

The World Observer

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20 cents

Hitler is being serious

Berlin. German Chancellor Adolf Hitler declared war on Poland on 1 September 1939. In a rapid move, two German army groups centered in on the Polish capital. The Poles were stunned on the devastating effect of the new German armor and air arm. Foreign journalists were allowed to report on the battles. The German troop movement lead to a rapid encirclement of Polish troops stationed at the borders.



The President's Response

As a first official reaction, President Roosevelt held a speech before the nation:

"My fellow Americans, today the armed forces of Germany have crossed into Poland and initiated armed conflict against the Polish people. In response to Germany's aggression, Britain has, according to well-known international treaties, declared war against Germany and is now taking actions to deter German aggression. With these series of events, Europe is now once again at war. A little over 20 years ago, America was forced to intervene in the last European War in order to stop German aggression and to preserve democracy. The Allied nations in that Great War sought to establish a new

world community that would protect our children from another World War. Despite those efforts, it seems that Europe, and possibly the rest of the world, will once again have to fight a great war to protect democracy and establish a peace that will ensure that our children will never again have to know the bitterness of war. As of today, this war is a European war, and we all pray that this conflict can be contained to its current combatants and may come to a swift conclusion. Since this conflict is currently limited to Europe, America remains neutral and shall not become involved in a limited regional conflict. I ask all Americans to join me in prayer for all the victims of this conflict, and to further pray that this conflict come to a swift conclusion with diplomacy and humanity prevailing over the horrors of war. My fellow Americans, America does not desire to enter into another Great War, however we cannot be blind or weak in the face of such serious events. Our way of life depends upon free markets, democratic ideals and open seas. Therefore, while America will not intervene in this limited regional conflict, America hereby gives notice that we will not tolerate any spread of this regional conflict in a manner that threatens Americans or the American way of life. While America does not desire to become engaged in a limited regional conflict, let the world not mistake neutrality for blind isolationism. America has and always will defend the American way of life and the principles of freedom that are essential to our survival and perseverance. For these reasons, I shall direct our naval forces to begin preparations to guarantee that all sea lanes remain open should they become threatened by the spread of this limited regional conflict. My fellow Americans, these are dire and serious events. However, with God's guiding light we shall see our way through these events. God bless us all. Good night."

The British and French Responses

On 3rd September, Britain declared war on Germany. French parliament debate almost broke out into hand

fighting, and another government crisis erupted. An official declaration of war has been postponed. However a resolution was made that allowed Britain to land armed forces on French soil and to have the French army at full wartime alert status.

Germany Presses On

Meanwhile German tanks rolled over Polish corpses and ruins. On 14 September the Soviet Union, without a declaration of war, crossed the Polish border with two army groups and occupied the eastern part of Poland. At that date German army group A closed the circle around Warsaw. For 10 days the capital was beleaguered. On 25 September the Poles refused General von Bock's last ultimatum for surrender and German tanks rolled again, this time to storm the already battered and exhausted Polish defenders. On 28 September, all resistance ceased. They had paid a high price to defend their freedom. The Polish government escaped to Romania where it has been interned.

Russia Intervenes in Polish Conflict

The world shuddered in fear of a reawakened Germany, again demonstrating the power of a militarist tradition brought back to full strength. But as much we are shocked at the brutal and wicked way the Soviet Union has allied with the aggressor Hitler. Is this the new way political problems are solved in the coming decade?

According to unconfirmed Finnish reports, the Soviet Union has also violated the border of Finland.

The British Admiralty declared all waters around Germany war zone. Neutral ships are safe as long as they sail to British ports. In return, Germany declared all waters around Britain war zone, and furthermore declared unrestricted submarine warfare against any ship bound for the British isles or under British flag. During the month of September German U-Boats sunk 150,000 tons of merchant shipping. Britain claimed to have sunk several German U-Boats as well as a destroyer squadron in the Bay of Heligoland.

US preparing for war?

Sailors reported the US navy conducting wartime-practice patrols along the east coast. Senator Durhan (Rep.) condemned this as 'A dangerous step for America in dangerous times. America should not become embroiled in European hostilities.' The white house speaker has announced an official statement before the press for October 1st. Durhan later openly called F.D.R. a "Liar. He speaks of neutrality but thinks of war. Don't let this fool dictate America's future. A deep economic crisis will be the result, this time a deeper one, a longer lasting, a final one". Durhan was later criticized by his own party members for such harsh words on grounds of unproven reports.



German PzKw 1 tanks roll through what the Luftwaffe left of Kattowice