

## *Strasser on Self-Sufficiency*

Strasser was trying to keep material and social conditions in mind when he was thinking about this, so the whole thing becomes a process which he outlines first the rectifications that Germany would have to make to obtain peace with the rest of Europe.

Without for a moment ignoring the material demands for general security which Germany will have to satisfy in order to atone for her complicity in Hitler's outburst of violence (an atonement whose effects will be more lasting, the more thorough and the more enduring the German repudiation of the Hitler System), the coming peace must be designed with an eye to the future of Europe, to averting the evils that stand in the way of the true pacification and the trusty collaboration of the peoples of our continent.

This peace must embody:

- (1) The principle of liberty, of independence, of self-determination for all nations, large or small
- (2) The principle that right, not might, shall prevail in all nations, both in their domestic and in their foreign affairs.
- (3) The principle of joint security, joint wellbeing, and joint culture.

These same principles must likewise secure expression in the preliminaries to the peace, and in the methods by which it is approached.

On the German side an essential will be that the Germans must repudiate on principle Hitler's unwarrantable use of force, and the conditions that have resulted therefrom. Without such repudiation there can be neither armistice nor peace.

The repudiation of Hitler's unwarrantable use of force will imply the immediate evacuation by German troops of all the non-German areas they may have occupied, and a pledge to pay compensation for any damage they may have done.

This re-establishment of right as against might will not be a part of the peace, but a preliminary to peace, and a main constituent of the agreement for an armistice.

The peace itself, if it is to deserve that name, must not be the upshot of a dictatorship, but of comprehensive negotiations, not only between Germany and her adversaries, for the neutrals great and small must participate in them, probably choosing the United States and Italy as their representatives. A sort of Vienna Congress will have to debate and adjust the interests and wishes of the peoples of Europe, and elaborate a harmony, bearing ever in mind the great commonwealth of Europe and the salvation of the West.

Once peace is achieved he outlines his ideas about autarky. I won't copy paste it all, but you can find this starting on page 136(or maybe it is section 136) in Germany Tomorrow, which is linked in the sidebar.

Arising very urgently out of the collapse of world economy, world trade, and the gold standard, come the demands of German socialism for autarky, a State monopoly of foreign trade, and a currency standard of our own.

#### A. Autarky

Autarky, self-sufficiency, I.e. adequate domestic sources for the supply of raw materials, is a necessary antecedent to the satisfaction of the main demand of a socialist national economy the safeguarding of the food, clothing, and shelter of the community. It is also the necessary antecedent to national freedom and popular cultural development, as is plainly shown to the German people by the Issue of the world war. With regard to food-supply, autarky must be absolute, whereas in the case of our minimal cultural requirements it can be and will be relative. We already have the bulk of the conditions. With the necessary improvements, our agriculture and stock-raising could supply a sufficiency of food for the German people. The most important raw materials that are lacking (cotton, oil, and rubber), can in part be replaced by such substitutes as artificial silk and flax and in part by synthetic products.

Efforts to make our national economy independent of the rest of the world will be facilitated by simplifying the lives of our fellow-countrymen. Under the capitalist system a great many 'daily needs' are artificially developed by advertisement. Simplifying life would not mean a 'relapse into barbarism, for culture is not dependent upon luxury or upon the gratification of needlessly created wants. In a true fellowship no one would make a to-do about the satisfaction of such needs while any of his fellow-countrymen were going hungry from lack of work.

Thus the stress that is laid upon promoting the idea of autarky needs certain restrictions but still more does it need an important amplification.

National autarky cannot and must not be the last aim of a socialist economic policy, for we are not concerned with a Spartan Ideal, but with a Dionysiac ideal, in the profoundest sense of the term. Consequently this national autarky can only be a transitional phase though the present international situation makes us suppose that it will be the terminal phase of German socialism. Not through our own will, but under stress of circumstances and it seems undesirable that one nation should blame another for these circumstances.

European autarky, however, is here deliberately advocated as the necessary economic policy of German socialism, since this is essential to the maintenance of the level of European culture and civilization, and can be shown to be possible If there is

a suitable adjustment of agricultural and industrial capacities for production and consumption. Nothing but the establishment and safeguarding of European autarchy can make it safe to carry on a luxury-trade with other parts of the world without endangering the existence of Europe. For the very reason that European autarchy is an aim of German socialism, and for the very reason that extant political and economic data are still obstacles to the reaching of this aim, the national autarchy of German socialism is an indispensable antecedent thereto.

#### B. State Monopoly of Foreign Trade

So far as import of raw materials or luxuries seems necessary or desirable, the German people will export some of its own wares in exchange for the requisites, exporting the produce either of a natural monopoly (potash, chemicals) or of an artificial monopoly (electroplate, expensive machinery, etc.).

The exchange will not be effected in accordance with the arbitrary wishes of the individual producers, but in accordance with a plan drafted to suit the needs of the State, and this will involve the existence of a State monopoly of foreign trade. Such a State monopoly will not (as does the Russian) aim at itself conducting the foreign trade, but will merely supervise, and give licences for export to such persons as may need them.

Once more it is necessary to distinguish between what may be the terminal situation of German socialism, and what may be aimed at beyond it.

In what will probably be the situation of German socialism to begin with, a national monopoly of foreign trade will be urgently required. Not merely will the natural opposition of international capitalism render indispensable this concentration of all the forces of the German national economy, but the monopoly will also suit the needs of a planned economy, without which a socialist economy is impossible.

Inasmuch as even after European autarchy has been established, the internal structures of the various national economies will differ, when this later condition is reached German socialism will not be able to dispense with the monopoly of foreign trade.

The fact that there will only be a monopoly in granting licences to trade will make it easy to adapt matters to the various requirements of intra-European and overseas trade.

Above all it will safeguard and turn to useful account those incommunicable experiences in foreign trade which cannot be acquired by any bureaucratic apparatus.

So your question is a bit hard to answer. As you can see from these quotes, Strasser was in a hurry to get this done and speaks of urgency right at the beginning, but he recognized that there were many other factors that also needed to be addressed while creating this society.