Leaflets of the White Rose

Nothing is less worthy of a civilized nation than to allow itself to be “governed” without resistance by an irresponsible clique of rulers driven by dark desires. Is it not the case that every honest German today is ashamed of his government, and which of us can judge the extent of the shame that will come over us and our children when one day the veil has fallen from our eyes and the cruelest crimes, infinitely exceeding all measure, come to light? If the German people is already so corrupted and decayed to the very depths of its soul that it surrenders the highest good that man possesses and that raises him above every other creature, namely, his free will, without lifting a hand, in reckless trust in a dubious regularity of history, renders it without the freedom of man to intervene in the wheel of history himself and submit it to his reasonable discretion; if the Germans are so utterly lacking in any individuality, have already become such a spiritless and cowardly mass, then, well then, they deserve their downfall.

Goethe speaks of the Germans as a tragic people, equal to those of the Jews and the Greeks, but today it looks more as if they were a shallow, weak-willed herd of tacit supporters, whose mark has been sucked out of their innermost selves and who now, robbed of their core, are willing to be hounded to their downfall. It seems so—but it is not so; rather, they have placed every individual in an intellectual prison by a slow, deceitful, systematic act of violence, and only once he lay bound in that prison did he become aware of his terrible fate. Few recognized the imminent ruin, and the reward for their heroic warnings was death. There will come a time to talk of these people’s fate.

If everyone waits until the next man starts, the harbingers of revenging Nemesis will move inexorably closer and closer, and then even the last sacrifice will have been cast senselessly into the jaws of the insatiable demon. Therefore, every individual must resist at this last hour as much as he can, aware of his responsibility as a member of Christian and Western culture, must work against the scourge of mankind, against fascism and every similar system of the absolute state. Engage in passive resistance—resistance—wherever you may be, prevent this atheist war machinery from running on before it is too late, before the last cities are reduced to rubble like Cologne, and before the last youth of the nation has bled to death in some faraway place for the hubris of a subhuman. Don’t forget that every nation deserves the government that it endures!

From Friedrich Schiller, “The Legislation of Lycurgus and Solon”:

"...Viewed in relation to its purpose, the legislation of Lycurgus is a masterpiece of political and human science. He wanted a powerful, indestructible state founded upon itself; political strength and durability were the goal for which he strived, and he achieved this goal as far as possible under the prevailing conditions. Yet if we compare the purpose that Lycurgus had in view with the purposes of mankind, then profound disapproval must take the place of the admiration that we felt at first glance. Everything may be sacrificed for the good of the state, with the exception of that end for which the state serves as a means. The state itself is never a purpose, it is only important as a condition under which the purpose of mankind may be fulfilled, and this purpose of mankind is none other than the development of all powers of man, progress. If a constitution prevents all powers within man from developing, if it prevents the progress of the intellect, it is abominable and harmful, no matter how well thought out and perfect of its kind it may be. Its durability itself then becomes more cause for reproach than glory—it is then only an extended evil; the longer it exists, the more harmful it is."

"...The political merit was won and the ability to do so was developed at the cost of all moral feelings. In Sparta there was no marital love, no maternal love, no childish love, no friendship—there was nothing but citizens, and nothing but citizenly virtue. A state law made it the Spartans’ duty to treat their slaves inhumanly; mankind was insulted and mistreated in the form of these unfortunate sacrificial beasts. The Spartan book of statutes itself preached the dangerous..."
principle of viewing men as a means and not as a purpose—thus the foundations of natural law and morality were torn down by legislation.

....What more beautiful a performance does the rough warrior Caius Marcius give at his camp outside Rome, who sacrifices revenge and victory because he cannot bear to see his mother’s tears flowing!"

"...The state (of Lycurgus) could only endure under a sole condition: if the people’s intellect were to stand still; it could thus only be sustained by transgressing against the highest and only purpose of a state."

From Goethe’s *The Awakening of Epimenides*, Act Two, Scene Four:

Spirits

.....Though he who emerges boldly from the abyss
May win victory over half the world
Through brazen skillfulness,
He must return to that abyss.
Though he fears most dreadfully,
His resistance will be in vain!
And all who still stand by him
Must accompany him in his fate

Hope

Now I meet my loyal souls
Who gather in the night
To be silent, not to sleep,
And the lovely word of freedom
Is lisped and stammered
Until in unaccustomed novelty
We stand on the steps of our temple
And call out with new delight:
(loud, with conviction)
Freedom!
(more moderately)
Freedom!
(from all directions, an echo)
Freedom!

Please type as many copies of this leaflet as possible and pass them on.