

The World Observer

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AXIS POWERS SIGN TRIPARTITE PACT

Not too much to the surprise of the world public, Germany, Italy, and Japan have met each other's terms for a closer co-operation in military terms. Talks stretched over several months. A bit of rivalry and conflicting interests complicated the birth of what Dr. Josef Goebbels, Hitler's chief propagandist calls 'a great moment in the history of our peoples'. This view may be correct in a country where the press is dictated by the government. Let us try an independent observation.

The great signing powers tried to invite several minor nations into the new alliance. Japan voted for Thailand, Italy tried to bring in her new ally Persia while Germany attempted to rally Spain to her side. It soon became evident that too many conflicting interests were being forced into one binding agreement. Neither of the minor countries wished to risk their people's blood for the interests of the great powers. Further taking into consideration the distance it seems that the Tripartite pact will be little more than another stage show of the fascist powers. A demonstration of their defensibility requires more than blunt words.

Japan's retreat from Hongkong hints us at the real reasons for this pact. Insiders of the European politics know that as soon as German tanks crossed the Polish border, Hitler has made several peace offers to Britain. After France backed up her promise made, German offers intensified. The governments at Berlin, Rome and Tokyo begin to realize that a violent alteration of borders and political influence will arouse the big powers from their slumber. The behemoth British Empire has rearmed herself, the Russian bear lurks suspiciously east and west, and the United States are ever more concerned over what is happening in other corners of the world, threatening vital American commerce and trade interests.

Tripartite Pact

"In these times of turmoil, the four leading fascist powers of the world, Germany, Italy, and Japan, have decided to form a grand strategic alliance to forge a new order in Europe and Greater East Asia, and to ensure peace and prosperity for their peoples."

"The contracting powers undertake to assist one another with all political, economic and military means if one of them is attacked by an outside power. All contracting powers will consider themselves at war with the outside power until a joint peace contract is signed."

"With the view to implementing the present pact, joint technical commissions, members which are to be appointed by the respective governments of Germany, Italy, and Japan will meet without delay."

"The present pact shall come into effect immediately upon signature and shall remain in force 10 years from the date of its coming into force. At the proper time before expiration of said term, the contracting parties shall at the request of any one of them enter into negotiations for its renewal."

signed on behalf of Germany:
Adolf Hitler

signed on behalf of Italy:
Il Duce Benito Mussolini

signed on behalf of Japan:
Prince Konoye Fumimako

Italy conquers Zagreb

The war in Europe seems to spread like a fire in a flammable house. Last month, Italy has once again ignite the old powder keg of Europe, the Balkans. The region that, according to some opinion, instigated the World War is notorious for her instability for centuries.

On 1st October, three Italian armies attacked the Yugoslavian defences at Zagreb. The Italians moved across mudded roads and fields. The Yugoslav troops were supported by aircraft, inflicting considerable damage on the slowly advancing Italians. With superior force, the Italian Legions beat their way into the city. The courageous Yugoslavian 1st Cavalry Corps fought to the last man and was hence eliminated, and the 2nd Corps had severe losses, but managed to retreat eastwards.



Italian troops in northern Dalmatia

Also on 1st October, Hungarian troops crossed the border to Yugoslavia and occupied the Banate and territory up to the Danube in the south. There was no resistance to the movement. Serbian troops seemingly evacuated the area. Yugoslavia and Hungary possibly came to an agreement at last.

In the southeast the Yugoslav troops hold a firm line in the central Serbian mountain massive. General Simovic declared a national emergency mobilization, a call-to-arms of all men from 16 to 60, and the formation of 'partisan' units.

Scandinavia in trouble

Finnish delegates visited Denmark this month to probe again their willingness to join the Scandinavian league assembled by Finland, Norway and Sweden. Denmark's precarious situation as the nation both controlling the

Skagerrak and sitting next to Germany's fleet hub Kiel is monitored closely by Britain. Chancellor Hitler had already stated that he did not oppose a Danish participation in the Scandinavian Union.



Finnish Mechanized Division, the pride of their army (here with Vickers light tanks)

Vännö Tanner, foreign minister of the UISS, said that Scandinavia wishes to continue the iron ore deliveries to Germany. Scandinavia, failing their recent offensive against the Russian invaders before the gates of Helsinki, urgently needs assistance. What must be a joy for Hitler gives grave concerns to Denmark. With economic treaties stretching all across Europe, Germany is slowly building a new empire. The Danes, on the other hand, wisely declined the offer to enter the sinking boat of Finland and Sweden. The Russo-German pact clearly rules out any German assistance while continued economic ties with Germany will increase tensions with Britain.

At home prime minister Per Albin Hansson earned much criticism for his decision to impose a re-registering act with a 10% tax on all merchant tonnage. Affected are mostly Norwegian shipping companies with an estimated capital of 750 million dollar. The new act was to bring 75 M\$ into the Scandinavian treasury. Instead, a harsh debate in parliament took place. After the prime minister pushed through the act by the majority of his unionist party, the Norwegian representatives left the federal parliament. Norway is now considering to steer out of the union. King Haakon has declared that the law will not be implemented in Norway but instead only affect Swedish and Finnish shipping companies.

Atlantic storms hit Europe and North Africa

The fall winds came early, fast and harsh this year. Beaufort 12 was measured on several British and continental Atlantic coastal cities, such as Brest, Glasgow and Rotterdam. Violent gusts deroofed hundreds of houses in the low countries. In Norway and central Germany, 100,000 acres of forest were destroyed by the storms. Trailing the storm lows, a deluge-like rain front kept pouring all over Europe. As a result, military activity was stalled this month, giving the opponents some time to reconsider their politics and strategy.

Muslim attacks all over Arabia

Pan-Arab leaders aroused the masses of Muslim population in many Arabian and middle east towns. Blaming all their miseries on the colonial powers, Christians and Jews, the heated mob was seen burning British and French flags. In some cities, pogroms against Jews started. Synagogues were burning like in Kristallnacht, Germany 1938.

Arabian king Ibn Sa Ud made no pretense over his support for the fascist nations. Meanwhile, a Palestine Liberation Army marched unhindered into Jerusalem, where thousands of Jewish immigrants from the Commonwealth settled. Un-speakable atrocities were reported. The Palestinians then tried to continue their death march into Jaffa, where French colonial troops put an end to the brutal uprising. Routing them back to Jerusalem and capturing their disarrayed forces, order was restored in the region. Surviving Jewish settlers screamed aloud for blood vengeance. The situation in the city is currently boiling up with street fightings, slinging and stone throwing everywhere. Batteries take place over holy places, armed bands of Jewish, Christian and Muslim fighters are forming.

Free France still fighting

De Gaulle promises undiminished resistance in all held places such as Bordeaux, the northern and central African colonies. Much to the sur-

prise of military analysts, the southwestern French port city remains a sting in the flank of German and Spanish usurpers. The British General Fuller already speaks of a beachhead to begin the reconquest of continental Europe, but British strategies seem to concentrate on an air-sea campaign against the combined fascist powers.



Char D2 infantry tank in northern Africa

Following a spectacular but fruitless French attack on the Spanish occupied city of Tangiers, Marshal Weygand held a broadcast via Radio Free France:

This month has seen spectacular success for the French. I begin with this as I wish to see your heart swell with Gallic pride, with the knowledge that our fair France will soon once again be free. As of this day, French forces still stand vigilant in France proper. Hundreds of tanks and thousands of men stand ready to defend Bordeaux to the last. The Spanish curs have arrayed themselves to attack, but we know they will be defeated. One can only imagine what the pig Franco will say to his German masters when he must beg for their assistance.

The forces of France have relocated to Northern Africa. They are intact and ready to defend the Empire under any circumstances. In addition, the French have joined the English yet again--this time in the Middle East. Soon the Italians will be forced from their tenuous positions along the Suez. The world's link to the Mediterranean will be restored.

The world has pledged their support to us. Happily, the Empire of Japan, a nation we have always enjoyed good relations with, has stood by us in this difficult time. Even as I speak, new trade agreements are being arranged

which will once more bring monies into our coffers. We support them in their endeavours and wish for their continued good fortune.

It may seem hard to reconcile these seemingly far flung events with an imminent French victory. But it will happen. The French citizen is indomitable. The French soldier is indefatigable. We've seen the light of liberty, of justice. The Germans once knew it too--perhaps someday they will choose to return to it rather continue under the mad delusions of Hitler.

But even if the Germans do not throw off their oppressors, even if the Italians continue their lowly fascist ways, even if the Spanish dogs continue to pillage the fair towns of France even as they flee from our troops in blue, the armies of democracy will show their strength and defeat the Dictators as we did just twenty years ago. Never lose hope. France will be free again.

Japan retreats from Hongkong

Forces under the command of General Yamashita and his Imperial Marines Command vacated the city of Hongkong. The conquest of the city leased by Britain from the Chinese government has cost the lives of many Japanese soldiers and of Chinese civilians as well. Whether the Chinese will now march in and govern the city during the absence of British authorities is still unclear but likely, given the British inability to reinforce Hongkong.

President Roosevelt on electoral campaign

Franklin D. Roosevelt visited 20 major cities throughout the United States in the final stages of his 1940 electoral campaign. According to Harry Hopkins, secretary and special advisor to the president during the entire campaign, emphasize was made on the following points in all of the president's speeches:

1. How together we have come through the depression
2. How we are preparing to defend America and democracy
3. How we have begun to build business and how many americans are going back to work.
4. How our opponents argued for isolationism and how they were proven absolutely wrong as America finds itself surrounded by armed forces across each ocean.
5. How we have protected workers rights with a minimum wage.
6. How we have worked with our business community partnering to bring about a strong American industry that is second to none.
7. General patriotism, democratic ideals and personal stories to connect with the individual locations we are in.



President Roosevelt speaks in New York

The republicans concentrated on the war issue, claiming that Roosevelt is actively seeking a US commitment in the war, costly to American lives and property. Hoover got support from several prominent persons such as Charles Lindberg and also from the women's league that traditionally has close ties with the democrats. 'Keep our sons at home' was their major slogan amongst other pacifist statements and arguments. But America is already deeply concerned over a warring world and a peaceful hideout for the American people. Analysts therefore say that it is going to be a hard race for presidency but see Roosevelt at an edge before his opponent Hoover.