producing all kinds of goods locally. The efforts to solve the problem with products of synthetic wools and gasoline were only in vain. Therefore, the way to procure raw materials was to colonize.

There were disagreements concerning economic management between Dr. Schacht and leftists. Dr. Schacht wanted the government to reduce her control over the country's economic activities and transfer them to business people. He suggested reducing government expenditures rather than borrowing (selling government treasury bonds) and printing currency notes. On the other hand, leftists wanted to solve the country's economic problems by selling bonds, borrowing and issuing currency notes. Finally, Hitler appointed Keppler¹ his economic consultant in place of Dr. Schacht. But Germany's economy could go neither backward nor forward and was stuck among several kinds of economic systems.

Hitler took the help of Dr. Walther² for the agricultural plan. He persuaded farmers to come under the control of the Nazi party, by convincing them that they were vital to the nation's economy. The government controlled all agricultural activities. It managed or the farmers to get good / high prices of agricultural products without fixing the prices at the level of international current prices. On the other hand, the government bought surplus crops at fixed prices. There arose dissatisfactions between the government and the farmers / landlords, land

¹ Wilhelm Keppler (1882-1960) was a German businessman and a financial backer cum economic adviser of Hitler (editor's note).

² For the biography of Richard Walther Darré (1885-1953) see Wikipedia (editor's note).

owner farmers and the city public. Therefore, the reformed agricultural system was not effective for the country.

Hitler organized youths for the Nazi Party. All youth organizations were abolished and only two organizations, Hitler Youth Association and Hitler Citizen Association were formed. In the Hitler Youth Association, there were young people at the age from 14 to 18. Thanks to Hitler's organizational skills, six million of young people became members. The leader of the youth association was Baldur von Schirach¹ and he let the youths sing military songs with the words, "Get prepared to risk your life for Hitler". Hitler's banner would lead to eternal prosperity, the banner was more valuable than life. By means of such songs he made the people believe that Hitler is God. Moreover, he not only organized the young people but also trained them to improve their physical and mental abilities in different aspects. He formed uniformity among the youths. Therefore, the products of Hitler's training school had good qualification such as cleanliness, spirit of Nazism, decisiveness and obedience, etc. Again, on June 26, 1936, an act for general labour was enacted. In that act, the young people at the age from 18 to 26, had to serve at a general labour camp for about six months. There were 1260 of such camps all over Germany and 235 persons were trained in each of the camps. Those persons had to work on the farms levelling the land, creating agricultural farms, building dikes, and roads for 8 hours a day. Training the youths in camps made them understand fairness and equality and remove the habits of shirking. Moreover, it also made them learn to work and behave with strict principles and also gave physical strength. All those were quite beneficial to the nation building.

On 2, May 1933, all labour organizations were abolished by law and the funds of the organizations were confiscated. On 20, January, 1934, a labour organization was formed under the name of 'Association of Working Germans'. Every employer and worker had to join that association. Previously, there were only five million members in the association. The association appointed labour officers by regional districts and solved systematically the problems between employers and workers. After establishment of that association, labour strikes and lockouts were strictly prohibited and severe punishment was given on those offences.

According to Nazism, the responsibilities of women were keeping house, attending church and giving birth to children. Moreover, Hitler viewed the role of women as important for the human resource of the country. To have a model generation, only healthy parents were

¹ Von Schirach lived from 1907 to 1974 (editor's note).

allowed to have children. Unhealthy and blind people and alcoholic parents were not allowed to bear a child and they were given contraceptive injection. An Act of Sterilization was enforced in 1933. One who destroyed a women's pregnancy and child birth would be strongly punished. In this way, population increase was encouraged. Each of the couples who were going to get married were given a government treasury bond of Mark 1,000. If a baby was born, one fourth of the bond's value was waived and if four children were born, the whole amount of the bond was waived. All those acts encouraged pregnancy and improved the country's population. With that population scheme, the population grew by 23%. If it continued rising at the same rate, the population in Germany was expected to be increased to 68 millions in 1935.

Again, Hitler solved the unemployment problem by creating jobs in the construction of buildings and new cities. By that means, he had prevented public unrest that might arise from an increase of unemployment. Simultaneously the national expenses would also be reduced by hiring cheap labour, instead of giving them government's benefits. The roads that Hitler built connecting Germany with Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland and Holland were long and efficient. Hitler's performances in this respect aroused suspicion.

In the days of Hitler, press freedom was also restricted. Max Amann,¹ an assistant to Dr. Goebbels, as the permanent officer of Nazi party, published party newspapers. All the newspapers, at the time of Amann, uniformly represented the voice of Nazi Party. All papers against Nazi Party's policies were closed and editors were arrested. According to an Act enacted in April, 1935, publishers had to report the list of shareholders to the government. Shareholders had to vow that they had a true Aryan ancestral lineage. Hence, all German newspapers were published absolutely under the complete control of the minister of propaganda. Dr. Goebbels also put restrictions on the broadcasting activities as well. Thousands of broadcasting officers had to obey Goebbel's orders. News was not transparent at all. Public opinion had very limited chance to getting news. They could know only what the German government allowed them to know.. Foreign broadcasts were restricted.

The German education system was only the one that supported Nazism. All subjects prescribed in the school courses were applied for Nazism propaganda works. A six-year old student had to count the number of brown-shirt troopers, draw pictures of black-shirt troopers and listen to the stories of Nazi heroes. In that way, students were trained to admire Nazism from childhood. Moreover, German youth had to join "Hitler Youth Association" and be

¹ Max Amann (1891-1957) was a was a German Nazi official, politician and journalist.

trained to trust Hitler and his Cabinet like Jesus Christ. Therefore, German educational system in Hitler's time was purely Nazi propaganda called "National Socialist" and scholarships by the government were granted only to the children of Nazi party members. According to Nazism, non-Aryans were not allowed to get university and vocational education.

One of the world famous activities of Hitler was a mass execution of Jews. In the time of former German governments, the economic, social and educational sectors of the country were dominated by the Jews. The Jews had a great influence especially in departments of medical science, legislation and education. 48% of doctors were Jews and almost all hospitals were under their supervision. 50% of lawyers in Berlin were also Jews, controlling the law business. Half of the medical teachers in Berlin were also Jews. In politics as well, the Jews took the better and more important positions. Under those circumstances, Hitler appeared to have intense loathing for the Jews, powerful in several ways. Since the time he came into politics, he continuously proclaimed "Defeat the Jews, Destroy the Jews". In his era, no Jew was allowed to attend meetings, vote, write in newspapers, work in civil service, become judge, make radio broadcast, give artistic entertainment, work as teacher or work in railway department, banks and hospitals. All opportunities for the Jew were closed. Therefore, it was rather fortunate for a Jew to live without being tortured by brown-shirt troopers.

Furthermore, Hitler was supposed to be placed at the same level with God as it was mentioned in Nazi Party policy on religion that serving Hitler was the same as serving Germany which was again the same as serving God. Hence, Hitler's Nazi ideology was opposed to different religious organizations. Every far-sighted political leader usually avoided confrontation with religious sects. But Hitler made the Nazi party more honoured by means of confrontation against the religious sects. One of the important rules of Nazi party was not to surrender to any other organization. In other words, the Nazi party had the desire to destroy religious organizations. No God but Germany was desired. As the words said by Hitler in his speeches "The attempt to make every German to have good standard of living" itself was the religion of modern German people, The Nazi party is the wholly reliable single destiny of Germany. Moreover, the Nazi Party lecturers tried to influence the religious organizations to give political speeches at religious sermons.

In Hitler's time, judicial policies of Nazi Party were also peculiar. That is considering the motive of committing the crimes. In other words, the way to define commitment by a Nazi Party member was different from the way to judge the commitment by a non-member. Additionally, the sentence handed down by former government was considered and the Nazis

who were convinced of political offences were acquitted. Again in April 1934, a court was formed with five judges: two lawyers; three others from the military police and Nazi party. It tried national traitors and punished them. German courts were under the political control. Both the Brown-shirt and Black-shirt troops were Nazi Party's followers and the judges were also party members. In other words, the courts were stooges of the Nazi Party.

Hitler usually gave priority to the "missing Germans" living outside the country and the restrictions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. In laying down his foreign policy, he decided to capture by force all the what Germany required, without caring about laws.

Based on the above mentioned foreign policy, Germany withdrew from the League of Nations. It carried out extensive arming. It concluded an alliance treaty with Poland in 1934. In the same year, Germany wanted to not only expand her air force, cavalry, artillery but also get rid of the artificial weapons applied by the Treaty of Versailles. France desired to continue restrictions on Germany imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. Hence, France and Germany were unable to reach an agreement on arming. From that time, Germany used all her own wealth only in weapons. There were plenty of weapons all over Germany. The Military Service Law was enacted on 10th March, 1935. The Law neglected the objections of the League of Nations.

As other European countries were concerned about Hitler's policies they signed mutual assistance treaties among themselves. France, Russia and Czechoslovakia signed supporting treaties. Germany also signed a Navigation Treaty on 18, June 1935 with the British. By such treaties, Germany had to reduce her Navy to make it smaller than that of England. Taking advantage of the navigation treaty with England, Germany occupied the Rhineland. - Although the League of Nations objected Italy's capture of Abyssinia, France supported Italy for its seizure of the State. Similarly, England was expected to support Germany for the capture of the Rhineland. Because England got involved, as expected by Hitler, in the capture of Rhineland by Germany, the sanctions that the League of Nations used for Germany's reoccupation of that land were not successful. If it had been successful, Germany would not have received sufficient gasoline and have had to give up its plan to seize the Rhineland.

In this way, Hitler gained public impression and reached the climax of political power. One of Hitler's speeches relating to the country's foreign relations was "One has to heighten the dignity of a nation by means of physical behaviour rather than bargaining, if it really wants to remove national indignity" .

Moreover, what Hitler always provoked in public was the problem of the “Missing Germans”. Germans living in the ten regions that were surrendered to the allied countries by the Treaty of Versailles were defined as “Missing Germans”. The unity of all those missing Germans was the major desire of Hitler and his Nazi Party. In other words, this meant that all those regions were to be returned to Germany. Because Germans lived all over Europe, Germany would influence the whole Europe if Hitler’s plan was implemented. If Hitler persistently tried to dominate the whole continent, Germany would inevitably appear in the form of military conflicts with other countries.

Again, in spite of having different basic policies, Italy and Germany were united based on the fact that they had same rival countries. From the military point of view, Germany thought more highly of Russia rather than Italy. Furthermore, Nazism, had no way to let Italy, also called Mediterranean people, get a part in her system of national definition. Mussolini, the Italian leader, also seemed to have no complete trust in Hitler. Hitler himself was not satisfied with Mussolini. However, Hitler believed that Mussolini had some manner of fighting battles hastily and forcefully and solving aggressively, the international problems by force of arms. Uniting the two military leaders had led to the political instability of Europe and eventually, to the next world war.

Although Germany had less interest, at first, in her colonies lost in the First World War, she later wanted to get back those countries. Before the First World War, Germany owned areas, one million square miles of colonies. But she could neither receive nor could use any special benefits from those areas. Therefore, Hitler was not so much interested in them initially. He changed his mind in 1934. He included in his speech to the Nuremberg Assembly, that a country should have property of colonial states or economic progress. In 1935, he added to his speeches the demands for international equality, military quality and colonial states. He sounded out that Germany would join the League of Nations again if she regained her colonial areas back. Because Germany had been facing problems of economy and overpopulation, when she became a colonial power, she had come into conflict with England and France who had been giant colonialists.

The British objected to the return of colonial areas to Germany. They gave three reasons for the objection: that Germany has not enough ability to administer the colonial areas, that Germany had agreed to abandon them by treaty, and that the people from those areas refused to be returned to Germany.

On the other hand, Germany argued that she had learned how to administer the colonized, that the country had previously agreed to give them up at the time they were defeated in the war, that there was no evidence to show the refusal by the people in the colonized areas. Hence, Germany and the allied nations were heading for war.

Comment

The book “All that Hitler Did“ was published just before the Second World War was about to break out. Therefore, it was a very timely publication.

In the Myanmar’s political situation just before the Second World War, Myanmar, young patriots were struggling in several ways for independence at that time. In that period, the Nagani Book Club was established led by educated young people with an intention of enriching political knowledge and broadening political vision.

The book club published many books reflecting the prevailing political conditions of the colonial era. The book translated by the author Shwe U Daung is also one of them. At that time, Myanmar young patriots were fighting for freedom from colonization. It could be learned that the Second World War was about to break out then because of Nazi Germany’s misdeeds. The colonized countries became the victims of the power struggles among the imperialists at the peak of their rivalries.

Therefore, in making several possible attempts for freedom, colonies needed to have special knowledge of the nature and conditions of the imperialist countries. It was obviously the theme of “All that Hitler Did“. In the preface of the book, the main aim of writing the book was mentioned as follows.

Our first desire is absolute freedom. But, before our achievement of independence, as the Indian leader Jawaharlal Nehru had said before, we would not like to have relations with the fascist countries like Germany, Italy and Japan but only with democratic nations. If we depend on those fascists for gaining independence, we would have worse enemies than our existing adversaries against whom we were now going to fight for complete independence.

In March, 1939, “Japanese Spy“ was published as Nagani’s selected publication. As the real image of fascism can be seen from both books, the public’s hope for Germany’s assistance declined dramatically. The book was written with an intention of providing the public better understanding of the colonialists’ inner nature, by describing the stories of the fascist countries like Germany and Italy.

As the above preface has said, Myanmar patriotic organizations and public had poor knowledge of the real nature of colonialist countries although they had strong desire for independence.

As people had only the wish to be free, they thought highly of fascist countries when rival imperialist like the British were ruling them.

It can be said that the years just before the Second World War were the period during which Myanmar young patriots struggled for independence in several ways. The desire to get freedom from colonization was such a strong driving force that made Myanmar people admire imprudently the fascists, the rivals of the British rulers. Therefore, this book about characteristics of fascist Germany, was a very good support or Myanmar's independence activities.

Moreover, when Germany was powerful in Europe, fascist Japan, the ally of Germany, was strong in Asia. (In this regards, the thirty comrades, led by Thakin Aung San, Myanmar young patriot, went to Japan. for military training later). The patriotic Myanmar youths founded the Doh-Bama-Asi-Ayone and made struggles for independence while the whole world witnessed a series of the most important developments in the history of the world. Therefore, Myanmar happened to take notice of the fact that the fascist Japan had become stronger and also learned a politically strategy to cope with the affairs, manoeuvring between the British and the Japanese.

The book played an important role in the historical Myanmar politics teaching. Myanmar people were taught about the nature and attitudes of fascist Japan and Germany that they definitely needed to learn. Additionally, a special intention of the book was to make the people understand better and to learn lesson as to show how Hitler's Nazi Party had won absolute power in Germany. It was because Hitler was able to make his Nazi party a really strong organization so that the German President von Hindenburg himself had to hand over power to him. The book taught such good lessons to Myanmar people for conducting their own activities, as Hitler did for his Nazi Party.

Anyhow, "All That Hitler Did" is a book that could widen the historical and political vision of Myanmar people. Also in the present age, it stands as a book that is providing the learners of political and general history of the world with knowledge of a huge historical value.

3. Commentary by Arthur Minsat

The Summary of *All that Hitler Did* by Dr. Shwe Sin Aung is a captivating book review, shedding light on Germany's history before the outbreak of the Second World War and its perception by contemporary Myanmar eyes. According to Dr. Shwe Sin Aung, the book strives to challenge the assumption that 'The Enemy of my Enemy is my Friend', explaining that Hitler's Germany may not be a trustworthy ally for Myanmar's struggle for independence against the British because of its threatening 'Fascist' and 'Colonialist' ideology. Published before the Second World War, it provides an unusually cautious perspective among Myanmar nationalists, who later allied with the 'Fascist Japanese' against the British. The book review is rich of well-documented facts and analysis and its structure corresponds to the one defined by the Nagani Book Club's editors.

However, it could be improved by explaining the aim of *All that Hitler Did* and its background at the beginning of the report, instead of its end. Highlighting the book's relevance for today would inevitably increase the interest of the reader. The context of its redaction by Shwe-U-Daung and its resonance within the erstwhile Myanmar society could be also clarified. How influential had been the book among Myanmar citizens? Secondly, the biography of Shwe-U-Daung should state (in only one sentence) whether he had any political affinities, and if so, with which parties. Finally, one would expect a deeper critical discussion of the book's predicates. The author of the book review agrees with some views expressed by Shwe-U-Aung, but does (s)he absolutely agree with everything? To my point of view, Germany was not really a colonial power when compared with UK or France. Its territorial ambitions mostly lied in Europe's heartland before overseas. Therefore, colonialism can not be the most important factor that triggered the Second World War. Besides, it is unclear why has the book been entitled *All that Hitler Did*. Are Hitler's fascist policies categorically rejected by Shwe-U-Daung, or are some of them (such as economic or labour policies for instance) praised as a model of success for Myanmar's independence struggle? Was 'All that Hitler Did' really so bad and to be all fustigated? Eventual weaknesses, limits or biases of the book are not mentioned either.

The former perception of Germany by a Myanmar intellectual is a most interesting testimony with respect to today's Myanmar-German relationship. From the Sixties until the end of the Eighties, the relationships between both states have been cordial and close. However, despite the friendship between nations, it seems that some kind of distrust prevailed between both countries to a certain extent. The Myanmar side was maybe careful not to

involve too closely with an economic giant who could become an anthropophagous friend. On the other hand, all Germans did not seem to be equally interested in their Myanmar counterparts because of the geographical distance. I would be delighted if Dr. Shwe Sin Aung could find the time to answer to some questions raised in this brief comment, particularly about the Myanmar-German relationship.

3. Shwe Sin Aung, Reply to Arthur Minsat's Commentary

Dear Arthur Minsat,

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your comments on the review of the book entitled "All What Hitler has done". As you remarked in your comments the entire people of Myanmar never accepted colonialism nor fascism during the independence struggle. However, considering and observing the historical events in the world (particularly relations and war situation between Britain and Germany) Myanmar political leadership led by Maj-Gen Aung San and his colleagues had no plan to cooperate with the Japanese originally. He secretly left the country for China to seek arms and military training assistance with the sole aim to drive out the British from the Myanmar soil. On the way, however, he met a Japanese military officer named Suzuki and he changed his plans and went to Japan for military training there. The main aim of Maj-Gen Aung San was not that he was in favour of Japan but with the help of Japan, a military power, he wished to drive out the British from Myanmar.

As he knew later that the independence granted by Japan to Myanmar was a fake one he planned to wage a resistance.

This book was quite popular among the Myanmar public who only knew much about the British colonialist. So, they took interest in Germany and Hitler. However, they did not copy the way Hitler had done in their independence struggle. In my opinion, out of the entire Myanmar people those who disliked Hitler would be in the majority.

According to the biography of Shwe U Daung and articles he had written, he had never been a member of any political party. He wrote articles and comments on political, economic and social affairs as a newspaper editor. He preferred writing to politics. He was imprisoned during the parliamentary democracy period for inserting an article critical of the ruling AFPFL government.

You and I see eye to eye on your stand as stated in your comment that colonialism was not the only cause of the World War II. There could be numerous factors that caused the WW II.

Shwe U Daung named the book "All What Hitler had done" in order to describe in detail Hitler's childhood days, his mentality in his youth, his efforts, how he was involved in the WWI, how he founded Nazi Party, how he tried to assume power, and his political manoeuvres in dealing with other colonial nations. However, Shwe U Daung did not make any comments on the works done by Hitler. He only presented the events as they were and it was up to the reader himself to use his intellect to consider things (whether Hitler had done the right thing or not).

In the independence struggle of Myanmar, there had been no case in whatsoever of copying what Hitler had done. The book enabled the readers to study the imperialism and the situation of the Western powerful nations.

Your remarks on the current German-Myanmar relations are very interesting. I believe the peoples of the two nations will be able to maintain closer ties if the news and information between the two nations can be exchanged speedily and the German and Myanmar literary works can be translated into each other's languages.

Yangon, March 2010

Shwe Sin Aung

III. Material on Thein Pe, *Who's Wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain ?*

1. Kyaw Hoe, Bibliographical Information

Translation: Gunnar Peters

34) Thein Pe Myint: *Who is wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain?* Thein Pe, Rangoon, Nagani, 1939. 93 p.

This book can not be said to be published by Nagani. It mentions as publisher Maung Thein Pe, Sanchaung, Yangon. But it was printed by Nagani and is written by a leading member of Nagani, so it looks like it was published by Nagani. In the back, other books by Thein Pe are listed: *Tet Phone Gyi (The Modern Monk)*, self-published, 8 Ana; *Biography of Saya Lun*, Nagani, 10 Ana; *The Striking Students I & II*, Nagani, 10 Ana; *Your Advise(?)*, Nagani, 4 Ana; *Burma and Colonialism* (in print); *Is Germany Foolish?*, not finished, Khit Thit, 6 Ana. *Who is foolish, Hitler or Chamberlain?*, self-published, 6 Ana. So it was surely published by himself. In the end it is signed and dated 09/19/1939.

In the introduction, he warns the Burmese, saying that democracy has to be the aim, and he explains Nehru's standpoint. Nehru's view being the guide for the Indian people not to lose themselves in minor battles. The intention of the book was to make people aware of the world war that had begun in Europe, to intensify the wish for independence in the Burmese people, and to prevent the danger of war. It explains that the clash between the British colonial power and Nazi Germany was unavoidable, and it covers all major events. Also writes about the strive for war of Hitler's fascism as the highest stage of capitalism.

October 2, 1939, 40,000 copies, sold for the price of 8 Ana.

2. Nay Lin, Review of the Book “Who’s Wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain ?” by Thein Pe

Review translated into English by Dr Tin Hlaing

“Who’s wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain?” by Thein Pe (Thein Pe Myint) is a book published by the Nagani Book Club at the start of the Second World War. It compares and contrasts the art of politics practiced by the leaders of the two primary contestants in the World War, British Prime Minister Chamberlain and Nazi leader Hitler.

Biographical sketch of the author

Thein Pe Myint was born in Budalin, on July 10, 1914, of parents U Ba, a land surveyor and Daw Myint. He went to U Po Nyan’s school in Budalin for his early education. He finished the Intermediate of Arts from Mandalay College in 1932-33 and got his B.A degree from Rangoon University in 1935. He started writing in 1933 using the pen-name Wa-nay Nga-Pe. During 1934-35 he was an executive member of the University Students’ Union and then he became a member of Do Bamar Asi-ah-yone. In 1937-38, he worked as a member of the educational sub-committee of the Nagani Book Club. He was active as an organizer of anti-Japanese movement during 1941-42 and as Secretary-General of Burma Communist Party in 1945-46. During 1946, he was Joint-Secretary of AFPFL (Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League). In 1952, he joined the People’s Unity Party and also worked for the World Peace Congress and China-Burma (Myanmar) Friendship Association. He also held the posts of President and Deputy President of Writers’ Association. He had been Managing Director and Chief Editor of Botataung newspaper which he founded in 1958.

He visited India the first time in 1936 and in 1942 he was a war-time traveller in India and China. He participated in the meeting of the preparatory commission of 1952 Afro-Asian Peace Conference in China. Since then, Thein Pe Myint had visited the countries of the East as well as the West as an agent for literature, culture and peace.

Well known among Thein Pe’s literary works are *Saya Lun’s Biography*, 1937; *Tet Phongyi* (Modern Monk), 1937; *Tet Khit Nat Soe* (Bad ‘god’ of a New Era), 1940; *U Saw Bi-lat Thwar Pya Zat* (U Saw Goes to England, a play) and *Nay Yit-taw Khit Haung* (Farewell to a Past), 1952; *Sit Ah-twin Kha-yee-the* (War-time Traveller), 1953; *Ashay-ga Nay-wun Htwet the-pa-mar* (Like the Sun Rising in the East), 1958; *Kyaw Nyein*, 1961; *Wi-thay-tha Taing*

Tha-maing Ah-sa (The Historical Origin of the Special Division), 1967; *Taik-pwe-win Sar Myar* (Writings in the Literary Struggle), 1968; *Thi-dar Pyone* (1968).

The Contents in Brief

The World War II broke out on September 3, 1939, with England declaring war against Germany, after the failure of several peace negotiations between British Prime Minister Chamberlain and Hitler. Actually, Chamberlain was reluctant for war not because his country was weak and its colonies would rise against it; it was because the evils of the First War were still unforgettable. Roughly 41 million people had perished during the First War, and in addition an inestimable and frightening number, world wide, had died due to disease and starvation. Former British Prime Minister Baldwin had foreseen the disaster and warned, “Were the war to come again, all human possessions and culture that had been built up over the ages past would crumble like the Roman Empire”. Ludendorff,¹ the German Field Marshal had also warned, “As the coming war would annihilate all war-like races, all men, women and children ought to be preparing for war, except during time for sleep”. Inevitably, the situation prevailed and Chamberlain had to face war.

Food and accommodation has all along been the most important aspect of economy; food for primitive man had never been as difficult as it is for the present. Population then was few, natural resources were plenty and food was abundant; livelihood was easy. Love, compassion and such moral values used to regulate human relations. However, as population increased, competition arose and food became scarce, people came to find it harder to make a living. Moral values declined and people quarrelled. As people tried to find food they went to fertile lands and green pastures and formed communities, giving rise to villages and towns and their leaders. Ownership of land and home and cattle and property came. Although women enjoyed the same rights as men at the time when they could live by eating the cream of the soil, when the age of hunters came women became dependent upon men. It became the lot of the women to cook, to look after children and take care of domestic chores. The concept of ownership, my home, my land, my wife, took root and people vied for ownership with each other, among individuals, among families, among races. In this way, economic pursuit, as a means to support livelihood, had become the determining factor which changed societies.

At the present, the economic system has become more sophisticated; it has advanced to the stage of farming and manufacturing in factories instead of hunting and fruit fetching. Trade and business replaced commodity exchange and bartering. Businessmen then became

¹ Erich Ludendorff (1865-1937) was a German general and conservative politician. (editor’s note)

motivated by prospects for profit. For example, English merchants bought commodities cheap from farmers in Burma and India and sold them for profit in their country. Their profits then went back to Burma and India as investments in agriculture. Such an economic system, motivated by profit incentive, led to exploitation of man by man, class by class and race by race. Competition in business also resulted in the drive for increased production which in turn led to the search for, and acquisition of new markets abroad; non-industrialized countries became the marketing grounds for capitalist nations. The capitalists then reinvested their profits in banks and roads and railways. To enable them to sell their products freely and to make secure investments they needed, and sought for new colonies.

In this way the gap widened between the rich and the poor. The poor natives of colonial countries wanted to bring down the capitalist system, while in the capitalist countries the capitalists did their utmost to preserve the system. The capitalists being a very small group had to rely on the use of arms; indeed as capitalism grew older, military weapons improved in quality as in quantity. Between 1913 and 1930, Britain, America, France, Italy, and Japan brought up their scale of weapons production: the English expenditure on arms amounting to Sterling pounds 140 million in 1932 increased to 160 million in 1936; the US defense budget of 628 million dollars in 1933 jumped to 1162 million in 1936. The Japanese had increased their expenditure from 454 million to 1322 million Yen between 1931 and 1936. Germany had kept its defense spending secret, but according to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, after Hitler came to power, they had spent 1600 million pounds Sterling. In this way the capitalists have reached the stage of doing business using bombs instead of *viss-weights*.

There were three stages of the capitalist economy: (i) business only capitalism; (ii) industrial capitalism and (iii) political capitalism. The first stage of capitalism removed the constraints imposed by feudalism. Rascals and thugs who worked for the capitalists robbed merchants leading to wars between feudal lords and merchants. In this stage there was no need for possession of colonies; they were only grabbed when it was easy to do so. Capitalism in the second phase also did not require colonial lands; only wars big enough to overcome obstacles in exporting their products to underdeveloped countries were fought. In the third stage acquisition of colonial lands became of prime importance. Improvements in the means of production had enabled the production of large amounts of goods demanding aggressive search for market space to sell them. Naturally this led to wars of aggression, or armed conflicts between the imperialist powers. This is how all wars across the globe had their origin in the capitalist or imperialist system.

Again, there was the desire of the capitalists to invest their money in their own colonies. The English investment in India and Burma amounted to 700 million pounds Sterling which went into building roads and bridges, factories and business enterprises which yielded 100 percent profit. As workers were paid low wages, the capitalists' profit margin stood seven times as high as the total wages paid. This is how the British and French capitalists have been profiting from their colonial countries.

Germany, a non-colonial power, became envious of England. Italy, emulating England, invaded Abyssinia. Japan intruded into China; she even went as far as attempting to grab the colonial lands belonging to the English and French. The English, French and Americans, used to enjoying the benefits of owning colonies, would rather not yield them. Inevitably, the struggle for colonial lands became unavoidable among the capitalist countries.

In the mean time, in 1929 came the world economic depression. Driven by profit motive, the capitalists produced large quantities of goods which the majority, the poor folk, the proletariat, could not afford to buy. The unsold goods piled up. Fearing that the prices might drop, some capitalists dumped huge amounts of unsold surplus goods into the sea. The colonies dependant, on raw materials, could not export their products and the peasants were the worst effected economically. Unemployment resulted from the closure of factories. In this way the effects of economic crisis which developed because of the capitalist system reached the whole world thus prompting expansionism among countries. It brought into being two capitalist groups which quarrelled about tariffs, trade laws and fiscal constraints and eventually fought with cannons and automatic weapons.

England and France were top in colony ownership, but Germany and Italy had almost nil. Colonies which once belonged to Germany had fallen into English hands and Hitler had openly demanded them to be returned; he even threatened that if the colonies were not given back, the world would face war and suffer. Worried by this problem, the political circles, in England, France and America, urged redistribution of colonial territories as solution. However, on February 12, 1936 the British Secretary for Colonies stated in parliament, "Britain is not prepared to consider returning any of her colonies". During this time Germany was becoming more productive and its requirement for raw materials was growing. To solve the problem, she desperately needed her own territories. This led Hitler to invade neighbouring countries, to build strength and then to rob colonies from Britain.

Since the First World War ended, Germany had surrendered its colonies as well as all her financial investments abroad. Effectively she had been driven off foreign markets. By the

Treaty of Versailles, the German army was reduced in strength, its strength limited to one hundred thousand men. Her economy suffered badly. German capitalists were hit hard, burdened by credit payments. However, Germany managed to sustain her increasing industrial output and could catch up with England. She became industrially the most advanced and had the most systematically organized capitalist economy. In accordance with the inherent nature of capitalism to colonize, Germany woke up to seek territories. And between 1929 and 1933 she had been hit hardest by the economic depression. The Germans became restless and aggressive; they became attracted by the policies of Nazi party headed by Hitler.

Hitler himself was eager for war. He had stated his belief that war could improve human qualities. He also said that Germany could not regain her colonies just by demanding, it's only by war that they could be restored. Then in 1934 he breached the Versailles Treaty by expanding his army and armament build up. Arms production was increased and in 1935 compulsory military service was introduced.

As the capitalists vied in the economic sector, the system's continued existence and development drove them to the stage of armed conflict. Because of the need for markets for industrial products and areas to invest surplus money, industrial powers scrambled desperately to acquire colonies and as they did so they came to the verge of war. The world had become too small for capitalism. At the same time the lot of the poor subject races was getting worse daily; their demand for finished goods declined. The capitalists then began to divert their productive potential and excess money into arms production. Military armaments build up became the backbone of capitalist economy. As England and Germany competed in the arms race, military spending increased and firms which manufactured weapons earned ever increasing profits.

China and central Europe were the regions where the capitalists clashed head-on. England, France, America and Japan vied for territory in China. In central Europe Germany and Italy, powers without colonies, were set against established colonial powers, England and France. While the capitalist countries were at odds among themselves, there was in addition the antagonism between them and communist Russia. Hitler captured the moment to exploit for himself. He pretended to hate the anti-capitalist Russia and asked for assistance from the English. Taking advantage of the rivalry between Britain and France, he took aid from Britain. And Japan, likewise, exploiting from the competition between Britain and America took aid from Britain.

Although the English and Americans shared the heritage of common blood and language and culture, as capitalists, they became adversaries when it came to their own interests. During the First World War, America fought on the side of the English because it did not want to lose its financial investments. The war helped America's economy, making her the world's richest country. Before the War, England's productivity exceeded America's, but after the War the situation reversed. England, hit hard by the War, had to reconstruct her industries with borrowed money from America. But what was important for her was the growing disagreement, politically and economically, with her dominions. The dominions had become economic allies of America, resulting in declining British exports to them, but increasing America's. The major share of capital investment in countries like Australia and Canada was held by the Americans. The political leaders in the dominions openly declared their intention to ally with America and demanded to secede from the British Empire. With America expanding its economic interests in the British Empire as well as in England, the clash arose between the capitalist America and the economically outdone English capitalist.

Among the capitalist countries, Britain and France had the best relations. They fought together, when they had to, but disagreed when they shared the spoils from war. For instance, at the end of the First World War, Britain wanted to scrap the German navy and confiscate her territories; but France wished otherwise. She wanted Germany to be relegated to a fourth class nation, to disarm her and to usurp the Lorraine, Germany's source of iron and coal. She wanted to be the leader of Europe and to extract reparations out of Germany. But Britain did not support French intentions. When France invaded the Rhineland in 1923, Britain objected. In the 1921 Greek revolt against Turkey, Britain sided with Greece while France supported Turkey. In Europe, in order to prevent France acting unilaterally, Britain aided Germany. By the Anglo-German Naval Agreement of 1935 Germany was allowed to build submarines at the same level as Britain. In response to British moves, France favoured Italy. When Italy invaded Abyssinia, France supported her. In this way, Germany and Italy tried to benefit by using to their advantage the Anglo-French rivalry, the competition between Britain and America and the antagonism between the capitalist world and Soviet Russia.

The English trusted Hitler who always campaigned to attack communist Russia and they were concerned that, if Hitler fell, a communist government would gain power in Germany. Lord

Burdon,¹ the British ambassador, suggested an alliance of England, France and Germany to fight Russia.

On the other hand, Japan was taking her chance to benefit from the Anglo-American competition and the conflict between the capitalist world and Russia. America wanted monopoly in China; but England wished to negotiate with

Japan for equitable settlement in China, requiring only that Japan, instead of disturbing India, should confront Russia. Indeed, the English wished Japan to guard her territories in the East. According to the terms of a treaty made in 1894, England built warships for Japan. That year, Japan went to war with China, and following victory, took possession of Korea. In 1902 a treaty of alliance was agreed between England and Japan and in 1904 war broke out between Japan and Russia. After the war, Japan gained Port Arthur, Liaoning peninsular and Southern Manchuria. In 1905 Japan and England made another alliance treaty for mutual military assistance.

After the 1914-18 War, the United States deliberately moved to disrupt the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. Although the treaties between Japan and England were discarded in 1921 due to the American initiative, the two countries continued their cooperation as before. Actually, peace in the Far East depended upon the friendship between England and Japan. But the capitalist powers, contending among themselves, were assisting Fascist nations hoping them to come to their side. Germany, Italy and Japan, the Fascist nations, when they became powerful, did not thank the capitalists which helped them. Hitler bitterly hated Russia, but he knew German strength was no match for the manpower, resources and the military might of Russia. He delayed attacking Russia; instead he turned against England and France which had helped his country. Indeed, the plans Hitler followed revealed his true intentions. As soon as the Nazis came to power in 1933 he planned to re-arm Germany. In 1934 a treaty of alliance was concluded between Germany and Poland, a first step for Germany to fight Russia. In July 1934, the Nazis assassinated the Austrian Chancellor Dolfus and schemed to annex the country, but the plan failed because of Italy's opposition. In 1935 Germany reclaimed the Saar, and in violation of the Versailles Treaty prescribed compulsory national military service. She was also able to make a naval agreement with Britain. In 1936 she put Rhineland on war-footing, thus breaching the Locarno Treaty. In March 1938 Germany occupied Austria and in September the same year she snatched Sudetenland out of Czechoslovakia. Even Czechoslovakia was invaded in January 1939. In September the city of Danzig was captured

¹ The British ambassadors to Germany until the beginning of World War II were Eric Phipps (1933-1937) and Neville Henderson (1937-1939)

by Germany. Following Germany's invasion of Poland, England and France intervened, and the Second World War began.

The British Prime Minister Chamberlain accused Hitler's untruthfulness and his mismatch of words and action as the cause of the Second World War. His words conveyed some measure of truth. The reason was, some horse liked to gallop when the rider was on back; when reined in, it would shake off the jockey. Likewise, capitalist leaders like Chamberlain who rode the 'military horse' had no option, but to let it gallop.

Comments

Thein Pe, the author of "Who's Wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain?" had been a student of international affairs, as well as a fighter for Burma's freedom. In this book he has written about the causes of the Second World War in relation to historical processes. Being published at the beginning of the War, the book deserves credit as an eye-opener for the Burmese public. The author has objectively surveyed the causes of the War and has found that both the First and Second World Wars have their origin in the capitalist system – the single capitalist motivation for profit, and imperialism attempting to gain markets and raw materials. The author also highlights the development of various businesses and economic systems arising from the way people solved the problems of livelihood. As population grew, so did competition in business and economy which culminated in imperialism. The strong bullied the weak, individual by individual, class by class and nation by nation. The worst of it was the exploitation of the down trodden class of workers and peasants by the big capitalists and the competition among them which upset the world economic order, the economic depression leading to territorial wars which intensify and developed into global wars. The book explains and shows the related causes and sequence of events that had brought the Second World War. In a war it is an eye opener to enlighten the Burmese people.

Moreover, the book explains the rivalry between the World War II contestants England and Germany, its basically capitalist and imperialist nature. In particular, it highlights the political blunders committed by the Nazi leader Hitler. Even today the book is useful for those who wish to study the historical causes that brought about the Second World War.

3. Larah Wessendorf, Commentary on Nay Lin's book report „Who's Wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain?“ by Thein Pe

“Who's wrong Hitler or Chamberlain” by Thein Pe was published at the beginning of World War II and dealt with the political procedure of the British Prime Minister Chamberlain and Hitler before 1939.

Dr. Nay Lin begins his review with a short biographical overview of the author Thein Pe, his political activities, his trips and a selection of his important publications. Thereafter, follows a detailed summary of the book and at the end a commentary of Nay Lin's, describing the book as an eye-opener for the Burmese public.

I found it interesting to read about the start of World War II from a Burmese point of view. In the way that Thein Pe gives an overview about the character of capitalism, he explains that the trigger for the outbreak of World War II could be found in the capitalistic system.

The explanation for the relationship between the USA and England, France and England as well as Japan and England make it difficult to follow his train of thought.

In conclusion, I would be interested on the one hand to know why the book is an “eye-opener” for the Burmese public, and on the other hand if the question presented by the title was consciously chosen or if that Thein Pe's goal was to answer it. If so, what was Thein Pe's final conclusion?

4. Nay Lin, LETTER TO LARAH WESSENDORF

Dear Larah Wessendorf

I'm much delighted to read your discussions on the book "Who's wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain?" written by Thein Pe. I've found three questions in your discussions: 1. Why did the publication open the eyes of the Myanmar people? 2. Is the author's purpose to answer the question "Who's wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain?" and 3. What's the author's conclusion?

The first question concerns me, who wrote a critique of the book. In my assessment, it is mentioned that the book served as a guide that enhanced the political knowledge and outlook of the then Myanmar, or as a book that politically awakened the Myanmar. If we look back at the political situation in Myanmar at the outbreak of World War II, it can be seen that it was a time when Myanmar were striving to liberate the country from the life under the British colonial rule. Holding the motto "Difficult as the English are, it is opportune for Myanmar" - which refers to the situation of the English being involved in the War - Myanmar was planning to intensify political movements. At such a time, it became necessary to foster a political programme for the political organizations that would lead the entire mass of the people. Regarding this, the Nagani Books Association was enlightening the people on the world political situations and revolutionary events through successive publications.

At that time, a political ideology that Nagani Association and most Myanmar political leaders had espoused was communism or leftism. They believed that leftism was a political concept that would eradicate capitalism and capitalist ruling class. They also assumed that this ideology only would serve as a good political weapon that would bring the country out of the British capitalist control.

Viewing from the leftist angle, Myanmar had published a lot of books that criticized and assessed ill consequences and adversities of capitalism. Thein Pe's compilation was one of them. His book acquainted the Myanmar people with political ploys of the two contemporary world leaders, Hitler and Chamberlain, and the concepts and perversions of capitalism.

In the book, the author did not give an explicit answer to the question - "Who is wrong, Hitler or Chamberlain?" What is mentioned includes the two leaders' vying for colonization of new regions, competitive extension of military strength, planning to gain the upper hand through various moves in the political games, and gradual movement towards the World War. It is found that the author has presented the two perverse models of capitalism, Hitler and Chamberlain, and allowed the readers to figure out the answer from their own hearts.

The main purpose of the author (Thein Pe), as I can see, is an agitation to combat the regional expansion of the capitalists and capitalism.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Nay Lin

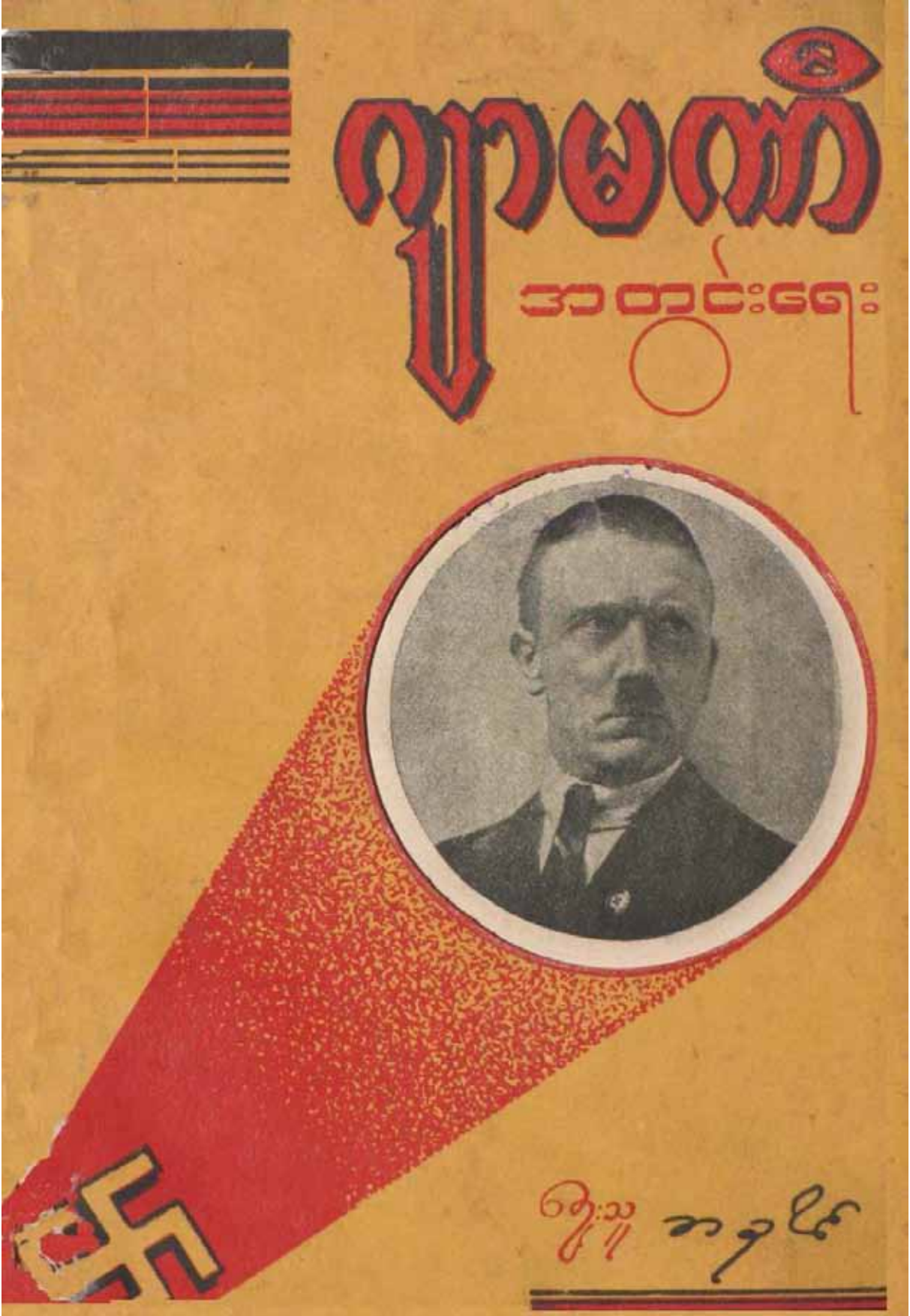
II. Material on Ba Khaing, *Internal Affairs of Germany*

1. Kyaw Hoe, **Bibliographical Information**

83) Ba Khaing: *German Internal Affairs*. Rangoon, Myanmar Publishing, 1940. 200 p.

The big war was about to break out, people wanted to know about the war. Some people started to say that the Burmese were mistaken in their view of Hitler as the Great Ruler from the scriptures (the Setkya Minn). Therefore Nagani and Htun Aye wrote about German affairs, Hitler, and Nazi policy. They try their best to unmask the fascist ogre and to educate the Burmese populace about its danger. This book is a book that achieves these goals. 3000 copies, price 8 Ana. In the introduction and the bibliography there is a list of books: 1) Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, 2) E.O. Lorimar: *What does Hitler want?*, 3) Konrad Heiden: *One Man Against Europe*, 4) Dr F. Borkenau: *The New German Empire*, 5) Gordon Taylor: *Hitler: A Biography*, 6) Goebbels: *My Part In Germany's Fight*, 7) M.C. ??? : *The Germany of Today*, 8) Prof. [Stephen Henry] Roberts: *The house that Hitler built*, 9) Stefan Lorant: *I was Hitler's prisoner*, 10) John Gunther: *Inside Europe*, 11) Douglas Reed: *The Burning of the Reichstag*, 12) Edgar Mowrer: *Germany Puts the Clock Back*, 13) Leonardo Blake: *Hitler's last year of power*, 14) Nobel: *Lectures*, 15) ??? *News*, 16) *News Review*, 17) *Yoke-son/Illustrated(?) Post*, 18) *Manchester Guardian*, and other newspapers.

The aim of this book is to oppose Nazi fascism. But Hitler was very successful in reconstructing Germany. So it's also about finding appropriate ways to build a modern Burma, and for gaining general knowledge about the world. With details about the progress in Germany from 1914 until 1940. Germany could be a big lesson and example for Burma.



Title Page

2. Nay Lin, A review of “Internal Affairs of Germany” by U Ba Khaing

Translation: Tin Hlaing

The book “Ger-ma-ni E-twin-yay” (Internal Affairs of Germany) was published by Nagani Publishing House. Although the date of printing is not mentioned in the book, it is recorded at the end of the Writer’s Conclusion “The 3rd Waning Day of Thadingyut, 1301 Myanmar Era. So, it can be reckoned that it was brought out in 1939, the year when World War II began.¹ The writer was U Ba Khaing , who had also authored “The Politics of Myanmar.” He also played a significant role in the history of Myanmar’s independence struggle.

The author mentions in the Introduction that he has compiled the book impartially, just referring to relevant publications. He has provided a complete list of references:²

1. Mein Kampf (Hitler)³
2. What Hitler Wants (E.O. Lorimer)⁴
3. One Man Against Europe (Konrad Heiden)⁵
4. The New German Empire (Dr. F. Borkenau)⁶
5. Hitler’s Biography (Gordon Taylor)⁷
6. My Part in Germany’s Fight (Dr. Goebbels)⁸
7. Germany in my Time (M. Seaton Wagner)⁹
8. The House that Hitler Built (Stephen H. Roberts)¹⁰
9. I was Hitler’s Prisoner (Stefan Lorant)¹¹
10. The Burning of the Reichstag (Douglas Reed)¹²
11. Germany Puts the Clock Back (Edgar Mowrer)¹³
12. Inside Europe (John Gunther)¹⁴
13. Hitler’s Last Year of Power (Leonardo Blake)¹⁵
14. Norvell Predictions¹⁶

¹ According to the “Catalogue of Books”, the book was published in January, 1940. (editor’s note)

² The following footnotes were added by the editor.

³ The book was published in English in 1938 by Hurst & Blackett, London.

⁴ Harmondsworth, Penguin 1939.

⁵ Harmondsworth, Penguin 1939.

⁶ Harmondsworth, Penguin 1939.

⁷ Gordon Taylor, Hitler. A Biography was published in 1939 in London by Pallas Publishing Co.

⁸ The book contains Goebbel’s diaries of 1932 and 1933 and was first published in London 1935.

⁹ Rich and Cowan Ltd., London, 1935.

¹⁰ First published in 1937 by Harper and Brothers Publishers, New York.

¹¹ Harmondsworth, Penguin 1939.

¹² The book was published in New York in 1935.

¹³ Penguin, 1938.

¹⁴ First published in 1936 by Harper and Brothers Publishers, New York.

¹⁵ Andrew Dakers Ltd, London, 1939.

¹⁶ Latin letters in the original text.

15. Cavelcate News Agency¹
16. News Review (News Agency)
17. The Manchester Guardian (Newspaper) and extracts from other newspapers.

The author makes it clear in the Introduction:

“This book carries my aims - to inform the readers of how things are dealt with in other countries; for them to enhance knowledge: for them to emulate others; and to enable them to find ways in their struggle for regaining national independence. Only if one of these aims were to be realized, would I be worth taking pains in compiling this book.”

Accordingly, the book “Internal Affairs of Germany” is impregnated with methods to be copied and applied in Myanmar’s endeavours to wrestle back independence. Especially, Myanmar needed a well-defined political programme and modes of operation. It was a time when various ideologies such as capitalism, fascism, Nazism, socialism, communism, etc. had emerged in the world political arena. It is also a book which portrays the good as well as bad characteristics of each ideology for the knowledge of political leaders and people of Myanmar.

The book deals at length with changes in German politics and Hitler’s attempts to grasp power in a period from the outbreak of World War I to that of WW II in 14 chapters.

Summary

It was on June 28, 1914 that a member of the Serbian Patriotic Association assassinated the Crown Prince and his consort of Austria who were on a tour of Sarajevo in Bosnia. In retaliation, Austria encroached onto and attacked Serbia. Twenty - four countries including France, Russia, England, Japan, Italy, Romania and America joined Serbia in countering Austria, which was also supported by Germany, Turkey and Bulgaria. Thus, the First World War broke out.

Before the war, Germany, as an industrially thriving country, won respect from the entire world. Germans were enthusiastic about fighting in battles and so every male tried to be a soldier. Every young person assumed that a knife scar on any visible part of the body such as the face, the head, the neck and the hands was a mark to take pride in. Moreover, Germany set a model in the observance of rules. German women thought that they would be successful in social relations only after they had got married and given birth to children. As is mentioned, every German felt eager and elated to fight when signs of the First World War

¹ Burmese: ကတဲလ်ကိတ် သထင်းစဉ်း

breaking out was looming in the near future. Kaiser Wilhelm II declared war in compliance with the wishes of the entire nation. Germany, which enjoyed prosperity previously, was faced with starvation. However, the entire people braved it without regarding it as trouble. In the beginning, the Germans expected that the war would end within a short period. In reality, contrary to their expectation, the war became protracted. American President Wilson issued a statement, calling for the cessation of the war. Germany did not accept it. The people of Germany, who were troubled by the scarcity of food, craved for the termination of the war. Britain and France had the same desire. But the German emperor did not recognize the call for peace.

Lenin, who founded Russian communism, exhorted the soldiers and civilians not to take part in war for the capitalists, and their morale gradually abated. In 1918, allies of Germany - Bulgaria, Turkey and Austria - surrendered, and Germany did like wise. The First World War changed the map of Europe. Big countries disintegrated into small countries. Some countries were liberated from servitude.

Versailles Treaty was concluded on June 28, 1919. Two thousand million Deutsche Marks were paid in war reparations to the winning countries. The value of the German mark declined. In the aftermath of the war, the poor suffered from hunger as they did not have money. What little money they had did not pay for runaway inflation prices

. The people who had left their jobs to go to war could not recover their former jobs when they came back from the battlefield. They found their places of work already occupied by Jews, who dominated every place or every business sector. Although every German did not like the situation, the Jews, whose strength was overwhelming, could not be defeated. Despite the prestige Germany had gained as the most bribery-free government, high-ranking officials themselves were self-seeking in the post-war era in collaboration with the villainous and fraudulent persons. The victorious countries also sent spies to Germany so that it would not rear its head again. At the same time, patriotic Germans formed a clandestine association SSGG (Stick-Stone Green-Grass)¹ to do away with these spies. Women became morally loose. Children without fathers came into being. When the Abortion Bill was submitted to Reichstag for approval, the Christian clergy protested against it. In the same manner, the Same Sex Partner Bill submitted by an MP to Reichstag failed as Catholics protested against it.

In 1933, of 40 million German grown-ups, two and a half million only had 3500 DM each to be invested for their livelihood. Over six to eight million were jobless. Hence, if the

¹ Editor's note: The existence of such a group could not be confirmed.

head of a household could earn enough money to feed the entire family, the other members of the family had to resign from their work. In this way, the government managed to offer jobs to the others unemployed. As the German mark was not recognized by other countries, they had to barter goods. Hitler used up 18 million marks' worth of gold coins, which he had collected on his occupation of Austria to buy weapons. It was an act aimed at re-arming Germany, which had been humiliated, and showing strength. He directed his efforts more at strengthening the military than at national economic development. Moreover, under National Socialism, he nationalized farmlands and lent them to farmers under tenancy. But the farmers were restricted to grow crops the government needed. Buyers could not get as much as they wanted, and instead, the produce was limited. The German government also confiscated the property of the Jews and annexed the Saar province of Austria and Czechoslovakia, and thus, Germany regained economic strength.

The government came to control the press. It allowed the local newspapers to write the brighter side of Germany, and had good news about Germany carried by foreign papers. In this way, the Germans eliminated contempt on Germany. When the Nazi party came to power in 1933, it closed down 184 socialist and communist newspapers, and confiscated the printing presses. Dr. Goebbels, a stooge of Hitler, managed activities for the propagation of Nazism. As word of intimidation to suppress Jews was spreading, Jewish newspapers reporting only the ill aspects of Germany came to cringe. Widespread propaganda campaigns brought Germany to the status of commanding the entire world's respect. Especially, Hitler was recognized as the best speaker by the world. Information Minister Dr. Goebbels, Hitler's disciple General Dr. Goering, and Dr. Schacht from the economic sector were among those who pulled Germany up from a state of contempt.

At schools, children were taught from the elementary level about German heroes, military hardware and weapons and a sense of adherence to Hitler's words. Beginning in 1933, the Nazi government formed amateur corps at schools such as the Nazi Boy Scouts. Every student was compelled to join the association under order. Students between 14 to 18 years of age were to join the Hitler Jugend. At 19, they were recruited into the Workers Force, where they had to study various vocational skills for six months. It was also compulsory to attend the Military Academy where they were made to learn military science for two years. After leaving the Academy, they could choose to do a profession, or continue pursuit of education at a university., Those who were engaged in their professions had to join Sturm Abteilung (Police Force) or Schutz Staffel (the Guards Corps). A person who had attained age 35 was allowed to quit the amateur military service, but his name was still kept

on the reserve list. Those who were over 45 were exempted from military service. The Military Academy, supervised by Dr Robert Ley, admitted pure Germans only. There were three wings for lecture at the Academy, and each wing accommodated 1,000 students. The academic period was three years. As the products of the Academy were intended to serve with the German administration, they had to be qualified and morally upright. It was also provided in the law that students who breached the above-mentioned important requirements were to be sentenced to death. Students were brought from their parents and sent to the Academy under order. Those at 24 or 25 years of age were chosen and had to get married before going to the Academy.

Hitler was born on April 20, 1889 in a town named Braunau, Austria, at the border with Germany. His father, Alois Hitler, earned a living as a shoe-maker. After separation from his first and second marriages, he married Klara on January 7, 1885. Four years later, Hitler was born. Hitler had a little sister, Paula, and little brother, Eduard, and also cousins. As his father had died since his childhood, he was brought up under his mother's care. As a child, he did not get good education. When his mother died in 1907, his life became destitute as there was no one to rely on. He tried to join an Art College in Vienna, but failed. He had to work, doing odd jobs, in association with beggars and vagrants. Sometimes, he approached charity associations for his bread. Despite leading such a life, Hitler did not do anything morally wrong, and tolerated hardships with honesty. Eventually, he earned his livelihood as a painter, and lived in a small, low-cost apartment, rent only to the poor. He had not been recognized as a human being till age 25. Since he was young, he had been interested in politics, and so read newspapers and meditated over political affairs. He considered people around him not worth to deal with. Consequently, those in his surroundings regarded him as a conceited or crazy person.

When World War I broke out in 1914, he served in the German Army. Hit by a bomb debris, he received treatment in hospital. He was hospitalized again in 1918 for breathing in gas. He was dutiful in the army. For his valour, he was awarded medals two times. After being discharged from hospital, he served as a detective who had to inquire affairs in the country and report them to the government. He was not pleased with the Versailles Treaty made on conclusion of the First World War. He conceived that Germans were defeated at war because of the implications of the Jews inside and outside Germany and Russian communists, and thus, decided to take revenge on them. On one day at a meeting of the German Workers Association, as he protested to the plan to secede Bavaria from Germany and integrate it to Austria, everyone present seconded him. The six-member association admitted Hitler to be its

seventh member. Since then, Hitler became a politician unwittingly. Hitler's good speeches helped increase the number of the association members. In 1920, he resigned from the Army and worked with heart and soul solely for the benefits of the association. The name of the association was also changed from the Social Revolutionary Party to the National Socialist Party. In March, 1920, Kapp rebels led by Dr. Kapp rose up. Two leaders, Hitler and Eckart,¹ were sent to support the insurgents in Berlin. When Hitler and the other arrived in Berlin, the insurgents had already been cracked down by the government forces. Prior notice given by Trebisch-Lincoln,² a British Jew, they escaped. In 1923, Hitler became a great leader, but did not have any money. A friend of him had to buy him clothes. In cooperation with his former mentor Roehm, he formed the police force extensively. When the French occupied the Ruhr region of Germany, the people in the entire country were dissatisfied. With this as a reason, people led by Hitler rebelled against the government. He organized patriotic troops in the country and formed the German Fighting League for the uprising. Though he could co-opt two military generals and the Bavarian President von Kahr under intimidation into the revolt, the revolution was aborted. The court convicted Hitler of high treason and sentenced him to five years in prison. Respected by the people around him, he could stay in prison in peace and quiet. He even compiled an autobiography (Mein Kampf), dealing with his endeavours. Altogether four million copies were printed, and became the best seller in the world.

After nine months in jail, he was released on December 25, 1924. As the primary party was weak, he re-built Nazi party on February 27, 1925. Many jobless young men joined the Hitler's S.A. police force. In 1928, all 12 members of the Parliament became Nazi party members. In the meantime, communism of the Russians became strong and wealthy persons in Germany were frightened. Hence, leader of the Nationalist Party, composed of the German wealthy, Hindenburg offered to cooperate with Hitler. Some members of the party were arms dealers. Moreover, steel and mining businessmen disbursed as much money as Hitler wanted. The Nazi party was branched off into various sections - information, national affairs, workers, peasants and finance, which elatedly acted in every town. Many educated young men were given salaries and were made to do the party tasks. As the party could get good persons such as Dr. Goebbels together, the Nazi party became the largest party in Germany. In the 1930 elections, Nazi party won over five million votes, and 107 candidates of the party were elected MPs. The communist party won 1,400,000 votes only. Thus, the entire country came to rely on the Nazi party.

¹ Dietrich Eckart (1868-1923) was a journalist and mentor of Hitler (editor's note).

² Ignaz Trebisch-Lincoln, born 1878, lived in China after 1921 and died 1943 in Shanghai (editor's note).

In the presidential election, altogether five candidates, including Hindenburg, the president in power, were nominated. Hitler was one of them. But, it was under plan to refuse Hitler's application under the grounds that he was an Austrian, not a German. Aware of this, Hitler took up the position of Political Assistant at the governmental office of Brunswick province, where there were Nazi party members. For this, Hitler's application had to be accepted. In the election, Hitler won the second position with 13 million votes, next to Hindenburg with 18 million votes. Thus, Hindenburg continued to serve a second term. The fact is that though Hitler should not have rivalled such personality as Hindenburg, the amount of votes he won showed the extent to which the country relied on him.

Though Hitler had not become president, he expected the position of the Chancellor. However, Hindenburg, who detested Hitler for competing against him, did not offer the post, nor did he let him form the government. He also kept Hitler's Storm Troops under suppression. In the 1932 election, the Nazi party collected 14 million votes with 230 members elected MPs. But none of the parties was eligible to form a government alone. Although Hitler planned to form a coalition government, and take the position of the Chancellor, but Hindenburg did not approve it. He also did not take the position of Vice Chancellor. When the election was held again for the second time, 196 candidates only of the Nazi party were elected. The government was faced with a situation of one cabinet member quitting and another assuming, alternately. Hence, von Papen agreed to form a government in collaboration with Hitler. His purpose was to control Hitler. Finally, President von Hindenburg accepted Von Papen's proposal to offer Hitler the post of Chancellor.

It had not been one year long since power came to Hitler when Hitler and his cronies created in no time a condition to influence Germany. They could not fulfil the requirements of the citizens nor did they keep their promises. Hitler had expected that his party would lose the election. On February 27, 1933, a fire destroyed the Reichstag building. Hitler spread a rumour that the fire had been set by the communists, and about 5,000 communists were arrested. The entire world accused Hitler that communists were arrested by trapping. Hence, newspapers of the socialists and communists were closed down, without letting the other countries know.

Again, when Hitler won the election again and could form the government, there were attempts to get rid of Hitler's S.A. or Storm Troops, which was commanded by Roehm, Hitler's one-time mentor as well as his confidante. The S.A. force had two million members. When Hitler told Roehm to reduce the strength to 25,000, the two were divided. As Roehm was an influential person, Hitler dared not handle this situation carelessly. Before arresting

Roehm, Hitler gave him one month's leave. After the one month, the members were also given one month's leave. Then, Hitler himself went to Roehm's office and arrested him. Roehm told Hitler to shoot him by himself. Eventually, Hitler's disciples executed him. The early July in 1933 marked a miserable period when cruel acts were committed. For three days, Hitler had all those who were against him killed.

Beginning on April 1, 1933, anti-Jew strikes were staged, led by Hitler himself. As Jews were arrested and persecuted, many Jews fled the country. It was sounded that national affairs must take precedence over religion. Though Hitler was cruelly committing murders, he at the same time was working in the interests of the citizens. The citizens, who required diversions, felt gratitude towards Hitler, who also strove for the sufficiency of food and availability of jobs. In 1933, Germany quit the League of Nations. In a referendum, President von Hindenburg himself and the German people supported the move. When von Hindenburg died on August 13, 1933, Hitler assumed both the presidency and premiership. It was announced in 1936 that Lokarno Treaty was no longer recognized.

Hitler did not stay mixed with women, nor did he have many companions. When asked why he did not associate so much with women and other persons, he replied that his love and kindness was set aside only for the German people and Germany. Though he was introduced to prestigious and beautiful ladies, he did not show interest. No woman, except his mother Klara, could wield influence on him. Yet, he was dutiful in social obligations. When the wife of Information Minister Dr. Goebbels was hospitalized for serious illness, Hitler often asked after her. Like Mussolini, Hitler was fond of singing and music. When the address No 16, Prince Regent Square, Munich was mentioned, everyone knew that it was Hitler's residence. His house was not so grandly laid out. It was rather like the house of goods dealers and manual workers. He was moderate in dressing. He usually wore a silk shirt with a bluish black felt coat on top. Despite his honesty, the entire nation was awed by him. No one dared to associate with him. It was a significant fact. Sometimes, he singly and independently moved about in the country. He was not afraid of being assassinated. In Berlin, he lived in Berchtesgarden residence, which had been built with the public money. But the one in Munich was built with his own money. Hitler was not a self-seeker. He did not use his salary, and instead, he donated all the money towards the workers fund. He also donated all the money from selling the copies of his book *Mein Kampf* to the Nazi party. What was significant about Hitler was that he was not covetous of money and did not have attachment to religion. He strove all-out for the development of buildings and industries. All the Germans trusted and paid respect to Hitler as a god while those from other countries considered him the

“Mad Dog” of Europe. Hitler clearly said that he would not allow compassion to interfere in killing people in order to establish a system that would bring welfare to the country.

On November 28, 1934, the British Parliament was divided over the news that Germans were preparing for war, and hence, Britain too should do likewise. At the same time, France and Italy made an agreement to help Austria in case Germany invaded it. As a ploy, Germany issued a statement, announcing that it would not annex any other country. After discussions between France and Britain, they signed an agreement that Germany was to have the right to prepare weapons in limitation for maintain its national peace and order. On March 16, 1935, Germany issued a statement, ordering every German who had attained the adult age to join the army. The order shocked the entire Europe. On March 25 when Hitler and the British Foreign Secretary held discussions, Hitler unequivocally said that Germany, being an enemy of Russia, did not wish to be a signatory to any peace treaty involving the Eastern countries; that Germany could made a treaty not to attack another country; that it would not sign any peace treaty; that it would not re-join the League of Nations; that areas that had been annexed from Germany should be returned; that he could not say definitely that Austria would be maintained as an independent country; and that the reason was Austria was an area under Germany. Concerning the matter of reducing military strength, Germany took a hard stand.

At the session of the League of Nations on April 17, the need to take action against Germany for its invasion was raised and the matter of arms reduction in Germany was also discussed. The Russian Foreign Minister proposed that action should be taken for the prevalence of peace in the countries outside Europe. Later, Italy attacked Abyssinia area in Africa. France and Russia made a peace treaty. Britain made a maritime treaty with Germany, which did not satisfy France. As unity was disintegrating in Europe, Britain and France had but to stay with folded arms to see whatever Hitler was doing.

Germany, ignoring the Lokarno treaty, sent German troops to the Rhine Valley. On March 7, 1936, German troops were stationed in the Rhine valley. As the French Parliament passed a decision not to attack, Hitler had realized his aim. As Germany prepared war by deploying troops in the Rhine valley, the independence of Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia was not certain. The Abyssinia incident caused a split - Italy on one side and France and Britain on the other. But Germany did not take part in the move to take action against Italy.

As signs of reconciliation between Italy and Britain appeared, Germany planned to annex Austria. Without accepting the Austrian Chancellor's negotiations, Germany invaded Austria on March 11, 1938. After occupying Austria, Hitler sent a message of gratitude to

Mussolini by telegraph. Despite its promise, Germany brought Czechoslovakia under its rule. Although Czechoslovakia asked Britain, France, Italy and Russia for assistance, none did respond. As Hitler stated that it was Germany's last action, Czechoslovakia was handed to Germany under the 1938 Munich Agreement.

Germany demanded the return of four regions in Poland to it. In the post-WW I period, Germany was weak, and so, had to make an alliance treaty with Poland. Germany had waited for six years before attacking Poland. The aim of Germany to occupy Poland was that the provinces in Poland were useful for interaction between nations in Europe and for military purpose. As Germany attacked Poland in September in 1939, World War II began.

The supreme aim of Germany was to dominate the world by undermining the strength of powerful countries such as America, England and France. It also aimed to market German products widely and procure sufficient raw materials. It was only to watch whether these aims would be realized. Countries rivalling Germany thought that Germany's success would be transient and it would come to complete destruction under fire. Despite the criticism of other countries, the Germans would praise Hitler's activities as they could enjoy benefits directly.

Review

As the book "Internal Affairs of Germany" was published at the beginning of WW II, it provides knowledge about the military situation in Germany and Hitler's endeavours to grasp power. As it reflects the life images of Hitler who had risen up in the German political world from the bottom to the top rank as a world-famous leader, there are many facts to be taken note of by the Myanmar political leaders. It also deals at length with the root causes of World War II. The diligence and perseverance and the goodwill of the author should be appreciated for he has made it available for Myanmar readers to be able to assess a great country that launched a world war. As the references are mentioned in the introduction, it provides readers who are interested in politics with an opportunity to continue their pursuit of the topic. The book has also pointed out the need that a strong political organization, like Germany, was needed for Myanmar in the colonial era, and also the fact that a good practice of cooperation essential in mapping out plans. In the modern world too, it is a good book which helps those who wish to study the history of WW II and the process of Hitler's political life.

3. Commentary on Nay Linn's Book Review of U Ba Khaing, "Internal Affairs of Germany" by Christoph E. Mann

The reviewer has produced a well structured report of the book under review covering publishing date, sources of information available to the author (p.1), objectives of the book (p.2) and its contents (p.2 - 8), closing with a short review (P.8 - 9). The contents could be subdivided as follows (my structure): WWI and the effects of the Versailles Treaty (p.2-3); Hitler's rise to power in 1933 (p. 3-4); a biography of Hitler (p.4-6); the consolidation of power of National Socialism (p.6-7); Hitler's personality (p.7) and the build up of international tension towards WWII (p.7-8). The reviewer obviously assumes however that the author is known to readers, as there is no biographical or historical information given.

The difficulty for U Ba Khaing as well as for the reviewer must have been, that they had only English texts. Thus they had to harmonize Translations of the autobiographies of Hitler and Goebbels on one side and critical German writers' and British or American writers' publications on the other. Some contradictions in the text may result from that fact. They would have become less obvious if generalizations would have been made less frequently ('every German felt...', 'the wishes of the entire nation', etc.). The review does not allow finding out whether certain statements are unclear already in the original publication or just due to the shortness required in the review.

Although the reviewer reports that the book "portrays the good as well as bad characteristics of each ideology", it seems that a fascination about the rise of the Third Reich dominates over the bad characteristics of National Socialism: how a suppressed nation can just simply ignore international treaties, occupy foreign territory and disown and expel selected groups of citizens. Admittedly the whole terror and lawlessness of the regime had not yet unfolded at the time of publication of the book, but some of them had happened already and were discussed internationally. If the book aims to find ways to regain national independence for Myanmar, does it turn a blind eye on the brutal side of Hitler's raise to power and its regime of war and crimes against humanity? The book certainly does not point out the methods which the book suggests to be adopted by the Burmese independence movement. Or is the book itself vague on this despite this being a stated objective?

Beyond the book review proper the last chapter of the report could gain from an expanded history of the effect of the original book: Did the leaders of the independence struggle refer to it in any way directly or indirectly by referring to Hitler Germany to explain their actions or strategies? Or was Hitler only useful because he forced Britain to use resources to run the war thus distracting her from further consolidation of her Empire? And has the book significance today beyond "being a good book which helps those who wish to study the history of WWII and the process of Hitler's political life" (last sentence of the review)?

5. Nay Linn, Reply to Christoph Mann's Commentary

Dear Dr. Christopher E. Mann,

I am much pleased to receive your comments on the review of the book "The inside story of Germany" written by U Ba Khine. Thank you for your discussions and questions raised in your comment. I have noted that in the political world during the colonial time in Myanmar there were two persons with the same name "Ba Khine", one was Mehm Ba Khine and another Fabian U Ba Khine. There may also be other "Ba Khines". The Nagani Publishing House published "The political history of Myanmar" written by Fabian U Ba Khine. The Myanmar Literary Project has already conducted a review on this book. So, it is likely that the writer of the "The inside story of Germany" will be Fabian U Ba Khine. The book published by Nagani Publishing House did mention the name of the writer but not his biography. As I wrote the review of that book speedily I had no time to find specific facts about the biography of the writer. I will inform you in due course if I find reliable evidence that the writer was not Fabian U Ba Khine but another person. At the time of writing "The inside story of Germany" the writer referred various English books he had read to awaken the political awareness of Myanmar people. As such, there may be incomprehensiveness and weaknesses from the historical point of view. I was in no position to have access to all the English books referred by Ba Khine. It is hard to find books that were brought into Myanmar before the Second World War. So, I made a review of the book written by the author himself. I gained knowledge when I read the additional facts about Germany before the world war.

The aim of 'The inside story of Germany' was not to inspire Myanmar political leaders to copy the efforts made by Hitler. Its aim was to let the people under the British colonial rule know the political tactics or intrigues of the world capitalist nations. At that time no prominent political leaders in the country supported or emulated the ideas of Hitler. Similarly, 'The inside story of Chinese revolution' by Tun Pe, 'Personal experiences of India' by Tun Shein and 'My beloved husband' by Shut-Ni, all published by Nagani Publishing House portrayed the political struggles of China, India and Russia respectively to enable the Myanmar public to notice the struggles in those nations. The contents were not meant for the Myanmar people to directly copy them.

Hence in connection with your question asking whether the political tactics of Hitler directly or indirectly influenced Myanmar independence struggle, the answer is negative. However, Myanmar people came to notice the attitudes and political tactics and intrigues of expansionist leaders. Also at present those wishing to study the history of the Second World War and the

political life of Hitler may refer to the book to an extent although not comprehensively.

Yangon, March 2010

Nay Lin

V. Material on Tha Dun, *Germany*

1. Kyaw Hoe, Bibliographical Information

Translation: Gunnar Peters

93) Thar Dunn, U: *Germany*. Rangoon, Burma Publishing, 1940. 150 p., 1 map

Published on September 12, 1940; 2000 copies, price 8 Ana. The 46 page introduction is not about German history in general, but about the biographies of Bismarck and Hindenburg. These two figures have influenced the path of contemporary Germany. The book tries to give Burmese nationals a better understanding of Germany. Bismarck and Hindenburg have planted the seed of modern Germany. The writer aimed at the benefit the Burmese could gain from the study of the biographies of the two figures.

2. Tun Aye, Apology

Translation: Maung Maung Aye

This book (Germany) is a product or the result of continuous efforts involving ideas, compilation and writing of the three persons, namely, my teacher Kayabala (Body building) U Shein, who provided supervision, Tha Dun, the author, and myself, for three months overcoming numerous obstacles.

The author and I, the publisher, would like to express our readiness to accept the readers' views, critical or otherwise, after reading the book since it has been distributed to show our goodwill towards the country.

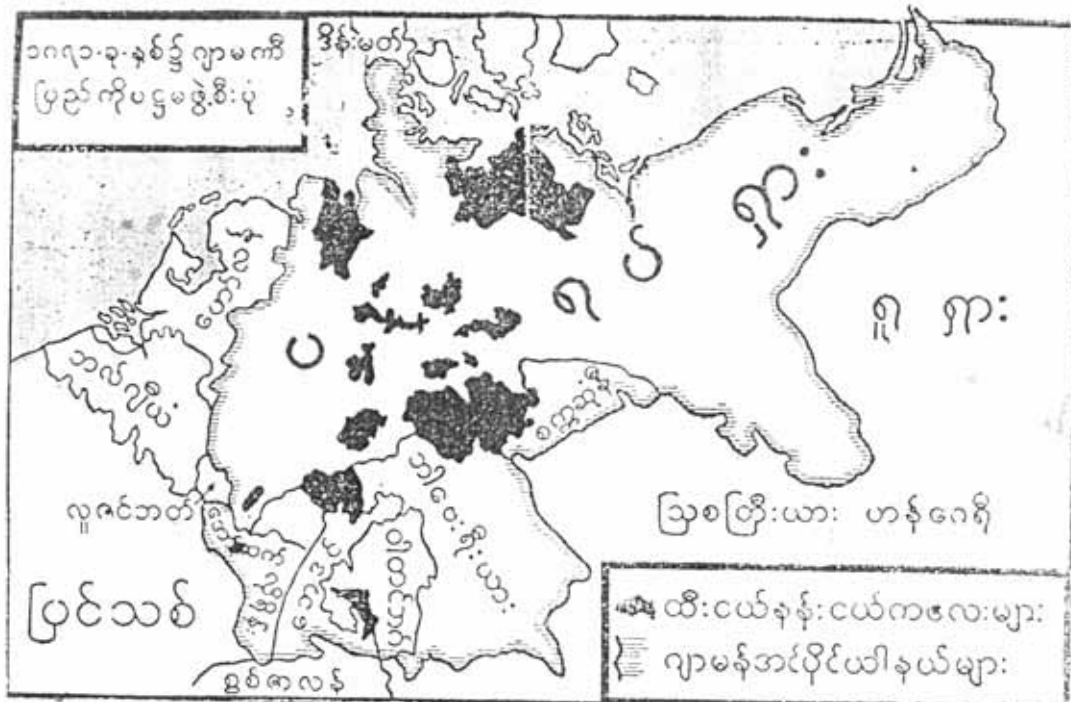
If the readers appreciate how easy to publish a book but how difficult to make it a fine work, it is believed that you will forgive us for the delay in distributing this book.

Tun Aye

The publisher

7-9-40

1871 – First German Empire



Lesser Principalities
Germany's borders

3. Tha Dun, Foreword

Translation: Maung Maung Aye

A history book will only be complete if it is written from the very beginning of the world. For an average person who has to attend to his daily needs he will hardly have time to study history of that kind. However, everybody living in this world needs to know or acquire certain extent of knowledge about the world considering the fact that lack of such knowledge would prove his performance less effective. At the same time literature of this sort needs to be published to enable them to study.

Germany these days is posing a threat to the world. Therefore, the people the world over are paying attention to that nation. Who knows all the details about Germany? It is unlikely that a knowledgeable person of that sort exists. I am not well-versed in the German affairs either nor have the level of knowledge acquired by history teachers studying the subject. I am an ordinary man residing in Myanmar. So, what I possess is the average level of knowledge that is not much. The art of writing is not my profession. In response to the encouragement of the publisher who asked me to write whatever I have learned and to the advice of my teacher who suggested me to write the subject after reading the relevant materials, and one reason was to earn a living and another was because I was in no position to exert much physical effort, I write this book.

The topic Germany I am going to write is not about the German history. I do not know the history of Germany. I just intend to write about the biographies of two or three persons who strove for the rise or fall of Germany. But when I do so I have to deal, to some extent, with the history of Germany. So, I entitle this book 'Germany'. For instance, if we deal with Alaung Phaya we will have to give some facts about Myanmar. Like manner, if we write about Chiang Kai Shek, we need to touch upon facts about China.

Biographies of the German personalities related to the history of Germany are as follows:

Apart from the beginning of the world history, we need to discuss facts about Germany from the period around 1870. It is because Germany at the time or in the 1860s, lesser principalities were scattering across the nation. Holding full powers the greater ones tried to rule over the lesser ones. Not very long ago that Germany became a consolidated nation in proper order under one government. In the past it was under the control of Holy Roman Empire and later under the empowerment of Napoleon when a specific monarch was delegated authority to rule the land. However, the nation could not be consolidated due to lack of discipline. Certain monarchs who occasionally got hold of authority were those of Austria-Hungary or Prussia.

Otto von Bismarck was the leader who finally created the unified Germany.

In 1861, William I ascended the throne and he appointed Bismarck the Chancellor. Bismarck won victories in the war with the Austrians in 1866 and with the French in 1870; both tried to control the lesser principalities of Germany. As a result, Prussia had been able to rule the entire Germany throughout till the end of the First World War (1914-1918). From that time onwards, Germany became a unified one and she could keep her head high in Europe. Now, as we observe her steps she seems prepared to take hold of the entire world.

In my opinion, if we know the biography of Bismarck who initiated shaping the future of Germany we will also know the original dream of that country. The map of Germany unified by Bismarck may be studied on the first page.

Besides Bismarck, we should also need to know facts about someone else. When we discuss facts about Bismarck we also need to know relevant facts about certain periods of German history. As we write about a personality, facts about his country have to be discussed. Similarly, as we write about a country we will have to explain facts about its neighbours to an extent. So, before discussing Germany I would like to deal with relevant facts about Europe.

Prior to the First World War (1914-1919), there were six leading nations in Europe, namely, England, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Italy. Out of the six, the first three - England, France and Germany - were more important than others. And out of those three major nations, England, in most cases, played a leadership role in all fields. The main reason was that the scattering English people were placed under the rule of a parliamentary system in which the elected government organized the people. This kind of administrative system was implemented 200 years earlier than that of Germany.

At a time when nations in Europe were engaged in the holy war and localized feudal wars, the English were actively engaged in the industrial revolution, conducting trade and commerce and expanding the territories or colonizing distant land in order to enrich the nation for years. That was why it surpassed Germany many times.

France, on the other hand, concentrated on agriculture and did not rely on industries. So, it did not need to find markets in the colonies and it did not have many like the English. It only acquired some colonies since it thought it was not wrong to do so. France and Germany had no difficulty in their economies. However, Prussia regarded Germany as its enemy since the latter took away the king of Prussia, and Germany seized the two regions, namely, Alsace and Lorraine.

In the time of William I, Germany got united and from that time onwards it tried to bring

about economic progress of the nation. But genuine efforts were made towards that end only in the time of William II (Kaiser). He encouraged establishment of industries and winning of colonies in search of raw materials there.

Germany at that time was 200 years behind England to exploit resources in the world and as such it found it difficult to secure a place in all aspects. Its efforts to conduct trade and commerce with nearby countries were blocked by the Balkan nations in the south, with distant lands like China were stopped by the growing influence of Japan, and with south America were hindered by the United States of America. The worst was the English who wielded their influence in almost every part of the world. Every suitable place in the distant land was colonized by the English. Moreover, foreign trade plus coal and mineral deposits were in the hands of the English. Under the circumstances, the Germans felt they were isolated and in no position to manoeuvre amidst the major countries. That was why the Germans tried to overcome all the hindrances and obstacles and remove the barriers including the English. Then only could they unify the Germans around the globe. They established colonies in the Pacific and in Africa. They made sure that all the German products and goods were of the best quality. Meanwhile, they organized the German army that would win victories in every land battle. King Kaiser also built the largest navy that was unprecedented in history and the pride of the country. Germany's rise in power thus posed a threat to the English which had to deal with the problem.

Meanwhile, the unavoidable Boer War (1899-1902) broke out between the English and the Boer people of Africa. European nations snubbed the English for waging the war. Previously, the English had to deal with the two enemies, France in the west, and Russia in the east for the sake of India. The situation then changed and Germany became another enemy to be reckoned with.

King Edward VII, the grandfather of now reigning King George VI, made all attempts to ease tension between the English and Germany. However, the problem remained unresolved.

The English had no alternative and had to join forces with the French. It was heartrending move for the Germans. Hence, a group of German naval officers were determined to crush the English navy. In 1914, the war broke out between the English and its allies on one side and Germany on the other. As known to all, the Germans suffered a telling defeat in the war.

After the war Germany had to reorganize the nation which was in chaos everywhere. The federation of Germany in the past was under autocratic rule which caused disintegration of the country. So, Kaiser and the crown prince fled to Holland. The Kaiser appointed a member of parliament named Ebert, a socialist, to manage the affairs of the State. As such, the monarchy of

Germany ended.

The very first job of Ebert was to seek what 'ism' or system of administration the German people wanted. When the elections were held in January 1919 for new Germany, most of the candidates who won in the elections turned out to be the leftists.

At the first session of the parliament held in Weimar on 6 February 1919, Frederick Ebert, was appointed the president of Germany. He remained in the post for seven years. As the first German national government was established in Weimar it was called the government of Weimar Republic.

After the unification of the German principalities by Bismarck in 1871, King William I who ascended the throne was not autocratic. He took charge of the administrative affairs of those principalities in accordance with the wishes of the majority. At that time the regions under the domination of Prussia were Bavaria, Saxony, Wurttemberg and Baden. There were many lesser principalities.

The administrative system in Germany at that time was like that of the English. For instance, although the English monarch had sovereign powers, in the areas of Maha Rajas in India administrative affairs were carried out in consultation with the Maha Rajas. Apart from important and serious matters like waging war against other countries or collection of tax and revenues or education of the confederation, other matters of local interest were dealt with by the local authorities such as governors or kings. Roughly, the administrative system of Weimar Republic of Germany was like that of the United States of America and that of Australia.

The initial tasks of the government of the Weimar Republic were to deal with the conditions decided at Paris conference by the allies after the German defeat in the war (1914-18) and to rebuild the nation after the losses suffered due to the war and rebellions. It was no easy task for the new government. Indeed, it was a difficult task. First and foremost, armed forces formed with as many as more than a million soldiers were disbanded and they were sent home. Farmers and workers alike had to resume their original livelihoods. Although farmers could continue their jobs workers found their factories and industries lost in the war or closed. Therefore, workers numbering tens of thousands were out of work.

What was worse, although the World War had ended the English did not withdraw its naval blockade. So, most people hardly had enough food and had to steal candles donated to the churches. They melted the candles and used them as butter to eat with bread.

Furthermore, the former soldiers who had fought the war risking their lives were not hesitant

to steal or rob when their families had nothing to eat. The whole of Germany was in disorder.

Army officers returning from the war were dragged out of the motor vehicles, their uniforms torn apart, badges removed and their swords broken. Shops were looted and houses were destroyed. The sound of a burst of machine-gun fire was often heard from the streets. Everybody's life was in danger. Human life did not seem to be worth that of the animals. During the turmoil, a great numbers of German leaders who instigated the compatriots to valiantly fight in the war got killed. The government of the Weimar Republic solved the crisis out of much difficulty.

It was quite a burden for the government to deal with those problems. Yet, there was a similar immediate task of the government - that was to revive the economy of Germany. Unless this task was undertaken urgently the ongoing crisis could not be dealt with. Here financial situation of Germany at that time should be clarified briefly.

Prior to the war, gold coins were used in Germany in payment and settlement of debts. It means that money was calculated according to the value of gold. The difference was that the gold coin bears the mark of the king whereas normal gold has no markings. Gold ornaments such as bracelets, earrings etc could be used in place of gold as money. During the war, the English were in need of a lot of gold for purchasing weapons from other countries. So, all the gold coins deposited in its treasury were kept and paper money or currency notes were issued within the country instead. It was a measure like the English government borrowing gold from its citizens. The citizens acknowledged the move and used the notes which carried words pledging that a specific note was worth 10, 20 and so on. The people did not lose trust in the government for that action. The government on its part never failed to fulfil its pledge. In fact, the English was economically strong and the people themselves preferred paper money to gold coins since they felt the latter was weighty.

Germany too took similar measures during the war and issued currency notes in place of gold. After the war or in 1919, however, all the businesses were brought to a standstill; reparations were paid in gold and the people were in confusion. Under the circumstances, the Weimar government found no way out in its search for a solution. Regardless of the situation of gold deposits in its hands, it issued huge amounts of currency notes to the people to keep business going on in the country.

Currency notes are like goods sold at shops. For instance, if mangoes are plenty during a certain season they will come to the market in bulk. The merchant will sell them at cheap prices. When the situation changes and the fruits are scarce the merchant will sell them at high prices. If

the fruits are plenty they are cheap and if they are scarce they are expensive or valuable. It is simple. Currency notes are the same. They are worth much or valuable if they are scarce and they are cheap if they are in abundance.

The government of Germany, for the sake of convenience, issued enormous amount of notes and the number of notes had risen immeasurably. The people came to realize that the government would not be in a position to exchange such amount of money for gold as promised.

According to financial analysts, exchange rate between US dollar and German mark was one US \$ equal to 2,500,000,000,000 on 15 November 1923 compared with one US \$ against five German marks (3.50 kyats in Myanmar currency) in the past. It meant that Germany had neither money nor gold then.

As the value of German currency notes fell day by day the merchants and shopkeepers alike would not like to use them. Instead of using the notes people began to exchange goods or practiced barter trade. The butcher gave beef to the green grocer to get vegetables. Store keepers issued butter to clerks as wages. Similarly, the baker had to give bread to get necessary items in return. But the practice would never last long. A person who sold pianos would find it hard to sell a piano every time he needed something. However, the car drivers, conductors or postmen - the non-businessmen - had to accept those worthless currency notes.

The issue of the great amounts of currency notes in Germany did not in any way serve national interests. In fact, it had opposite impact. Customers who deposited their money in the banks during the pre-war days suffered immensely. For instance, if a merchant deposited his money in the form of currency notes in the bank or kept them in a safe place would find them very much reduced in value from the time he deposited in the bank or kept them in a safe place.

Despite the devaluation of the notes, there were those benefited most from the situation. They were land owners and creditors. The areas of the land they owned remained the same so the land owners did not lose anything. Creditors had to repay the original amount so in practice the money they owned in tens of thousands to be repaid in very small amount of money in real value.

It was usual that thefts, cases of robbery and rebellion were out of control when the entire country was in confusion. There were also plots to topple the government. The major incidents were the communist rebellion in Ruhr in 1920, the rebellion in Thuringia in 1921, the Kapp putsch or the movement to install monarchy in 1921 and the uprising of Hitler and group in Munich in 1923.

In the meantime, the allies, namely, the English, France and Belgium and others, tried to get war reparations from Germany and took hold of certain German territories in an attempt to put

pressure on the country.

After 1923, it seemed that the sun shed light on Germany and the sky above the country got bright and clear gradually. The allies who had won the war began to think that instead of watching at worsening situation in Germany with folded arms they should assist her financially for recovery in order to get the reparations. In 1924, a meeting chaired by General Doll of the United States reached a decision and the US lent Germany sufficient amount in gold for her recovery.

Then only did the troops of the allies withdrew from Germany. So, the country was put on the right track. In 1925, President Ebert passed away. He was succeeded by General Hindenburg, who was famous in the previous war.

Only after the assumption of the presidency by Hindenburg all the confusion came to an end. In his reign, trade and commerce and industries developed. Von Hindenburg managed to restore the nation into normalcy. When he was in command under the Kaiser he valiantly fought for Germany and won victories. Germany lost in the war because the country was weak in its economy. He kept winning battles when engaged with the enemies. Von Hindenburg had been able to show his talents in the political affairs when he was given the presidential position.

A study of the history of Germany will show that the Kaiser and others of Germany caused the fall of the nation whereas Bismarck, von Hindenburg and others brought about the rise of the land.

As I have discussed in the foreword, it would be proper to write about the biographies of a few personalities who brought about the rise of Germany instead of writing about those who caused the fall of the nation. In writing this book I intended to present the efforts of Hindenburg in addition to facts about Bismarck.

When Hindenburg passed away in 1935, there came into power Hitler who has been widely popular these days. At present, it would be hard to describe Hitler as one who would cause the rise or fall of Germany. We find it hard to predict what would happen in future because his moves differ from those stated in the history books. Moreover, he makes great strides. As we are observing his plans and moves, we, the people of Myanmar, should be aware of them to some extent. We are pleased to read relevant facts since there have been many publications written by Myanmar writers.

The biography of Hitler should be compiled only after his death. As regards his measures that rocked the world and his plans should be discussed and written. It is because we, too, are also involved to an extent in shaping the future of the world. So, I thank those who have written about Hitler for the benefit of Myanmar people with no knowledge of English language. As I appreciate

their writings about Hitler I would like to add some facts about Hitler in this book entitled 'Germany' ..

What I would like to write is not what Hitler has done or what he is doing because such matters have already been written by others. And they have already been featured to an extent in Myanmar newspapers and periodicals. So, they are known to the people of Myanmar.

I wish to inform the Myanmar public confronted with English language barrier of what plans Hitler has in fighting and swallowing up Poland and Danzig in the east, Austria and Czechoslovakia in the south, Norway and Denmark in the north, and Holland, Belgium and France in the west. And in his latest moves and plots to take over the island of England he seems to be determined to make or break Germany.

It is widely discussed among the public that if Hitler wins the war he will dominate the globe but no one says in public how he would rule it in specific terms. In this connection, I would like to make the people of Myanmar know what I have learnt concerning facts about Hitler.

The Germans have already laid down a policy guideline for the future once they have won the ongoing war. This is known to everybody. However, that is kept in secret and therefore it will be difficult to single out the details. The scheme has been discovered due to leakages from various sources. One may ask if it is possible to correctly describe the secret plan of the Germans based on the leakages that could not be confirmed. It will be up to the readers themselves to decide whether the facts to be written are logical or not.

The German plan is to establish a customs gate in Berlin and make the city the gateway to Europe; then it is to take control of financial and economic matters. After the establishment of a customs union trade and commerce around the globe will be carried out systematically without interference. This way there will emerge the most systematic and largest business organization in the world. Russia, however, is not included in the German plan. As far as business matters are concerned Russia is somewhat different from other European nations. So, the German plan needs the cohesion of the west European nations only. If a business union of this kind can be created involving west European nations, there already exist as many as four hundred million (400,000,000) leading capitalists who are adept in trade and social relations. As the capitalists, as usual, are capable of exploiting available resources within their reach, the wealth of the British, French, Dutch and Belgian empires can be placed under control of the above-mentioned union; and this can be done with the help of the leading capitalists. The union will then be known as Europa Germanica which would put the entire world under its thumb.

The Germans are of the opinion that the nation needs to be the leader in political field to be able to create the Europa Germanica. Accordingly, they have waged wars against the nations to shock the world thereby hoisting the political banner high. Some think that a nation of great economic strength can lead the world. In fact, economy is inferior to politics. Germans do not think politics is inferior to economic strength.

Hitler believes that his country can go its way only if it can display its political power in no uncertain terms after the political build-up. After securing his desired position, Hitler does not want any portion of the territory of the nations he has dominated. He is not interested in occupying and ruling those nations or changing the administrative systems there.

England or France will become residential areas of a certain race once the above-mentioned organization has been established, according to the scheme of Hitler. After that the two will not be in a position to interfere in the affairs of the world.

However, a study of the current affairs shows that the Germans seem to have intentions to manage the affairs of certain nations including the territory and administrative systems, at least slightly, although they do not take interest in occupation and administration of the territories.

Belgium, for instance, assisted in realizing the aims of Germany and so it is likely that the nation would be allowed to remain as it is and its king would be authorized to rule Holland.

Hence, the nations that assisted the Germans in promoting the latter's cause may enjoy due rewards and there can be slight changes in the territories and administrative systems. Apart from such cases Hitler would not interfere in the affairs of those nations which have the privilege of choosing their own administrative systems. However, Germany is to manage the international financial and business matters in addition to the running of the customs union. Under the circumstances all the nations will concentrate on their economies without Germany's interference and they will then accept the influence of Nazism.

Making contacts and doing business among the businessmen are anything but difficult. In fact, they have been in contact conducting business transactions even before the emergence of this kind of organization. In the presence of the organization, they will have to maintain their contacts and establish a system that will do away with the self-centred practices. If someone goes against the practices of the organization he will be softened through punitive action of the organization including boycott of his goods.

If the capitalists in the allied nations are opposed to the move to establish the organization, the German occupation forces would approach and befriend the soldiers of those nations and tell them

that it is not the time to wage wars, that war is no longer necessary, that according to Germany's plan, cooperation and friendly relations are to be practiced in future and it is a period of promoting relations. This way, armed forces would be discouraged to wage war thereby depriving the capitalists of their military support.

Some political analysts believe that the measure should persuade the United States in the far west in addition to the west European nations. In the event of the American opposition to the measure, Germany would have to wield her political influence and resort to the use of force, according to the policy of Hitler. The expressed policy of Hitler, however, rules out such kind of action against the US. The US would find it difficult to depend mainly on the nations in that part of the world to sell its minerals and agricultural produce. So, it has no alternative but to contact the Europa Germanica to find market. It means that if the nations like England and France can be persuaded by wielding political influence the US, too, would follow their example, and as such it would not be necessary to wage war against the US.

Besides, word has already been sent to the American capitalists offering them certain benefits in return for their participation once the planned organization has come into existence.

For the American capitalists who fail to contact the organization, there will be no trading with them - their goods will not be purchased and the goods they want will not be sold to them. Moreover, advertisements will not be inserted in the newspapers and magazines under the control of the American capitalists opposed to the Europa Germanica.

(This measure was employed in the Nazi propaganda warfare waged in the south-eastern European nations.)

All the gold in the US will be worthless once this kind of organization takes shape. Then payments are to be made among the nations based on the standard of the German mark instead of the use of gold or silver. Under such circumstances, barter system has to be employed and the nations in need of metal raw materials are to acquire them in exchange for their finished products. Consequently, the US would become a colony of the Europa Germanica in terms of trade and commerce. Cotton and wheat of the southern and western regions of American and metals produced throughout America needed by the Europa Germanica will be purchased at the prices in its favour in accordance with the prices of finished products fixed by the organization.

The same method will be applied in dealing with the nations in South America without resorting to the use of force by assigning propagandists to persuade them. The capitalists in those countries will have to trade their beef, cotton and metals with finished products such as machinery and motor cars

of the organization. If they fail to oblige, their products will be boycotted. South American nations are not in a position to refuse the measure. If they do they will not be able to trade their products with the nations in the region. For, their products and that of the US are the same and this being the case they stand no chance to develop one another. Furthermore, their original customers are the European nations. They have no alternative and have to sell their products to the European nations. It is assumed that the new world or the entire American continent will be economically out of order and has to yield to the Germans finally.

The Germans further said that when the entire American continent had to depend on the German economy, there might arise reasons for the US to try to take control of the economies of the nations in South America. If they go to war, the American people would become militant and Germans have to intervene to make peace.

In fact, arrangements have already been made in Mexico and the US. Work should start through correspondence if everything is ready.

In the Europa Germanica, the Germans will take control of financial matters and production of goods. In doing so, they take full advantage in everything and are prepared to be more developed than other nations. Here, the American civil war was cited in which the industrialized northern states won against the southern states that mainly depended on agriculture.

France will be permitted to engage in agriculture and small scale industries plus production of hand bags and fashion clothing as in the past.

London will not be permitted to remain as the financial centre that in the past controlled the monetary affairs. It will only be the hub of commerce and travels.

In France, England and other nations, only the capitalists who are members of the Europa Germanica will be allowed to play leading roles in the governments. The German governors will be appointed in certain nations where cabinet members ready to follow the dictates of Germany are not available. The detectives of the German Gestapo will closely watch the situation in every nation whether it is governed by German governors or by their own representatives.

Points mentioned above are the ambitious scheme of the Germans. The Germans believe that they must first win the English and the French if they are to realize the objective. Now everybody can see the ongoing war in the world. The Germans have already won the French. Are they going to defeat the English as planned?

In its war against France, Germans planned to cross Holland and Belgium first and fight on till reaching the beach towns situated along the English Channel. The next step was to keep France

away from the English and finally make peace with it separately. As the Germans managed to materialize the plan the French are now at their mercy, as one and all can see.

In connection with this, I gave a hint in the book entitled 'The ongoing war' that the German plan was not to fight England but to turn to France as its target when its forces reached the French beach towns along the English Channel. Soon after I had predicted so, France fell, as known to all.

The following are excerpts from page 84 of 'The ongoing war':

"According to the latest news reports, the Germans are bombing Paris in France. They also bomb London of England. In a Reuters news report from London on 1 June, it said that according to a broadcast from Rome the fighting at Falinda in southern Belgium was the heaviest in history, that even so a report from Berlin predicted the battle against Paris would be even worse." So, the people following the war news would be affected.

The German generals felt quite certain that they would win victories in the wars against France and England. We do not need to recall Germany's victory against France as it is known to all. We only need to discuss how Germany would wage war against England. In their war against England, the Germans at present are only sending bombing raids and their artillery bombarding England from the beaches of France. As the Germans have claimed that they would be sending their army divisions to the island of England, we should know how they would hit hard the English who are on top of the world regardless of whether they win or lose in the war.

The German plan is that since mines were laid in the English Channel they are to clear the channel from either of the two French towns of Calais or Indwin (?) to enable the German forces to reach England. The method of clearing the channel they have in mind is the small speed ships and the mini-submarines in front of the large ships with German troops on board are to clear the mines and at the same time lay a large number of their own mines on either side of the way in order to keep the enemy ships from approaching them. Meanwhile, the warships with the troops on board are to follow them firing the large artillery they have never used before. Upon the start of the war, a large number of German forces being sent to Norway are to launch blitzkrieg into Scotland. In that war, large submarines, large troop carrier ships and air force planes will be used.

In their invasion of Scotland, the German units of task forces will attack the areas close to the beaches of England spreading their troops. The Germans have great numbers of small speed ships each of which can carry 200 troops to serve the purpose. These small ships are said to have been built so that they will be capable of crossing the English Channel time and again during the night.

According to the calculations of the Germans, London will be the easiest city for them to occupy

once they have set foot on the island of England. The reasons they have given are that the roads leading to London have no covers or barriers and the network of roads on the island will enable the invading German forces to spread out to different directions and maintain contacts among themselves. In parallel with the ground forces the German Air Force planes will launch air strikes continuously.

The English, on the other hand, said they would not admit defeat and resist from Canada even though the Germans had taken over the island of England. They are said to have announced that they would resist from their empire. The Germans believed, however, that the English would be defeated once England fell. The Germans said that if they could seize England everything including the people and the facilities there would fall in their hands. They said that holding England as hostage they would put the English empire under their control and added that the English navy would destroy itself to prevent the enemy from using it or would be stationed in Canada; that there would be no alternatives. They also believed that so long as England was held as hostage it would not be possible for the English navy to wage war against Germany from its base in Egypt or other areas in the British empire.

Under such circumstances, the English have to sign as dictated by the Germans. Otherwise, there is a threat that the people of England will be left to starve.

This old method practiced in Germany proved to be successful and therefore the Germans are sure of success in controlling the British Empire. What the Germans cited an example was that Jewish people around the world did not dare to extend help when the Jews were bullied in Germany. If it is the case, the Germans seem to enjoy the method of bullying others by taking advantage of the people's consideration and kindness shown to one another.

In this connection, I would like to present facts about other European nations to an extent.

As mentioned above, Russia does not need to take part in the Europa Germanica. So, Germany would not attack Russia. According to the Germans, they do not take interest whatsoever in interfering in the administrative affairs of Russia. Besides, they said, Stalin, the dictator of Russia, is ready to work with them.

The German interest in Russia is said to be its adequate consumption of Russian oil and improving transport for exploration and exploitation of mineral deposits in that country. They say that as a large number of German engineers are in Russia it will not be difficult for more engineers to go there.

In the opinion of the Germans, Russia suits the present situation well and no change will be

necessary, and it just needs the German science and technology for further progress of Russia.

Regarding Slavs in the Balkan nations, who would not take interest in new initiatives and ideas, the Germans do not take them into consideration

As stated above the German scheme is solely meant for the capitalism. These days the ideology calling for the welfare of the poor is most popular. The German scheme may face protests and opposition of the emerging forces. However, the Germans say those forces may have their tendencies to hinder the German scheme but they could not do anything. They argued that the poor under the flourishing democracy system for many years had been content with jobs to provide them with the food and clothing enough for their survival and that they were not interested in individual freedom or national affairs.

Moreover, Gestapo is charged with the duty to suppress the ideologies that had been in existent prior to the Hitler's ideology. So, the Germans say, they do not have to worry about the uprisings or opposition in the world and they are sure of success of the Europa Germanica considering that the capitalists are prepared to do anything if the handsome profits are there for them. The Germans believe that democracy makes its leaders and the followers alike to regard money as God. This belief symbolizes the Germans.

Finally, in the German scheme, every member of the Europa Germanica is prohibited from armaments and Germany alone is to build up armament. If the US is desirous of becoming a member, her armament is to be scaled down.

These are the points related to the biographies to be presented.

After reading the foreword readers will find the facts included in the biographies comprehensible. Although I have mentioned that I have written this book for my livelihood I have also done it to pay homage to the five benefactors, namely, the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Samgha, the teachers and the parents, and I solemnly wish the readers gain knowledge free from any inconvenience.

4. Nwe Ni Aung, Short Summary of the Book's Information on Bismarck and Hindenburg

Translation: Maung Maung Aye

Otto von Bismarck

Chapter I

In the feudal system, the king or the ruler of the country owned all the farmland and the people worked the land. Bismarck was a member of the court family or lords but his ancestors were deprived of their land because of a feud between the king and his ancestors. When Bismarck was four years old, his father inherited 2000 acres of land from his parents. The king described the lineage of Bismarck as “most brilliant” but “most worthless”.

Bismarck was born at Nipoz¹ village on 1 April 1815. That year Napoleon of France was back to France from the island of Elba where he was sent into exile, and treaty of Franco-German alliance was scrapped. Bismarck had one brother Bernhard von Bismarck, five years senior to him, and one sister Malwine von Bismarck, 12 years junior to him. His mother was Wilhelmine Menken, who fancied functions attended by the high class. She gave little attention to the children. So, Bismarck did not like her. Most of Bismarck's childhood days passed at the Plamann Institute in Berlin.

When he was at the university, he took law in accordance with the wishes of his parents. In his mind, however, he wanted to be a politician and change the administrative system of Germany. He did not get along with fellow students. He did not feel like mixing with them. He was often found duelling with the use of the sword. Only at one time that he got a scar right from the tip of his nose to the right ear. At the university he associated with foreigners and kept away from the Germans. However, he challenged a duel whenever the Prussians were harmed. He was not a member of a patriotic association set up for the king and the country.

Chapter II

The mother of Bismarck only associated with the top class and Bismarck himself was a spendthrift. So, their wealth got dwindling. His mother sent Bismarck to the duke of Ex to follow the steps of the grandpa but he did not work long under the duke. Bismarck did not like to work under other persons. And he wished to display his mettle and brawn if he was to work under the

¹ Unclear, the German name of Bismarck's place of birth his Schönhausen on the river Elbe (editor's note).

king. He admired personalities like Prime Minister Peel of England and O'Connell, a patriotic Irish. He liked the constitutional monarchy of England and so he hoped he would be able to change the monarchy system of Germany.

Being a spendthrift and fond of indulging in sensual pleasures he went broke and was indebted. He stopped his habit only when his father inherited some property after the demise of his mother. When his father passed away he moved to the ancestral mansion at Schönhausen where he lived in luxury. He got married only when he was at the age of 32. Prior to this he had three girlfriends. His wife was Johanna von Puttkammer. They had two sons and one daughter.

Bismarck's mother was a member of an association seeking the true god, his father an atheist. Bismarck, too, was a nonbeliever of the Christ. He became a Christian faithful only after his marriage with Johanna.

Chapter III

Bismarck experienced the reign of King Frederick William IV who ruled the country with fire in one hand and water in another. Seeing his unusual behaviour, people thought he would be inane one day. As the people thought the king was out of his mind and had to be dethroned.

Bismarck thought that he would be able to control Germany after he had secured a seat in the Prussian Parliament. Thus he tried hard and managed to enter the Parliament when he was 32. He was not married then and the youngest Member of Parliament. To become popular in the parliament and to draw the attention of the king he objected every proposal submitted to the parliament. His intention was that after he had impressed the king he could go his way with the help of the latter. Bismarck's motto meant that it was important to gain power if you wanted to do something; once power was in hand you had gold, money whatever you wished.

Bismarck wanted to unify Germany and follow the English administration system with upper and lower houses of parliament under the Prussian King. A rebellion broke out in 1813 by those wishing to establish a republic to follow the example of France. A revolt broke out again on 19 March 1848. Bismarck was much opposed to the rebels. The king noticed that Bismarck was opposed to him from time to time but he understood that the man was not a republican as the rebels, that instead Bismarck was a true monarchist wishing to retain the king.

At one time, attempts were made to levy tax on the land of the poor owned since the time of their ancestors. He wrote a letter to the king protesting the move. His objection won the respect of farmers. He gradually became famous.

Bismarck kept control of a newspaper and wrote reports promoting the interests of farmers. This way he tried to win as many votes as possible. After securing a seat in parliament, he knew well that it was good to approach and seek the help of influential personalities and therefore he acted accordingly. He planned to secure positions as high as the chancellor in the parliament. In 1858 when Prince William took power on behalf of the king, the prince who was conceited like Bismarck sent the latter to Russia as ambassador. When King William ascended the throne in 1861 Bismarck was sent to France as ambassador.

The king submitted a proposal to reorganize the army but there arose opposition. The king recalled Bismarck from France and discussed the matter with him. Bismarck agreed to support the king on condition that he was appointed the chancellor. The intention of the king was that after the reunification of Germany with the help of the reorganized army he would wield his authority by scrapping the parliamentary system. That did not agree with Bismarck's ambition. It was Bismarck's firm belief that the country would not develop so long as it failed to practice parliamentary system. So, with firmness he urged the king to drop the plan. Taking the future into account, the king obliged. Then he had to yield to whatever Bismarck said.

Chapter IV

One year after Bismarck was in the chancellor post, the Russians waged war against Poland. Bismarck proposed to give support to Russia. The move was against the wishes of the entire Europe. Together with the allies Prussia won territories. It also occupied some countries that were contiguous to its borders. It bought the colonies of the allies at low price. Prussia thus had been able to expand her territory and the king honoured Bismarck lavishly.

He occupied Austria in 1865 after waging war and also occupied France in 1870. He thus became powerful. Thanks to the farsightedness of Bismarck Prussia gained great strength. The ceremony to mark the ascension to the throne of King William was held at the Versailles Palace of Louis XIII in France on 18 January 1871. Therefore, Bismarck became the Chancellor of the First German Empire. He took control of the political affairs of Prussia. Starting from 1849 he accomplished his ambition 22 years later in 1871. During the period he displayed his calibre well.

The Kaiser or King William II who succeeded King William lacked foresight. So, he did not accept Bismarck's proposals. The Kaiser dismissed Bismarck in 1890. So, Bismarck returned to his native place where he taught the children how the German Empire was reunified and the growing strength of Prussia. He did so to forge nationalism among the children.

Before his demise, Bismarck went to Austria for the wedding of his son. He saw the Austrian king. Fearing that there might be conspiracy between Bismarck and the Austrian king, The Kaiser wrote a letter and instructed Chancellor Caprivi to write another letter critical of Bismarck. The Kaiser ordered that the letters be sent to the Austrian king and the chancellor there. However, the people loved Bismarck more and hated the king more.

Bismarck's life was full of ups and downs. He passed away at 10 a.m. on 30 July 1898 at the age of 83.

Beneckendorff Hindenburg

Chapter I

Von Hindenburg was born in the Poznan¹ region of Prussia in 1847. He took the name Beneckendorff von Hindenburg after the ancestral name Beneckendorff and the name of his uncle von Hindenburg.

The life of Hindenburg may be described monotonous for 64 years since nothing of significant interest took place during the time. At the time of the creation of the First German Empire Hindenburg was not popular. He was in the military service for 40 years and retired after reaching the retiring stage. He led a peaceful life in Hanover and his health began to deteriorate.

Chapter II

When the Germans were failing in the First World War (1914) suffering heavy losses in the eastern front from 1 to 22 August, King The Kaiser from Blintz summoned Hindenburg to rejoin the military service. The war that lasted till 1919 left Germany in chaos and destruction but Hindenburg became a prominent figure in history. He fought alongside General Ludendorff but he outperformed the general, who was senior to him, in the battles. That was why he became very famous. As he won every battle, after the end of the battle near the Masuren Lake he was promoted to the post of general senior to Ludendorff.

The duo, Hindenburg and Ludendorff, won victories in February 1915 in fighting Austria and Russia, and also won the war against Rumania. So, the entire nation relied much on them. In the meantime, Hindenburg secured the post of the commander-in-chief. On 21 March 1818, they again won the well-known battle against the military camp of Mann River. King The Kaiser was much

¹ That's the Polish name of the city today. The German name was "Posen" (editor's note).

pleased and conferred titles on him. His companion, Ludendorff, however, was dismissed since he signed a document beyond his authority.

On 9 November 1918, King The Kaiser had to abdicate in accordance with the peace treaty. Then followed a period of disorder among the soldiers and Hindenburg tried to keep the situation under control. Out of noble mind he had been able to manage affairs prior to the formation of a new government.

Chapter III

When the new government came to power with President Ebert in control, Hindenburg was pleased in retirement with the feeling that he had done enough for the country. When President Ebert passed away in 1925, he was urged to stand for the presidency. He obliged and won the election with a majority of more than a million votes than his rival.

As he performed his duties well along with Ludendorff during the war, when he became the president he got along well in smoothly managing the administrative affairs with Dr Meißner, who served as Secretary of the Interior during the time of President Ebert. In serving national interest out of selflessness, he was much disturbed by the Nazis who were bent on plotting the downfall of Hindenburg since they wanted to take control of the country. The people were swayed by the propaganda of Nazis.

However, the steering group feared that there would emerge Hitler as the winner if Hindenburg lost in the 1931 elections. It therefore strove for the success of Hindenburg who then became president for the second time. During the second term, however, work performance ran counter to his original policies and as such the people did not understand him. Meanwhile, von Papen was at odds with the steering group and so he had to resign. With much discontentment, he plotted against Hindenburg. Through his intrigues the president became the enemy of the government. Hitler, leader of the Nazis, became the chancellor. After Hitler became chancellor, Hindenburg was not in a position to carry on duties as he wished. He had to act under the control of Hitler and Secretary Meißner. The worst was that he was forced to declare his acceptance of Nazism to the world. In the plot, Hitler forced Hindenburg to state that work done by the Nazi Party and elimination of anti-Nazi elements were the government policy, and sign the document he had written stating that Hindenburg supported Hitler. For these reasons Hindenburg committed suicide on 2 August 1934. In his life disfavour of the public, the government and the king befell him. However, he never did anything for the sake of certain benefits, position or privileges. The German

people never suspected him of such misdeeds. They rightly acknowledged him to be an honest person who worked for the well-being of Germany with sacrificing spirit.

VI Other Material

1. Summary of Articles in the “Nagani Weekly”

Vol. 2, No. 13 (p. 6) – August 31, 1940

Title: Long-range cannon.

The article is about the artillery fired on French beaches with *BIG BER THA* (in Roman script) on August 22, 1940. and how the cannons were operated and to what distance.

Vol. 2, No. 13 (p. 12) – August 31, 1940

Title: Give birth to babies, lady comrades

Considering that the 50 million of Germany was a small population, Hitler exhorted German women to hibe birth to more children so that the population would rise to 250 million in 100 years.

Vol. 2, No. 17 (pp. 4-5) – September 28, 1940

Title: Soviets and Nazis

The article informs about

- the Non-Aggression Treaty made between soviet and Germany on August 23, 1939;
- why Russia annexed some territories;
- relations between Russia and Nazi Germany;
- the defence of Russia;
- Russia’s attitude towards Britain.

Vol, 2, No. 17 (pp. 14-15) – September 28, 1940

Title: Suicide paratroops

Germany’s occupation of Holland by blitz attacks.

Vol. 2. No.37. (pp 4-5) – February 22, 1941

Title: The grass country (Balkan)

The article contains information about

Four Books about Germany

- why Germany monopolized Romania;
- who owned oil-wells in Romania;
- how much tonnage of oil Romania extracted in a year together with the data of oil which Romania sold to other countries;
- Germany's machinations to ignite the World War by dropping sparks on the Balkan.

2. Term Paper, Capitalism and Hitler as told by Nagani

Translation: Ye Nyunt

Wai Wai Phyu (Mar-33)
M.A. (Final Year, Part I)
Rangoon Arts and Science University
1969-70 Academic Year

In the booklet “Capitalism”, written by student leader Ko Hla Shwe and published by Nagani, the lives of the capitalists and the poor workers are compared and discussed critically. It is mentioned that it was essential to foster communism in Myanmar; that there were three kinds of revolution - psychological, political and mechanical; and that having undergone a psychological change, Myanmar had entered the stage for adopting communism.

Capitalism originated from making the proletariat work at unfair wages for exploitation of their labour. In capitalist countries, the minority controlled businesses and the majority remained poor. The capitalists such as merchants, landlords and owners of factories, farms and banks strove for profits only and enjoyed benefits while the impoverished, who exerted labour, fell into the pit of trouble.

Stalin, who led the proletariat, once said that in capitalist countries, labour, regarded as a commodity, was being traded. What the workers conceived was to provide labour proportionate to wage while the capitalists wished to make them work for ten hours, paying four hours' wage only. Hence, Stalin remarked that the workers had to exert labour six hours out of ten for the employer. The capitalists became richer and used the surplus money to prolong their power and administration, to support the police and the military and to manipulate the administration of the country. Although they established and owned factories and companies, all the products and their acquisitions symbolized the common workmanship coming out from the labour of the poor.

As time went by, capitalism of the exploiting class and communism of the oppressed came to rival in strength. Belonging to the middle class, ordinary merchants and owners of land and farms could not be classified as the capitalist. The strong capitalists competed with

small merchants and cracked down on them. They defeated indigenous merchants by reducing prices. When they emerged unrivalled, they hiked the prices again. The use of new machines caused a weaker workforce, and thus the remaining workers were made to labour more. Employment of women and children, who are naturally weak in sticking together, caused gradual increase in the number of jobless persons.

The capitalists competed with one another in a number of ways, and those who had lost in the marketing of raw materials and sales of finished products were down and out, causing workers depending on them to lose jobs. Those who remained in jobs also experienced salary cuts. Thus capitalism was troubling the people in a variety of ways.

When goods were left piling up, they reduced production, and destroyed the surplus goods, to which they set fire. For example, in 1929, coffee seeds turned out from Brazil were set adrift. They resorted to expansionism under capitalism to sell surplus goods and seek markets. When surplus goods fell into destruction and decay, they, if necessary, built more factories, in which the poor had to work. However, this meant the turning again of capitalism which brought the poor workers into a horrible era once in every eight, ten or 12 years.

The Japanese invading China to seize raw materials, coal, iron and flour Hitler annexing Austria and the capitalist government in Spain suppressing the people — all these epitomized the traits of capitalism such as persecution of the impoverished and expansionism. So, Stalin noted that hardships in food, clothing and shelter during the times of adversity and stringency usually provoked the lowest class to revolt.

Capitalists forged partnerships to set up banks, factories and brokerage firms and monopolized goods. For instance, companies owned by Chinese and Indians in Myanmar manipulated the markets of rice and other crops. Such manipulation of markets by brokerage firms was most perceptible in America. Lenin said, as regards capitalism, colonialism stemmed from the brokerage firms of capitalists.

In the banking system, capitalists could enjoy interest from their deposits as well as take out loans if they needed. If they disbursed their extra money, they could get interest, but were anxious lest the loans might not be repaid. The clients, too were anxious lest their money might be lost if the banks disintegrated. Hence, while striving for their

representatives to wield influence at banks, they got united. Bank owners gained more power and influence through mutual organization, and their influence was felt even in new colonial regions. No conflicts arose up to 1900 in their attempt to sell finished goods and look for new regions for raw materials. Industrially developed England, while engaging in trade with American, African and Asian countries, gradually ran counter to Germany and France. High duty was levied to control foreign goods, and maritime tax was added. Income from port tax was put into investment. Capitalists looked for new colonies to sell goods, prices of which had been raised so that the poor could not access them. For their security, they went so far as to establish armed forces in their colonies which were rich in land, raw materials and labour. Especially, they reinforced the air force and eventually completely occupied the colonies. These countries came to have conflicts over the share of colonial areas, bringing the situation to the brink of war.

Thus, prolongation of capitalism was doubtful. It has come to such a situation that colonialists were about to wage war. In addition, the suppressed workers could no longer bear the suppression. Hence, Lenin the great leader once said that the capitalists' expansionism caused the revolt of workers.

As severe suppression went along with the progressing time, the workers got united, being mates — suppressed together and understanding the strength of unity. Moreover, workers with wide scope set up organizations to engage in instigation. In India, workers at cotton mills, jute mills, iron equipment factories and rail and ship companies staged riots.

Worker leaders formed political organizations including the proletariat as members, setting discipline to be observed, and the organizations became stronger. Up-and-coming youths led by students and peasants led by impoverished workers strove for the downfall of capitalism in their march towards communism.

Workers only, being close to the capitalists, understood their attitude and led the peasants and the middle-class in the uprising. There was an instance in Russia in 1917 when the alliance of the middle-class and peasants eventually aligned to the capitalists. The middle-class had more to do with personal wealth to be coveted than workers, it was mentioned in the communist manifesto of Marx and Engels.

Capitalist countries suppressed workers through fascism, and secret agents on whom they had spent much money. Despite this, the workers' strike was oriented towards victory as the workers, who accounted for five-sixths of the world, became consolidated.

In 1917, Russia adopted communism. While it was enjoying benefits from communism, America was experiencing unemployment, numbering over two million. There were over two million jobless persons in England, over seven million in Germany and about five million in Italy. Moreover, all factories and mills had to be kept closed.

It was clarified in writing that it was not the transition from the White government to the Brown one, that did not form the central aim, and also not the average indigenous small merchants, but capitalism and the capitalist government that were to be targeted by the peasants and workers.

The book "Whatever Hitler Did" written by Shwe U Daung and published by Nagani aroused interest in dealing with Hitler, who was born to poor parents. He was a pragmatist as well as an enthusiastic expansionist, who was interested in geography and history. His life was turned from a poor person to a soldier who fought about 40 battles including the 1914 World War. Despite this experience, he remained only a junior officer, because of his bad relation with others. After being wounded in the Montaigne Battle in 1918, he decided to enter into politics. Without any particular hobby, Hitler associated only with propagandists and battle-fighters. He made speeches, thinking of himself as a saviour sent by God.

He joined the German Workers Party in 1919. For his organizing power, he became a party propagandist. In 1920 the party issued a 25-point prescription. It was permitted to form a Guard Force and also published the party newspaper. In 1921, its membership increased to over 3,000 and it had branches. While persuading the citizens, who had been worn out by the World War, Hitler hit an opportunity to become a dictator. His policy was based on war veterans together with the people from all walks of life. Having given the hope of "Germany to be reborn afresh", the entire nation got united gradually under dictator Hitler.

In 1933, the Hitler government came into power, Hitler being appointed Chancellor. A four-year plan with the objectives of national unity, economic progress, and achievement

of equality to other nations. He demoted those who attempted to tamper with or rival Hitler and Nazism. It was announced that the Nazi party only was lawful.

Under the newly enacted German Race Protection Law, the Nazi government owned whatever was written or spoken, and the Central controlled every province. Hitler was made dictator by vote. He opened the party office at the Brown House from which he managed systematically, kept a special secret unit and cruelly purged anyone suspected of being a traitor. Information was placed under strict scrutiny and the information given by the government only, was allowed to be used as news. About 100 black guards of the secret unit was precisely and resolutely engaged in the get-rid-of activity. Full power was vested in the Political Police Force administered by Himmler, a disciple of Hitler, and it was permitted to hand out punishments without interrogation.

Although there were 315 kinds of uniform in various colours in Germany, those who wore black shirts did not use other colours, and instead, the arm-band bearing the swastika symbol was necessary for them. As officer ranks could be given only to some of the 500,000 brown-shirt uniformed soldiers, who had fought for Hitler's Nazis, leaders of the brown-shirt unit began to riot. These leaders were cruelly purged on June 30, 1934.

Hitler promulgated a law for everyone to learn military science compulsorily in 1935 with the aim to form the main armed force. As the Versailles Treaty had weakened the country for 14 years, it set about urgent measures such as production of weapons at factories and reinforcement of Navy, Air Force and Army. Especially he relied more on the Air Force, and reinforced the German military strength immediately.

Whatever was necessary to solve the economic problem was obtained from within the country. The government controlled companies so that the gold, required to buy raw materials would not get abroad. Foreign remittance system was placed under restriction which formed a further step since 1934 when imports were allowed only for arms. The influence of German was felt when it made export contracts with 26 countries. To gain profits from foreign trade, it made changes in the currency value — the value of "die Mark" in 237 amounts. More taxes were levied, and the statement of financial balance was not issued as cash was strapped for arms production.

In the economic and political sectors, Hitler instigated the people again and again to boost their morale and also to gain confidence in him. Large buildings were built and long roads paved to make use of the labour of six million jobless persons. Road construction was facilitated by fixing the prices of building materials such as cement by the government power. Much as the industries had developed, the government limited prices and collected more profit tax and other taxes. So the capitalists had to destroy machines which workers worked with.

Of the 34 raw materials needed in Germany, Potash and coal only were available within the country, and so it became necessary to invent them chemically and to annex regions including Ukraine where raw materials yielded. Nitrate, indigo, silk thread, synthetic rubber and petrol and textiles were innovated and cheap firewood was made to use at factories so as to raise productivity. However, as the locally made things were not up to quality and the costs for innovation were high, Hitler was willing only to expand region. Under Hitler's ideology, the spirit of nationalism and the conceptions of 'the race and the ground' and 'the blood and the soil' were instilled in the peasants, the majority. In this way agricultural system was introduced. Ration Criticizing Group was formed to punish those who breached the Agriculture Law. A fine of 8,000 gold coins could be given, and the punishment could be so serious as to ban cultivation completely. Although agriculture was encouraged by the enactment of Farmland Inheritance Law, Hitler's aim was not fully realized. Thus, 25% of cows were killed. 'As a result, dairy products such as milk and butter became scarce. As internal sufficiency could not be secured, flour had to be imported from abroad, and soaring food prices could not be contained. Thus, people came to be faced with stringency in food, clothing and shelter.

The projects concerning youths, laid down by Hitler for spawning leaders, fared well. In 1934, about six million youths were formed into 'the Hitler Youths', and other organizations were banned. The youths were taught Hitler's marching songs with such a beginning as "... the Hitler's flag of victory" so as to make them loyal to the great leader Hitler and to keep their spirits high.

About 200,000 people were placed at the hard-labour training centres, called "labour service" and taught the concepts of military science. As far as the ground was concerned,

the training was hard, and the trainees grew stronger. It was a system which could produce 200,000 well-trained soldiers readily in case of emergency. The spirit of patriotism was inculcated in them so that a new strength that would serve Germany would emerge.

In 1934, the Workers Council, including employers also, was formed and had a strength of 26 million. Meetings were held, and decisions reached at different levels up from the council, with measures to prevent workers' strikes. Wastage of labour was prohibited by means of serious punishment meted out to workers or employers who suspended work.

The Nazi government led by Hitler, who was a single, kept women under suppression. However, as they revered Hitler's ideology, they did not create any disturbance. Some women were sent to the hard-labour training centre and made to understand ideological concepts. But they had to undergo vigorous training. To ease joblessness, every person who had got married was given a 1000 mark loan certificate, and 25 percent of the loan was cancelled if a child was born. Fund was further raised as over seven million couples were brought into marriage. Nazi government employees were given awards if they had a new baby. Thus, the population had increased by 23%. It was estimated that the population would increase up to 68 million in 1945. Those who were not suitable for child-bearing were given sterilizing injection. The system for increasing strong and healthy children, the system of training youths so as to etch Hitler and Nazism on their hearts and the production of leaders and good soldiers were laudable. Thanks to Hitler's systems, many German youths won the first prize at the Olympic Games.

Every year, 180 million gold coins was spent on opening work stations for the unemployed to pave roads and on plans to do municipal services to expand towns and to build housing for workers. Roads leading to the borders of Czechoslovakia and Austria, and Poland and Holland signalled Germany's bellicosity.

Hitler utilized every local newspaper for propaganda, and censored foreign news. He made speeches, as he wished, to the entire nation through the government installed transmitters in addition to the six million transmitters in the country. The entire nation fell under the spell of the Hitler concepts as those who did not listen to his speeches were given serious punishments. Especially in education, Hitlerism was injected into every subject, not excepting mathematics. Hitlerism was instilled in a child up to age 10, and just as he or she

attained age 10, the child was compelled to join the Hitler's Youths group, and fell under the influence of Hitler, who was believed to have been sent by the God. Sons and daughters of Nazis only were awarded scholarship. With unity forged within the country, Jews who were occupying good positions were racially subjugated. As it was preached that communism was the antithesis of Semitism, the German people came to detest Jews. The Jews who had gained strength in political, economic and social arenas were restricted by State power.

As regards religion, Hitlerism was the religion, and other religious organizations were abolished. Pastors were appointed and made to preach that Hitler's Nazism was the sole religion to be professed.

Controlling law and law courts, Hitler practiced discrimination in prosecuting Nazis and others. For the sake of Nazism, all affairs were manipulated to the satisfaction of Hitler. In 1934, the High Court was set up and all traitors were purged. The Criminal Code was Amended in conformity with Nazism. Punishment was given even to those who were deemed opposing Hitler and Nazism.

In 1933, Germany resigned from the League of Nations and the Arms Reduction Conference. Breaching the Versailles Treaty, Germany, in collaboration with Austria, annexed Czechoslovakia. Weapons were collected in the country, and a ten-year non-aggression treaty was made with Poland. A maritime treaty was made with England. But Germany occupied Rhineland.

Colourful wreaths, representing the lost colonies, were hung at the Nazi Remains Mausoleum, and this aroused Germans to regain their former colonies with a feeling of aggressiveness. Hence, Germany, in collaboration with Mussolini, dictator of Italy, began to move towards the outbreak of another World War.

VII. Appendices

Appendix 1

SHORT INFORMATION on the MAKING of the BOOK REPORTS

CHOSEN BOOKS from the bibliography will be provided on a lending basis by the manager [or for people in Myanmar through the Myanmar Book Centre in Yangon (55 Baho Road; telephone 221-TWO REPORTS on each book by different persons are accepted.

LENGTH: 8,000 to 12,000 words (plus special space, if desired);

LANGUAGE of PUBLICATION: English; manuscripts in Myanmar language will be translated;

CRITERIA (must not slavishly be observed):

1. Biographical information about the author/translator, and other contributors;
2. Information about the non-Myanmar sources used in the book; (if the book is a Translation, the original English version will be provided, too, if possible;)
3. Summary of the book's contents;
4. Information about the special aim and intended impact of the book at the time of publication;
5. How are foreign terms and concepts translated or transformed into the Myanmar language and the Myanmar context? (May be omitted!)
6. Personal assessment by the reviewer of the book, its impact on later times and its meaning for today

DEADLINE of DELIVERY of the REPORT: December 31, 2005 (the deadline can be extended);

DELIVERY of the REPORTS DRAFTED: Directly to the manager of the project by email or through the Myanmar Book Centre.

COMMENTS and EDITING: The reports will be commented upon by another person. The reviewer may react on the comments and answer the questions as he or she likes. The responsibility for the final editing of the reports is with the project manager.

REWARD: As a financial reward, each reviewer will receive 50 US \$ at the time of submitting the book report and 30 US \$ after the final editing.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS like recollections of elder people, who remember the impact of Nagani on their life, and essays on subjects related to the club (Nagani Song, Nagani Magazine, the role of literature in disseminating knowledge in Myanmar, etc.) are very much appreciated.

Appendix 2

INFORMATION about COMMENTARIES on BOOK REPORTS

1. The commentaries asked for shall serve two aims

First (and most important): To start a dialogue on Myanmar's intellectual and literary heritage between interested people inside and outside of Myanmar.

Second (and important, too): To check the clarity of the report with regard to the intended publication.

Therefore, the commentator should be interested in Burma affairs and in the general topic of the respective book, but must not know anything about its specific content.

2. Length of each commentary: Must not exceed the space of this paper.
3. Some hints that may be useful to observe in writing a commentary:

Are there any questions that are brought up by reading the report?

If yes, what kind of questions do arise?

Are the criteria listed in the "Short information on the making of book reports" (see attachment) met by the book report?

What information on the book report do I find interesting/exciting or unnecessary/redundant?

Is there anything that I would recommend to the author of the report?

Delivery of the commentary: It would be appreciated if the commentaries could be sent by email to the above mentioned email address. If the author of the report chooses to react on the commentary, the commentator will be informed.

Affairs to come: All participants will be informed about the development of the publishing process of the reports and are invited to participate in future deliberations and activities. - Questions and recommendations are very much appreciated.

MYANMAR LITERATURE PROJECT



Starting with an investigation into the NAGANI BOOK CLUB

The project's
Working Papers
are published by
the **Department of Southeast Asian Studies of Passau University**

Already Published:

- No. 10:1, An Introduction into the Nagani Book Club
- No. 10:1.1, Additional Material on Nagani
- No. 10:2, Thein Pe, *Saya Lun* and *Member of Parliament*
- No. 10:3, Ba Hein and Hla Shwe on Capitalism
- No. 10:4, Thein Pe, *Student Boycotters* (Two Volumes)
- No. 10:4.1, Additional Material on Students, Society and Politics
- No. 10:5, Ba Khaing, *Political History of Myanma*
- No. 10:6, Nu, *Gandalarit*
- No. 10:7, Mogyo, *José Rizal*
- No. 10:8, Three Books on World War and Burma
- No. 10:9, Two Works on the History of the Russian Revolution
- No. 10:10, Soe, *Socialism* and Chit Hlaing, *Memories*
- No. 10:11, Ba Hein, *Students' Revolution*
- No. 10:12, Thein Pe, *Indo-Burman Riot*
- No. 10:13, Two Political Dictionaries
- No. 10:14: Thandwe Maung, *Asoka* and Tun Shein, *First Hand Experience of India*
- No. 10:100, Papers Presented at the Burma Studies Conference, Singapore 2006

Some Nagani Books
were scanned and are available on CD.
For details contact
habezett@t-online.de

All Working Papers published until now are available
at
<http://www.zoellner-online.org/mlp.htm>
and at the Online Burma Library
<http://www.burmalibrary.org/show.php?cat=2083>

INVITATION

Readers are invited to participate in the project by

- writing **comments and criticisms** on the contents of this and other volumes of this series;
- contributing **essays** on Burmese/Myanmar literature as a medium between the international world and Burmese society;
- providing **material** that sheds more light on the Nagani Book Club, its context and impact on Burmese intellectual and literary life;
- offering **assistance** as translators and commentators of book reports.

For contributions and questions, please contact:

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