



Rundfunk

Deutsche!

Ihr wisst seit heute, warum es geht, was unsere Beweggründe und unsere Absichten sind. Das Recht äußerster Notwehr und die Pflicht der Selbsterhaltung zeichnen uns und auch den Weg vor. Nicht der versprochene Staat fester und weiser Führung, sondern eine schreckensvolle Zwangsherrschaft ist uns zuteil geworden. Tapferkeit, Todesmut und Können unserer Soldaten sind schändlich mißbraucht, unsere Heimat ist skrupellos der Not und Zerstörung ausgesetzt worden.

Als Endglied einer vermeidlichen Kette von Rechtsbeugungen und Rechtsbrüchen hat Hitler in seiner Reichstagsrede vom 25.4.1942 alle Deutschen für vogelfrei erklärt, indem er sich das Recht anmaßte, jedes Urteil nach seinem eigenen Ermessen umzustossen. Er hat damit einen Liefstand der Rechtlosigkeit heraufbeschworen, der im Leben gesitteter Völker bisher unbekannt war und nicht mehr zu überbieten ist. Aus dem stolzen Deutschland des gleichen Rechts für Alle hat er eine ohnmächtige Zwangsgemeinschaft von Sklaven gemacht, in der der Bürger nicht mehr die Möglichkeit hat, sich gegen Unrecht zur Wehr zu setzen. Höchste Würdenträger, auch Adolf Hitler selbst, haben zahllose Verbrechen gegen Leib und Leben, gegen Eigentum

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between mine and yours, who abuse their positions to lead luxurious lives in magnificent houses even during wartime, while the people suffer misery, while sons, husbands, and fiancés fight and fall abroad, and at home the destructive insanity of total war rages.

Hazardous, power-hungry foreign policy has put our nation in a position so dire it can no longer be overlooked. Consideration for the war does not permit us to describe everything as it truly is. Yet you know or feel whereto foolishness and lack of conscience have brought us all. As soon as the situation allows, we will call upon sincere men of all classes and from all parts of the country, and announce their names to you, to examine conscientiously everything that has happened, and to inform you immediately of the state of the nation as we found it.

There is one thing we can tell you already, however: the architecture of the state that was built upon injustice, tyranny, crimes of all kinds, self-interest, and lies shall be torn down. The foundations of the new state structure will form the secure basis of human coexistence, will be law and justice, truthfulness, decency, cleanliness, reason, consideration for one another, and consideration also of the nations created by God and their vital interests.

If we do not wish to experience a second November 1918, then we must grasp this last moment to put this resolution into deeds. In the next few days, we will publicly bring those to account, with no regard for their position, who are responsible for the crimes of the state and the nation.

We face hard work in all areas of life. There is no magic potion for containing the destruction of all foundations of life so wantonly brought about and for gradually amending for them. We wish to save the fatherland together and return the country to its pure fabric of duty and community.

We cannot hold out the prospect of relief in civilian life during wartime or during the reconstruction period. Call to mind what is at stake! For what do you wish to live and die? For what should our soldiers fight and fall? For justice, freedom, honor, and decency, or for crime, terror, disgrace, and downfall? Only if you answer these questions rightly is there any hope of ending this war, which has become a disastrous second world war, in honor and in such a way that Germany's vital interests are maintained.

Radio

Germans!

You know as of today what is at stake, what our motivations and intentions are. The right to the most extreme self-defense and the duty of self-preservation show the way for us and for you. We have been granted not the promised state under firm and wise leadership, but a horrific tyranny. Our soldiers' bravery, courage in the face of death, and skill have been shamefully abused, our homeland has been unscrupulously exposed to misery and destruction.

As the final link in an avoidable chain of perversions and violations of the law, Hitler declared all Germans outlaws in his Reichstag speech of 4.25.1942, by presuming the right

to overturn every judgment at his own discretion. He thereby conjured up a low point in lawlessness, previously unknown in the lives of civilized nations and impossible to outbid. He rendered the proud Germany of one law for all into a powerless involuntary community of slaves, in which the citizen no longer has any possibility to take a stand against injustice.

Highest dignitaries, including Adolf Hitler himself, have committed, ordered, and tolerated countless crimes against life and limb, against property and honor. Men in prominent positions have enriched themselves shamelessly from public assets or those they extracted from others, the foremost of them in the Reich being Hermann Göring! We have no wish to see German honor besmirched by such parasitic behavior. We have no wish to be led by scoundrels who make no distinction

This goal is not the only crucial one, however. It is essential for us that we no longer tolerate the defilement of our nation and the smearing of our good name by brazen criminals and liars. For if they were allowed to continue their dirty work, not even our children or grandchildren would ever be able to rebuild the fatherland on a clean foundation.

You shall learn of the criminals and the crimes as soon as possible. You will be enabled to establish for yourselves that terrible things have happened. However, we will also ensure that only fair punishment in accordance with the law is carried out. None of you should take hasty measures; for above all wishes for revenge comes the necessity to restore the state of one law for all under a just leadership.

Anyone with a charge of injustice suffered shall press the charge himself or through a man in whom he trusts in the office of his choice. All of these offices are hereby obliged to forward the charges brought to them to the new Reich Minister of Justice, who shall be responsible for processing them in an orderly manner without delay. Every individual will receive notification. Only such charges will be processed that are placed under the accuser's own name. All others will end up unexamined where they belong: in the waste-paper basket. Should the charge be justified, the legally stipulated procedure shall be initiated; yet equally, anyone bringing a charge against better judgment will also be held responsible: for we intend to take seriously once again the honor of our fellow people and our own duties of decency.

No one with a clear conscience has any need for fear or concern. It is not a question of party member or fellow German. Be gone with these distinctions, which were forced upon the Germans against their character! It is not a question of SS, SA, or whatever other organization. It is a question of decent or indecent!

Every individual must continue fulfilling his duty wherever he stands, obeying only the laws and the regulations of the new authorities. The fate of our hard-fighting soldiers depends upon every person in the homeland giving his utmost. We owe everything to them and our beloved dead. They and our wounded men must come before all other concerns.

It is understandable that this ultimate event will cause you deep agitation. As far as consideration for the war does not prohibit it, you have from this hour on the freedom once again to express your thoughts and your feelings unchecked and to follow your conscience. Ensure for yourselves that this causes no harm to our beloved fatherland, for the state of the war still imposes restrictions upon all of us. It will be ensured that everything goes ahead according to law and order, as the sake of the fatherland demands.

Germany's internal cleansing from corruption and crime, the re-establishment of justice and decency with no consideration of personal position, but also with no prejudice against those who think differently, can be carried out very quickly and simply according to the proud traditions of our nation, if every individual makes his own contribution. This may be expected of all well-meaning people, for their personal fortune depends on reinstalling these very assets. Even those who thought they could or should deny it know that. No one can break the chains of the controlled economy during wartime. We can and will in the meantime only implement simplifications and tackle the profiteering for which the controlled economy laid the ground. However, we will re-establish freedom and self-administration in the economy and the family, in the community and the state as soon as possible. The most serious situation is in the field of foreign policy. Here, we must deal with the interests and the will of other nations. We do not yet know how the rest of the world stands toward us. We have had to act out of duty to our conscience. Yet we wish to tell you what foreign policy objectives we envisage. Like every other nation, we Germans do not live alone in this world. It is therefore to our own advantage that we contend with the existence, the characteristics, and the interests of other nations. It is our conviction that this contention should not take place through armed force. The further God has allowed us, through the gifts of the intellect for which we have Him to thank, to develop technology, the more destructive war has become. It destroys all that for which the gifts of the intellect strive. It ultimately devours itself. We therefore wish for a peaceful, fair settlement of the conflicting interests that exist in this world, which are much less due to people than to their environments. We are of the conviction that such a settlement is possible because it is in the interest of all nations, on calm reflection. Its prerequisite is that the nations must respect one another and grant each nation the right to form a state independently and to run that state. The nations can best promote their welfare and their salvation if they work together and thus bring their divergent strengths into a great harmonious chord for the gratification of all. Such a cooperation will lead to an exchange of goods as unhindered as possible.

The large and small states came to wealth and their prime under such an arrangement from the beginning of the nineteenth century on. It must be restored as soon as possible. Every understanding individual will take into account that this restoration is not possible from one day to the next without major upheaval. We will have to consult circles of wise men of all nations to find the safest and shortest path that leads each person to the best possible attainment of his vital interests, providing he has the goodwill for hard work and understanding consideration for the interests of others.

We therefore consider it essential to put an end as soon as possible to any further destruction and further wasting of nations' energies on works of destruction. Every state involved and not involved in the war will have to overcome an excess of difficulties in order to counter the material losses of this war.

Such cooperation is only possible when it is based on a solid system of acknowledged legal principles. Not even a simple game can be played out without argument if every participant does not obey certain rules. How much less is that possible if nations living under the most diverse conditions want to participate in the greatest task, that of the harmonizing balance of all forces. We are of the belief that God wants this balance, and we therefore consider the best bastion for securing such rules in the life of the nations to be decency of convictions, that duty to one's conscience that emanates only from religious consciousness. Yet we do not underestimate that these rules require formulating and that human imperfection makes it necessary to entrust them additionally with powerful protection. Acknowledging the independence of all states as they have developed over the course of history, we are prepared for such a common structure on a small and large scale. The restoration as quickly as possible of orderly public budgets in all countries is necessary, for without this balance no stable currencies can exist, and without them an orderly and brisk exchange of goods and services is not possible. We will not hesitate to put this necessity into practice. We must take account of the realities of this deplorable war in doing so. However, we will ensure that, where foreign territories must be held occupied at present, those affected will be enabled to regain full self-government, and the presence of German troops will be made as small a burden as possible. We know from our own painful experience how deeply the soul of every nation is touched by seeing the soldiers of another nation on the sacred soil of their homeland.

We must therefore, not knowing what stand the world will take toward us, continue the fight; we all have many bitter experiences behind us. We are men who were accustomed to doing our duty under the most abominable conditions. We are men who have taken on an evil heritage without complaining about the previous disloyal custodians of our fates. We do not wish to reduce our own responsibility or to present ourselves in a better light by discharging the blame onto others and casting slurs on others. We wish to return to the language of civilized decency, as it is cultivated in every self-respecting German family as a matter of course.

And so we also call for active self-reflection and for assurance and a willingness to sacrifice. Do not hate; help! Accomplish the greatest feat: find the soul of our nation again. In doing so, gain the strength to achieve more and to help our brave soldiers on land, at sea, and in the air even more effectively. Let us unite with them with a clear conscience that no more German men's blood shall be sacrificed for the thirst for glory of incapable leaders, but only for the defense of our vital interests.

With God for justice, freedom, and securing peaceful work.

