

AN ATLAS-HISTORY
OF THE SECOND GREAT WAR

VOLUME ONE

*AN ATLAS-HISTORY OF THE
SECOND GREAT WAR*

- VOL. I SEPT. 1939 TO JAN. 1940
VOL. II JAN. 1940 TO JULY 1940
VOL. III JULY 1940 TO JAN. 1941
VOL. IV JAN. 1941 TO JULY 1941
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AN ATLAS - HISTORY OF
THE SECOND GREAT WAR

by
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LIST OF CONTENTS

1. GERMANY, 1914.
2. GERMANY, 1919.
3. GERMANY, MARCH 1939.
4. GERMANY, OCTOBER 1939.
5. THE "ENCIRCLEMENT" OF GERMANY.
6. GERMAN-SPEAKING MINORITIES IN EUROPE.
7. HOW POLAND WAS RECONSTITUTED, 1919.
8. HISTORIC POLAND.
9. RACIAL GROUPS IN POLAND.
10. THE POLISH CAMPAIGN (1).
11. THE POLISH CAMPAIGN (2).
12. THE PARTITION OF POLAND.
13. NEW STATES OF EUROPE, 1919.
14. GERMANY'S WESTERN FRONTIER.
15. BETWEEN MOSELLE AND RHINE (1).
16. BETWEEN MOSELLE AND RHINE (2).
17. THE NEUTRALS IN THE WEST : (1) HOLLAND AND BELGIUM.
18. THE NEUTRALS IN THE WEST : (2) SWITZERLAND.
19. THE BLOCKADE OF GERMANY.

20. AIR POWER AND SEA POWER.
21. GERMANY'S SUBMARINE AND SEAPLANE BASES.
22. THE ENTRANCE TO THE BALTIC.
23. THE NORTH ATLANTIC.
24. AMERICA STAYS NEUTRAL.
25. THE "GRAF SPEE" IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC.
26. GERMAN NEEDS AND RUSSIAN RESOURCES.
27. RUSSIA AND THE BALTIC.
28. THE BALTIC STATES.
29. LENINGRAD AND THE GULF OF FINLAND.
30. RUSSIA'S INVASION OF FINLAND.
31. KARELIA.
32. ITALY'S FRONTIERS.
33. DIPLOMACY AND THE BALKANS.
34. TURKEY, THE BLACK SEA, AND THE STRAITS.
35. RUMANIA.
36. THE WAY INTO THE BLACK SEA.
37. INDIA AND THE WAR.
38. THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
39. THE BLOCKADE.
40. RAW MATERIAL WEALTH OF BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND GERMANY.
41. HOW FAR IS GERMANY SELF-SUFFICIENT?
42. THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF THE RIVAL POWERS.
43. HOW THE NAZIS SOLVED THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.

44. GERMANY'S GAINS IN POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
45. GERMANY'S NEEDS AND RUSSIA'S RESOURCES.
46. BRITAIN'S WORLD TRADE.
47. BRITAIN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.
48. SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS OF BRITISH IMPORTS.
49. MERCHANT SHIPPING, 1914 AND 1939.
50. CANADA—THE EMPIRE'S ARSENAL (1).
51. CANADA—THE EMPIRE'S ARSENAL (2).

AUTHOR'S NOTE

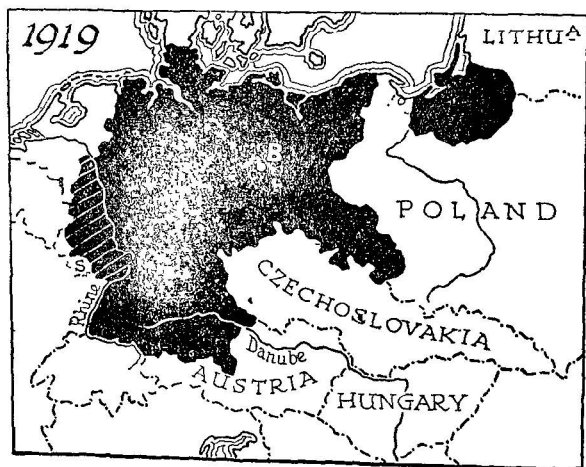
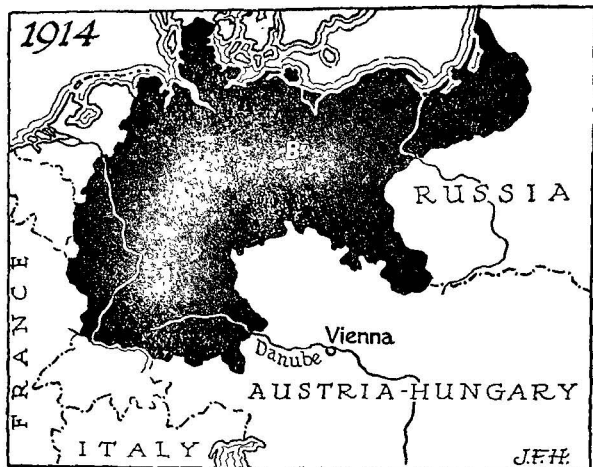
WAR is essentially an affair of geography ; and a war history must accordingly largely consist of maps. This one makes maps its primary concern. It does not attempt to give the details of day-to-day events, but aims at making clear those underlying geographical and strategical factors which tend to be lost sight of in the fog of the actual struggle.

To get a picture of modern warfare in proper perspective the geographical facts need to be supplemented by relevant economic facts and figures. The later pages of this volume consist of diagrams of this kind, and it is hoped that these diagrams will be a feature of any future additions to this series of volumes, which are at present planned to appear twice yearly.

My thanks are due to Mr. J. Carney for invaluable help in collecting material ; and to Margaret McWilliams for assistance in the drawing of the maps.

J. F. H.

1 and 2



Germany

1914-19—

THE German Empire, founded in 1871 under the leadership of the Hohenzollerns of Prussia, consisted of the various German states around the rivers Rhine, Elbe, and Oder, stretching eastward across the lower Vistula to East Prussia. Its two neighbours on the south and east were the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires.

After the First World War of 1914-18, by the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was made to surrender the provinces lying west of the upper Rhine (Alsace-Lorraine) to France; two small areas to Belgium; part of Schleswig, in the north, to Denmark; and large areas in the east to the new Republic of Poland. This latter cession meant the severance of East Prussia from the rest of the Reich, a "corridor" of Polish territory dividing German territory. The Rhineland (the whole area north of Lorraine) was placed under Allied occupation for a number of years, and permanently demilitarized. The Saar (coal) Basin was placed under League of Nations administration for a period of fifteen years.

Germany

1933-39—

THE German Republic, set up after the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II. at the end of the last war, came to an end in 1933 with the seizure of power by the Nazi Party. All the German states were immediately brought under the strong central control of the "Third Reich."

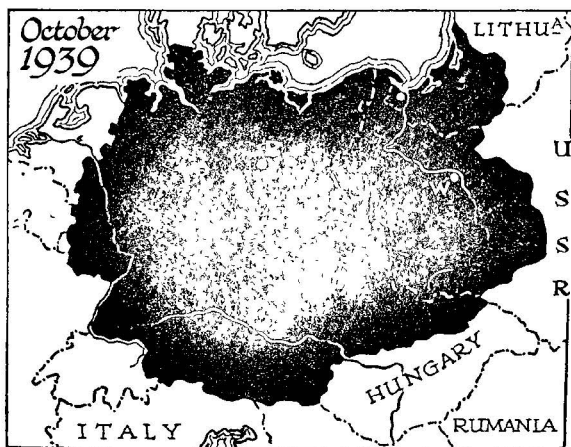
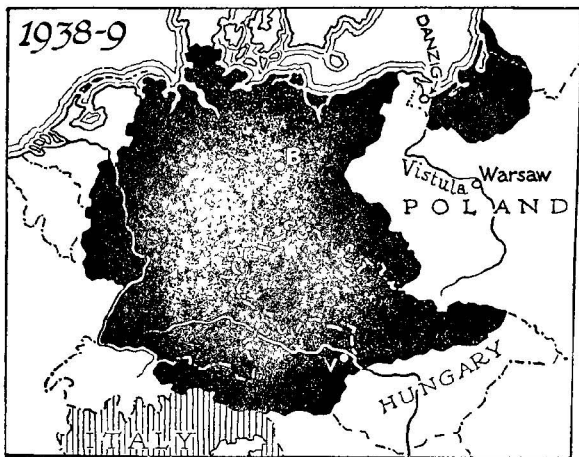
Two years later (February, 1935), the SAAR was by plebiscite of its inhabitants returned to Germany. Just over a year later Chancellor Hitler ordered the re-occupation of the RHINELAND by German troops. Germany's western frontier—apart from Alsace-Lorraine and the small districts ceded to Belgium—thus became again what it had been in 1914.

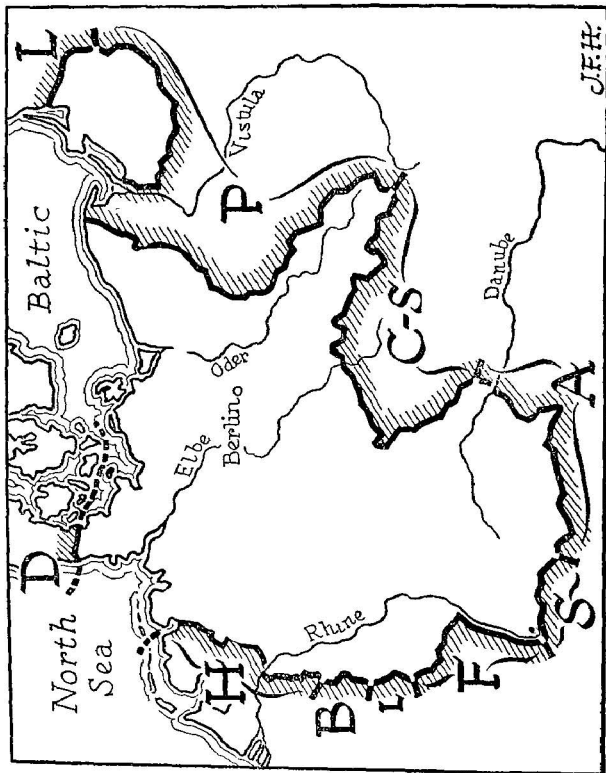
Hitler next turned his eyes southward. AUSTRIA, separating Germany from her new ally, Fascist Italy, was seized in March, 1938.

In the autumn of that year Hitler announced his intention of rescuing the Sudeten Germans from the "tyranny" of the Czechoslovaks; and by the Munich Agreement large areas of CZECHOSLOVAKIA were ceded to Germany. In March, 1939, Hitler ordered the occupation of the Czech provinces, and established a protectorate over Slovakia.

In September, 1939, with the professed aim of liberating the German minorities in Poland and of re-claiming for Germany the Free City of Danzig, German armies invaded POLAND. Less than a month later Germany was in occupation of all Poland up to a line a hundred miles east of the Vistula—a frontier fixed by agreement with the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, which took over the eastern part of the country.

3 and 4

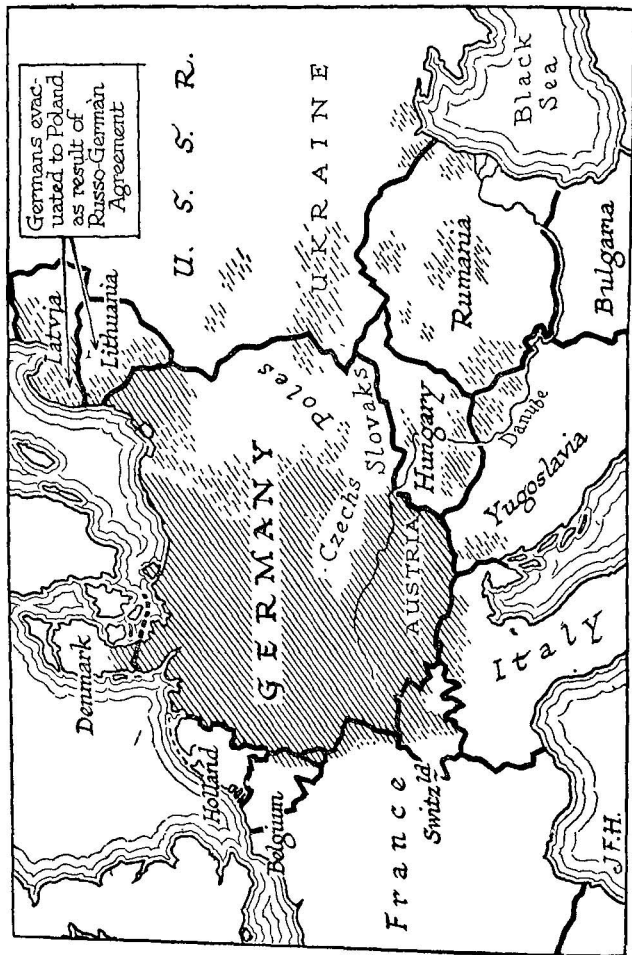




The "Encirclement" of Germany—

THE age-old German fear of "encirclement," so successfully played upon by Hitler and the other Nazi propagandists, is the result of Germany's peculiar—and in certain ways disadvantageous—geographical position. With the exception of Russia she has far less coastline in proportion to total length of frontier than any other of the Great Powers ; and by far the larger part of that coastline lies along the closed Baltic Sea. Only in the north-west, for a few miles on either side of the estuary of the Elbe, has she direct access to open sea.

The mere number and diversity of the states contiguous to her land frontiers gave point to the oft-repeated protestations of her leaders that Germany stood in danger of hostile encirclement. Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, France, Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Lithuania were her neighbours when Hitler and the Nazis came to power. Nor were the German frontiers clearly marked out by any natural features. Only along the Swiss, Austrian, and part of the Czechoslovak borders did mountain country mark out the frontier more or less clearly ; and even here the advantages of the terrain lay mainly with the bordering state and not with Germany.

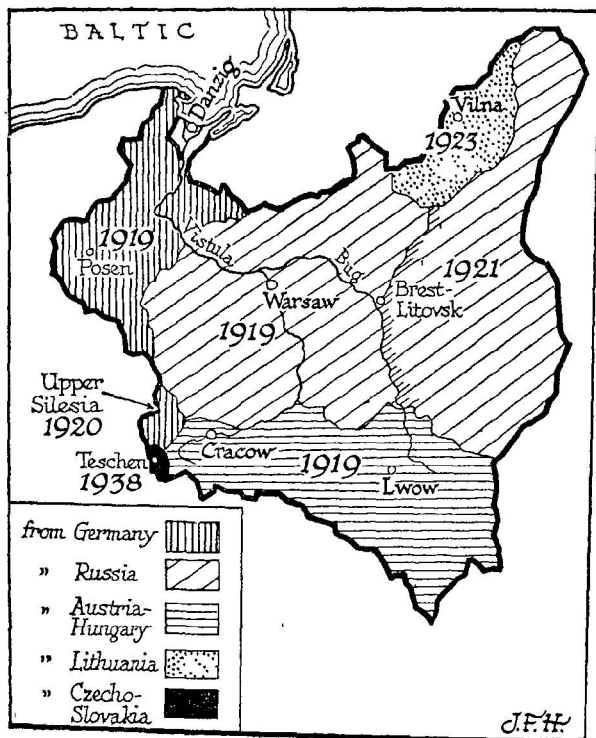


German-speaking Minorities in Europe—

NAZI spokesmen have many times declared their aim to be the bringing into the Reich of all the scattered German-speaking peoples in central and eastern Europe. As the map makes clear, this would involve the extension of the Reich frontiers far beyond the line already reached during the period of expansion under Hitler.

There are German—or German-speaking—minorities in Denmark, Switzerland, and all down the Danube valley through Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Rumania. They exist, too, in the very heart of Rumania (Transylvania) and on the shores of the Black Sea itself; while eastward from Poland they extend well into the Ukraine.

The peoples of German stock to the north-east of Germany, in the Baltic states of Latvia and Lithuania, are being evacuated to German-conquered Poland as a result of the Russo-German agreement.



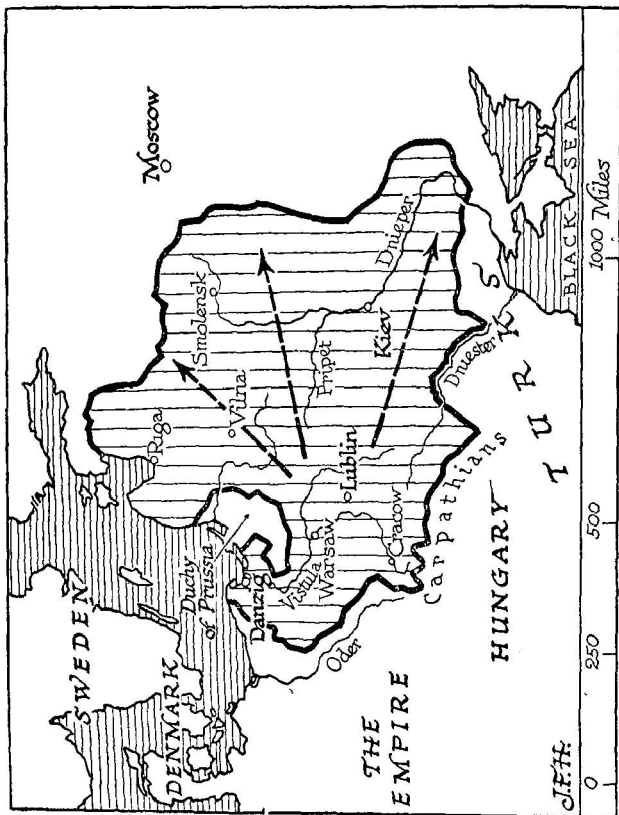
How Poland was reconstituted after the First World War—

THE state of Poland, which in the eighteenth century had been partitioned between the empires of Russia and Austria and the kingdom of Prussia, was reconstituted in 1919 by the Supreme Council at Versailles. (Polish independence had, as a matter of fact, been promised by the Tsar and the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria during the war, in 1916.)

The new Republic was made up of the German provinces of West Prussia and Posen; the province of Russian Poland, centring on Warsaw; and the Austrian province of Galicia. After a plebiscite an important part of Upper Silesia was added to Poland in 1920.

In 1921 a war with the Soviet Union resulted in the acquisition of a further great stretch of territory to the east of the Bug River. Two years later Vilna was seized by the Poles from Lithuania.

In 1938, when Germany seized the Sudeten areas of Czechoslovakia, Poland occupied the small but economically important Teschen area to the south-west of her own borders.



Historic Poland—

THE central homeland of the Polish race (*cf.* next map) is an area lying on either side of the river Vistula. This area has no precise geographical boundaries; and the political frontiers of the Polish state have accordingly varied enormously at different periods of its history.

Expansion, however, has always been to the eastward. In the sixteenth century, after the union with the Duchy of Lithuania, the Polish realm extended beyond the Dnieper River to within a hundred miles of Moscow itself; and north beyond Riga almost to the shores of the Gulf of Finland. It is interesting to note that even at this period a Polish "corridor" separated the Duchy of Prussia from the rest of Germany.



Racial Groups in Poland—

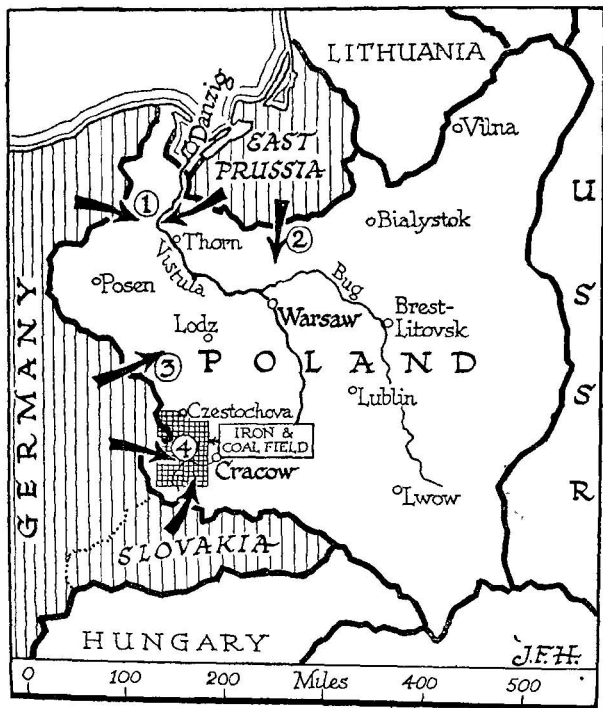
THE total population of Poland was about 34 millions in 1930. About two-thirds of this was Polish, and though the main Polish concentration was in the areas east and west of the Vistula there were Polish minorities throughout the entire area of the country.

The Germans, inhabiting chiefly the Posen and Lower Vistula areas, numbered less than 4 per cent. of the total.

Ten per cent. of the population consisted of Jews, scattered throughout the entire country, especially in the towns, with the largest proportion of all in the eastern districts near Pinsk.

The two other important racial groups were the White Russians and the Ukrainians, together totalling about 18 per cent. and inhabiting the eastern districts—the area now annexed by the U.S.S.R.

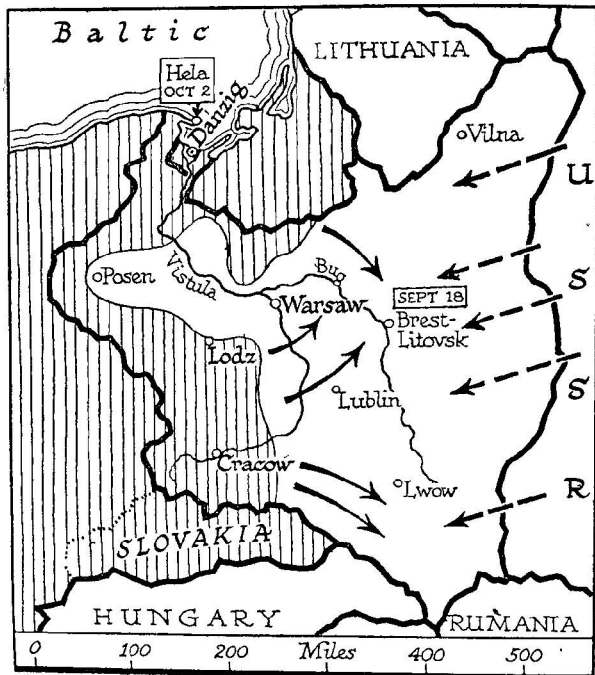
N.B.—The map shows the broad distribution of these racial groups, but it should be remembered that in fact they are considerably intermingled.



The Polish Campaign (I)—

THE Polish-German frontier was a long and straggling line, more than 1,000 miles in length. It had no geographical features affording a natural line of defence ; and the Poles were at the further disadvantage that they were surrounded on three sides—north, west, and south—by enemy forces. The German penetration of Slovakia earlier in the year made it possible to attack the chief industrial region of Poland from the south, just as East Prussia afforded a jumping-off ground for an attack from the north on Warsaw, less than 100 miles distant.

Germany invaded Poland on 1st September. The four main lines of attack were (1) from east and west against the Corridor, aiming at cutting off completely Poland's access to the sea ; (2) a drive southward from East Prussia ; (3) an advance towards Lodz ; and (4) a double drive, from Silesia and from Slovakia, against the Czestochova-Cracow coal and iron area.



The Polish Campaign (2)—

TEN days after the Germans crossed the frontier the Polish armies were everywhere in retreat. The shaded area in the map shows the ground gained by the Germans during the first week's fighting. Then, as the arrows indicate, they enveloped Warsaw by crossing the Vistula at various points to the south of the city, and reaching the line of the Bug from the south-west and north-west simultaneously. Farther south they advanced rapidly towards Lwow, thus cutting Polish communications with Rumania.

On 17th September Soviet troops crossed the Polish frontier at various points, and on the following day Russians and Germans met in Brest-Litovsk. Warsaw itself held out until 27th September; and the fortress of Hela (north of Danzig) until 2nd October.

On the same day that Warsaw capitulated Von Ribbentrop arrived in Moscow, and two days later a Russo-German agreement for the partition of Poland was signed.



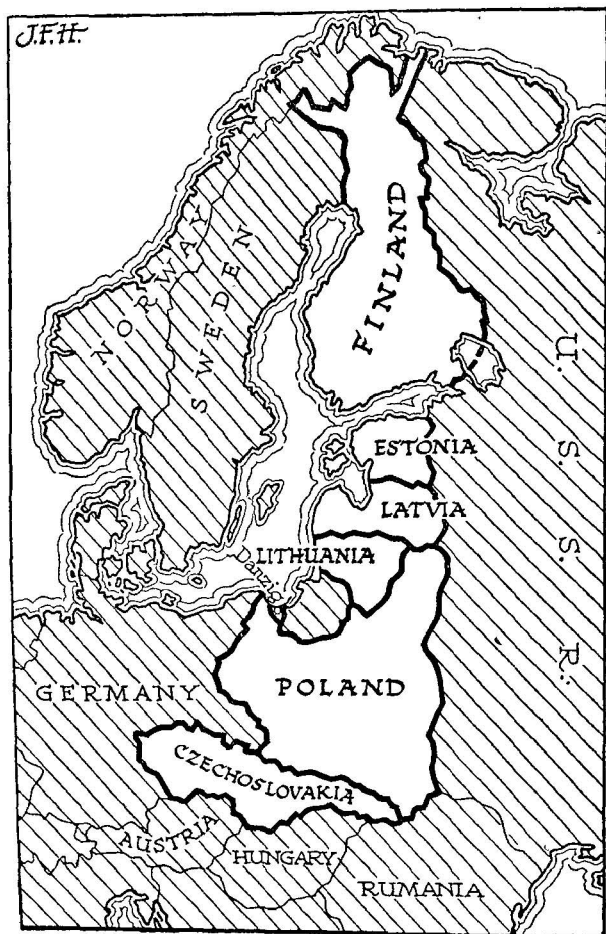
The Partition of Poland—

THE new Russo-German frontier in Poland fixed by the agreement of 29th September gave to the U.S.S.R. those areas (*cf.* Map 9) chiefly inhabited by White Russians and Ukrainians. The frontier line ran along the Bug River, turning sharply westward above Lwow, so that the oilfields of this southern region were in Russian hands. In the north, the U.S.S.R. ceded to Lithuania the Vilna and Grodno areas.

Germany regained all those areas which had been part of the Reich in 1914, as well as the purely Polish lands of the Vistula. She thus gained new industrial areas, and coal- and iron-fields.* But the agricultural and forest districts which Hitler probably coveted most lay mainly on the Russian side of the frontier.

N.B.—The map shows how the new frontier compares with the eastern frontier of Poland (the “Curzon Line”) originally fixed at Versailles in 1919.

* For fuller details of German gains in Poland, see diagram No. 44.

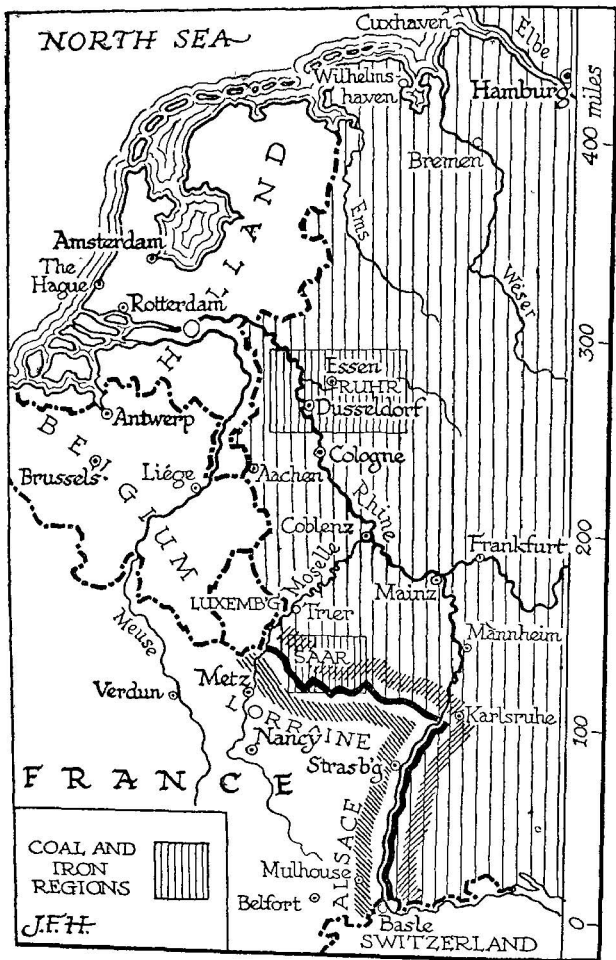


New States of Europe, 1919—

It is interesting in view of the events of 1939 to glance at a map showing the new states set up in Europe as a result of the Versailles decisions in 1919.

Those new states were Czechoslovakia, now destroyed by Germany (with certain areas taken over by Hungary); Poland, partitioned between Germany and Russia; the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, now virtual protectorates of the U.S.S.R.; and Finland.

All these states were created out of what had previously been Russian, German, or Austrian territory.

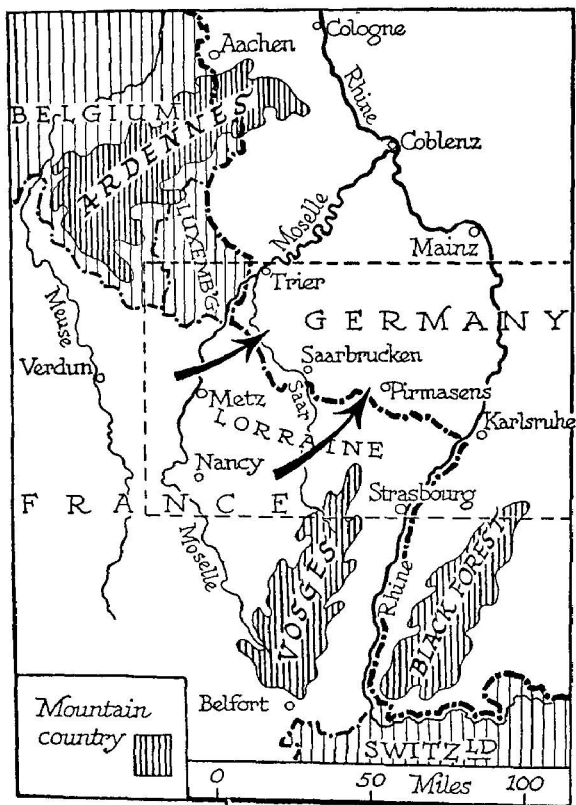


Germany's Western Frontier—

THE western frontier of the Reich runs from the North Sea to Switzerland. The northern section faces the low-lying Netherlands. Then comes the short Belgian and Luxemburg sectors ; and in the south, from the Moselle to Basle, the French frontier. The southern half of this last follows the line of the Rhine from near Karlsruhe to the point where the river enters Swiss territory. On the German side of the other section of the French frontier—the boundary of Lorraine—lies the coal and industrial district of the Saar.

Some of Germany's most important industrial and commercial areas lie along the Rhine immediately to the east of the Dutch and Belgian frontiers. In the north, opposite Holland, is the great coal- and ironfield of the Ruhr

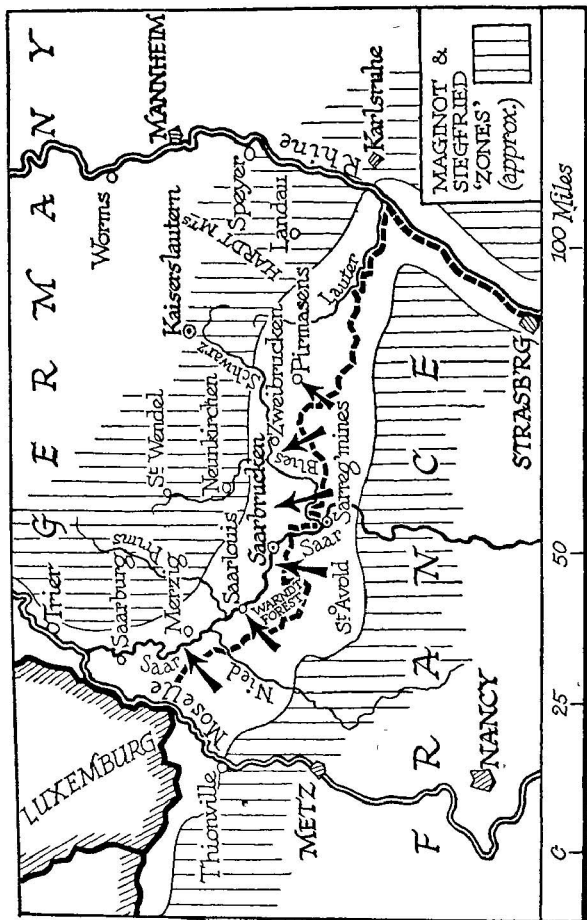
Germany's great " West Wall," or Siegfried Line, and France's Maginot Line run the whole length of their respective frontiers ; but the main concentration of strength in these fortified zones is of course in the southern sector where the two states face each other.



Between Moselle and Rhine (I)—

As already noted, the Franco-German frontier consists of two main sectors : the line of Lorraine between Moselle and Rhine ; and the Upper Rhine between Karlsruhe and Switzerland. In this southern sector the Rhine runs through wooded and hilly country—on the French side the Vosges, on the German the Black Forest. At the extreme south, between the Vosges and the Swiss frontier, is the “ Gap of Belfort.”

The main zone of military operations is accordingly the Lorraine sector, the territory east and west of the river Saar. On either side of this frontier lie the Maginot and Siegfried fortified zones. These, unlike the trench lines of the war of 1914–18, extend to a considerable depth, and they are primarily defence positions. The “ No Man’s Land ” between them was the scene of such movement as took place in September and October. (For area within dotted lines see next map.)

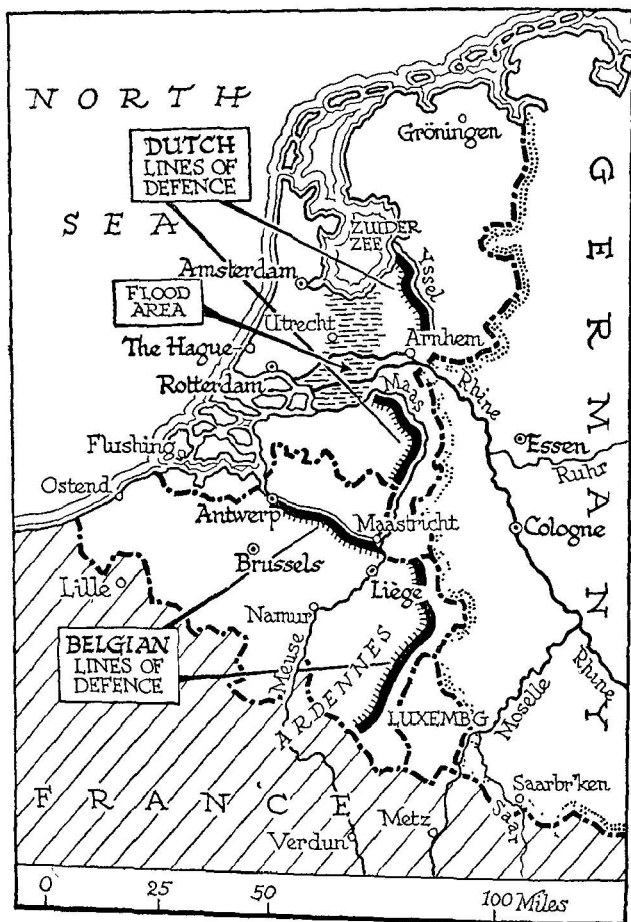


Between Moselle and Rhine (2)—

DURING the German campaign in Poland the French army carried out various small-scale operations on the Lorraine front, in the area of the Saar River and its tributaries, the Nied and the Blies. They advanced into German territory, and during the first few weeks occupied something over 100 square miles of German soil. Most of this, however, was evacuated during October, although the French held on to various advantageous artillery positions.

Early in December it was announced that British troops had taken over a section of the Maginot Line.

A German offensive—if any such costly sacrifice of life were decided upon—would probably be directed at the Moselle-Saarbrücken sector, and would be aimed at the important rail and road centre, Metz, and the great industrial district around Nancy.



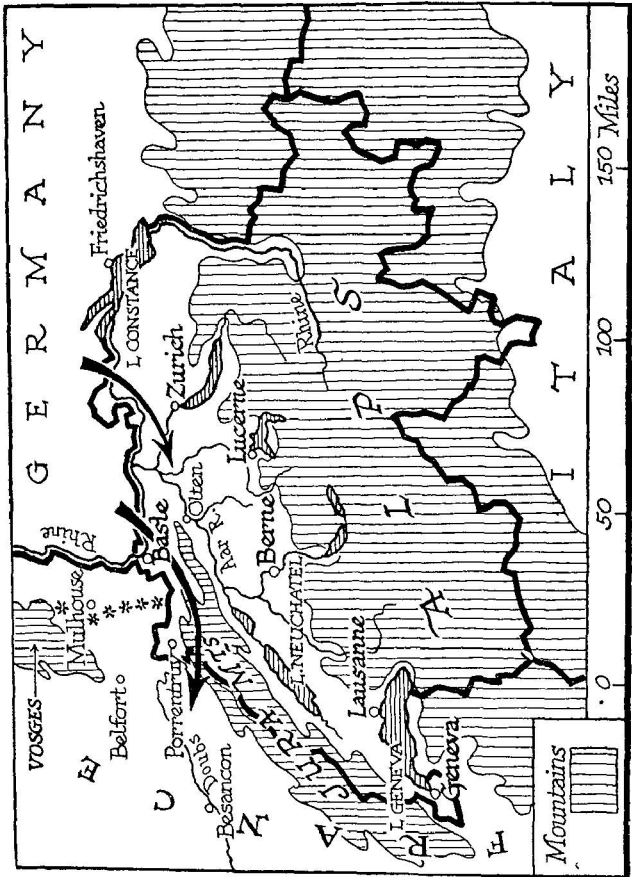
The Neutrals in the West

(1) Holland and Belgium—

THE possibility of absolute deadlock on the Franco-German frontier compels consideration of the likelihood of a German offensive through the neutral countries north or south—Holland and Belgium in the north, Switzerland (see next map) in the south. A German occupation of Holland would, of course, offer other advantages (*cf.* Map 20) than a mere turning of the French line.

The Dutch lines of defence lie well inside the frontier, along the river Yssel (between the Zuider Zee and the Rhine) and the line of the Maas, south of the Rhine. Behind and between these two sectors is an area, covering the approach to the principal Dutch cities, which can be flooded.

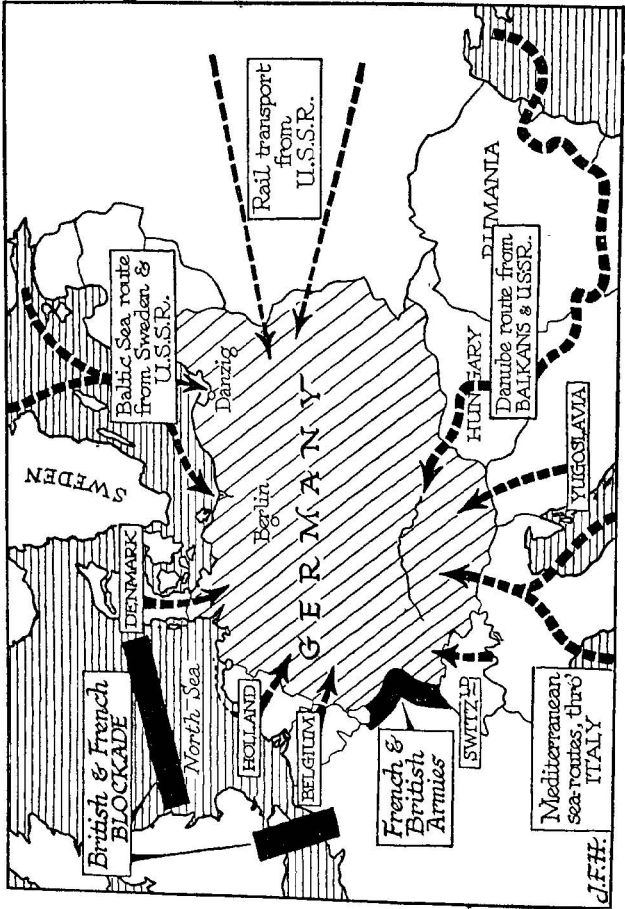
The Belgian defence lines are the Albert Canal, between Antwerp and Maastricht, the area north of which can be flooded ; and a strongly fortified line from east of Liège to Luxemburg and thence along the south-eastern slopes of the Ardennes.



The Neutrals in the West

(2) Switzerland—

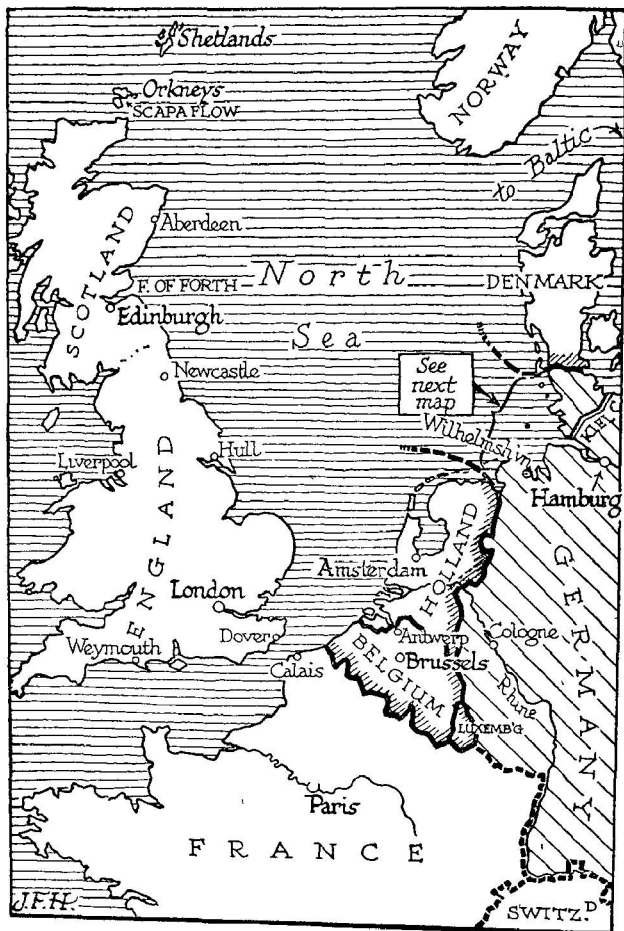
To turn the Maginot Line on the south the Germans would have first of all to force the Swiss line of defences running along the Rhine from Basle to Lake Constance. A break through there would make possible an advance westward, between Basle and the Jura Mountains, in the direction of Porrentruy and the valley of the Doubs ; or a move south-westward, through Olten and along the Aar River towards Geneva. But any such stroke would need to be carried out very rapidly if it were not to be forestalled by the French ; and the Swiss terrain—unlike that of Poland—is not ideally suited for the swift movement of mechanized troops.



The Blockade of Germany—

THE Allied blockade of Germany, extended in December to cover German exports as well as contraband goods designed for Germany, operates by means of sea-power. The Allied Fleets have since the outbreak of war barred all direct access to Germany's North Sea ports, and in addition, of course, have controlled all shipping using the North Sea and Channel. Germany is thus cut off from all direct overseas supplies, except from Baltic countries.

But the only sector of her long land frontiers which is closed is that with France. She can, as this map shows, receive goods or materials from her various neighbour-neutrals; from Sweden and Denmark in the north, Holland and Belgium in the west, Italy and the Balkans in the south, and the U.S.S.R. in the east. On the map, therefore, the blockade appears to be anything but complete. But the raw materials bought by Germany in 1938 from countries still accessible to her is very much smaller (see diagram 41) than those obtained from countries now inaccessible.

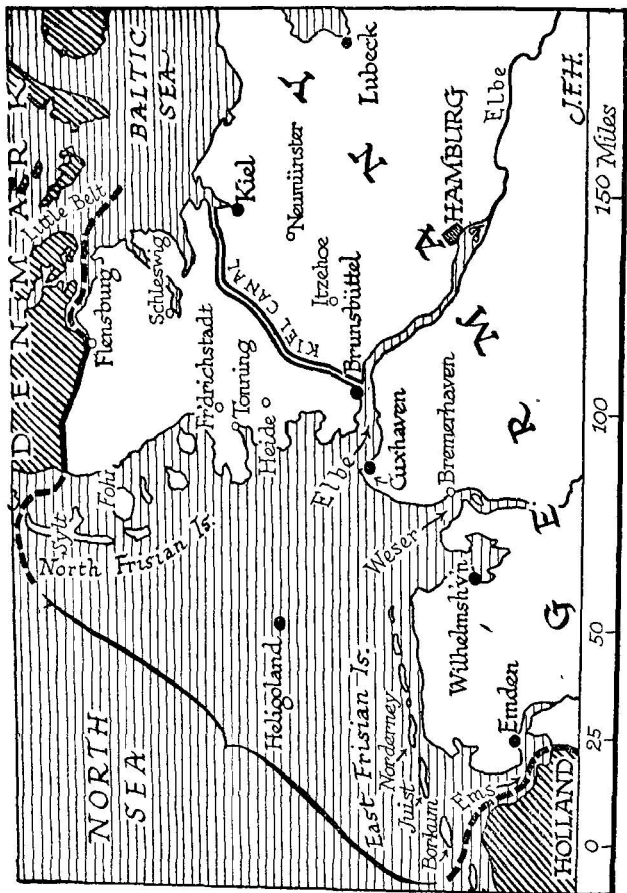


Air Power and Sea Power—

DURING the early months of the war the air arm on both sides was used in the main as a subsidiary to the war at sea. On the Western Front air activity has been confined to large or small scale reconnoitring operations—and leaflet dropping.

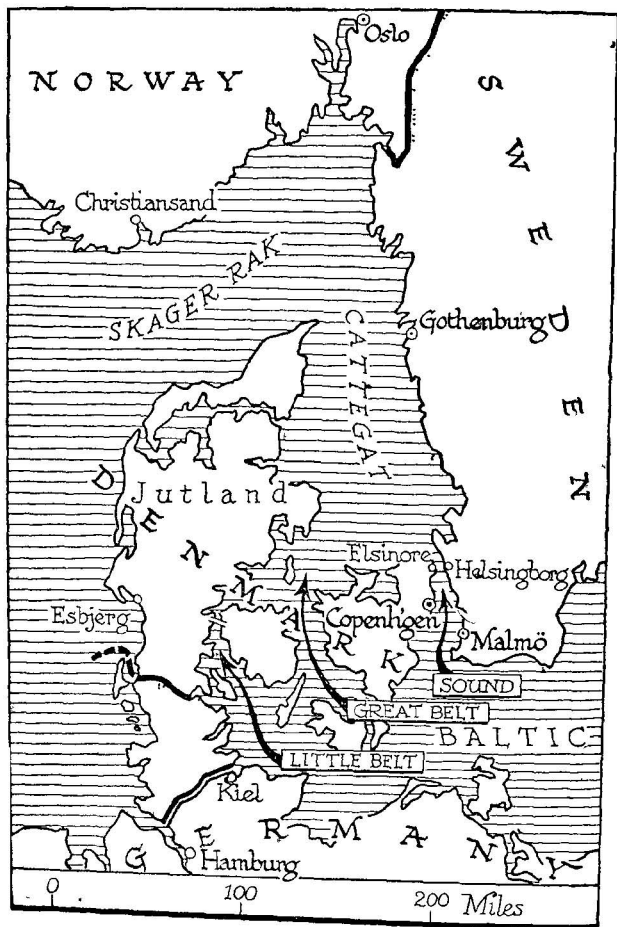
On both sides of the North Sea, however, air activity has been constant since the beginning of the war. British raids on Wilhelmshaven, Brunsbüttel, and other German naval and seaplane bases (see next map), and German retaliations on the Shetlands, Scapa Flow, the Firth of Forth, and various East Coast points have all been secondary, on both sides, to the main task of patrolling the sea area and taking part, offensively or defensively, in the submarine campaign.

This map illustrates the strategic position of Holland and Belgium in relation to the British Isles. The advantage to Germany of an occupation of Holland, particularly if more intensive air warfare was decided upon, is sufficiently obvious.



Germany's Submarine and Seaplane Bases—

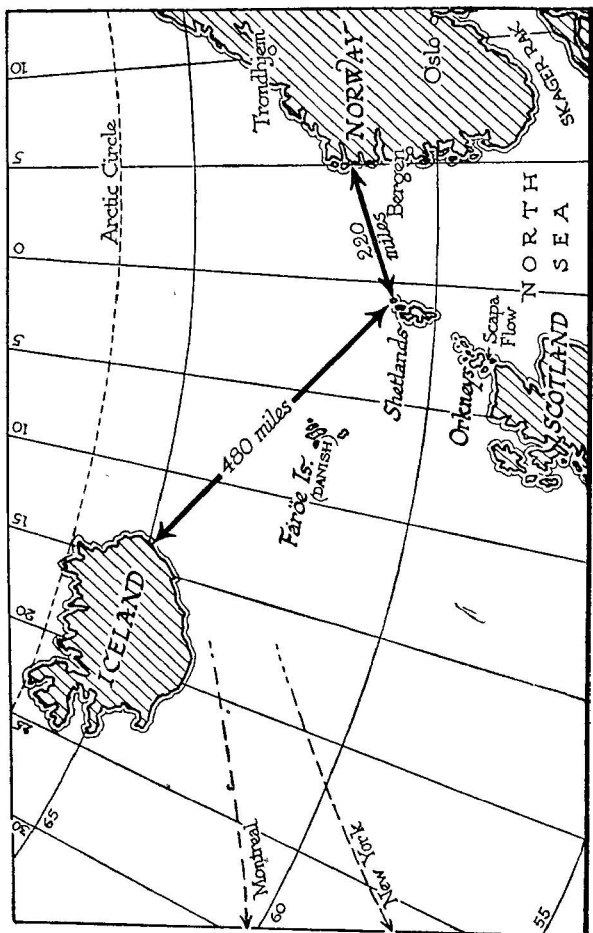
GERMANY'S North Sea coastline includes various deep river estuaries, as well as a number of small islands, ideally suited to serve as submarine and seaplane bases. And this area is linked by the Kiel Canal with the Baltic Sea. Wilhelmshaven, Cuxhaven, Brunsbüttel, and other naval bases, as well as the islands of Borkum, Norderney, Heligoland, and Sylt, have all been bombed on various dates by the R.A.F.; which also maintains a regular patrol of the sea approaches to the area.



The Entrance to the Baltic—

THE channels connecting the North Sea with the Baltic—the Great Belt, Little Belt, and Sound—flow between the islands of Denmark, but all these gateways are, of course, controlled by Germany in time of war, either by the use of minefields or by German guardships.

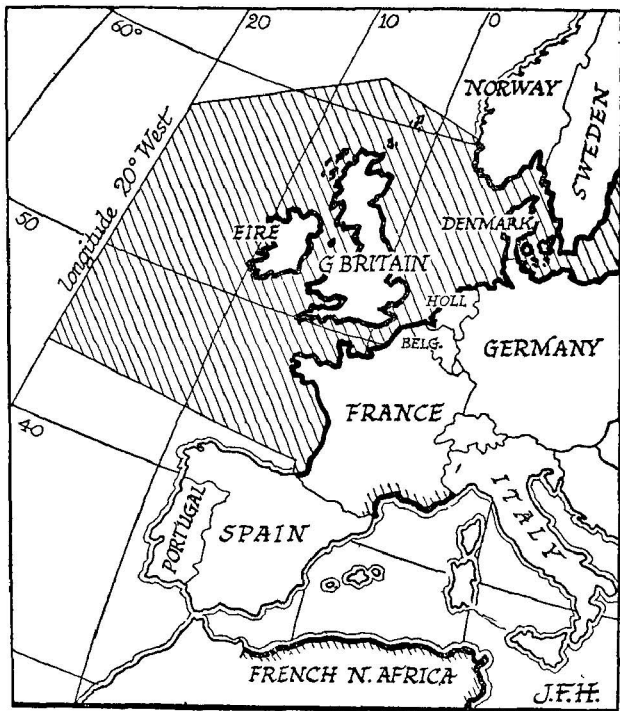
The weakness of Denmark's geographical position—coupled with the fact of a restless German minority in Schleswig—makes Danish neutrality dependent on her acceptance of the fact of German dominance in these waters. Germany's Baltic coastline is accordingly immune from hostile attack.



The North Atlantic—

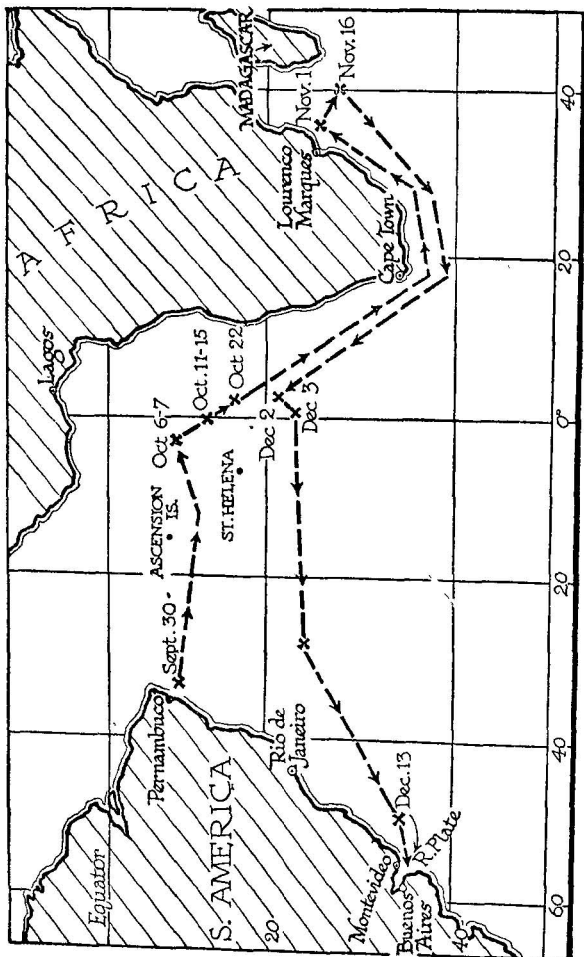
THE war zone around the British Isles and the North Sea has made necessary the use by Atlantic shipping of much more northerly routes than are customarily followed. The British Navy has accordingly to patrol these waters, in order to prevent materials from reaching Germany via Scandinavia and the Baltic. Watch must be kept on the waters between Iceland, the Farøe Islands, the Shetlands, and the Norwegian coast.

The big German liner *Bremen* succeeded in slipping through this cordon and reaching the northern Russian port of Murmansk ; afterwards sailing down the Norwegian coast to Germany. The British armed cruiser *Rawalpindi* was sunk off Iceland by the German battleship *Deutschland*, on 26th November.



America Repeals the Arms Embargo—

AFTER protracted discussion, the United States, on President Roosevelt's initiative, repealed the Arms Embargo Act ; and put into operation the "Cash and Carry" system, by which belligerent states could purchase arms and munitions in the U.S., so long as they fetched them in their own vessels. At the same time, American ships were barred from entering a zone (shown shaded in the map) which included the coasts of France and the British Isles and the North and Baltic Seas. Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian ports are accordingly the only ones in Western Europe open to American vessels.

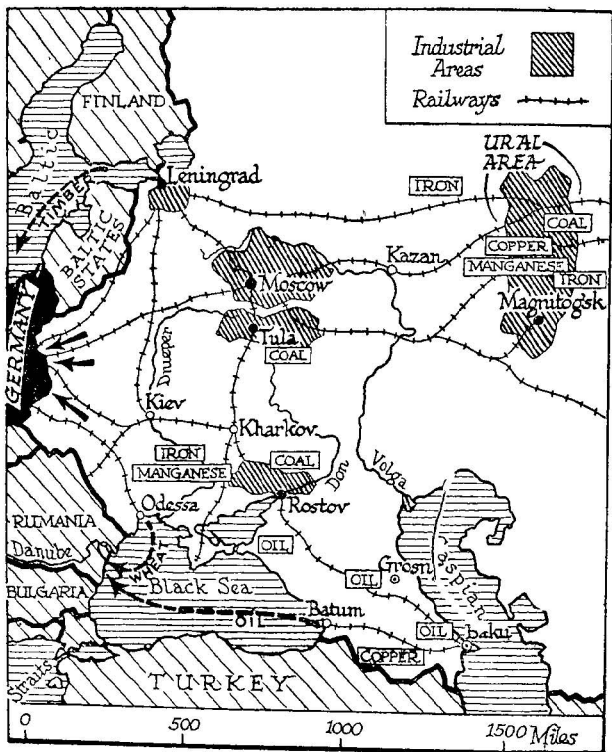


The "Graf Spee" in the South Atlantic—

At the outbreak of war the German Fleet was believed to be in home waters. On 26th October Mr. Chamberlain stated in the House of Commons that the pocket battleship *Deutschland* was on the high seas; and before this date the sinking of ships in the South Atlantic made it clear that another German raider was at large.

This last (which had made use of various disguises) turned out to be the battleship *Admiral Graf Spee*, and she was finally engaged by three British cruisers, *Ajax*, *Achilles*, and *Exeter*, off the mouth of the River Plate. She took refuge in Montevideo harbour, and three days later was scuttled.

Her estimated route in the South Atlantic is shown in the map, with the dates on which she sank various merchant vessels. The route begins off the coast of Brazil on 30th September, crosses eastward towards the African coast, then round the Cape to near Madagascar, and back westward across the Atlantic to South America again.



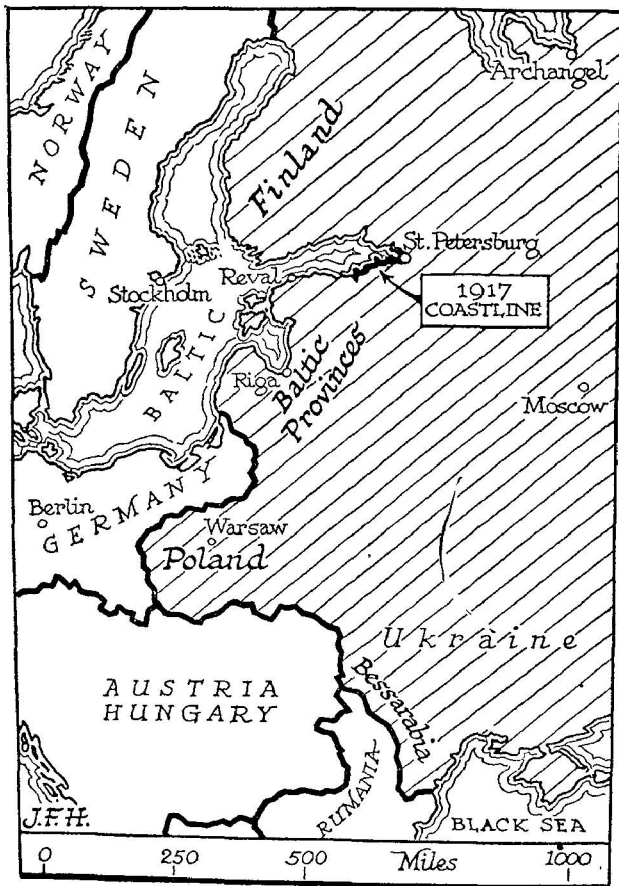
German Needs and Russian Resources—

A PRINCIPAL obstacle to the adequate supply of Nazi needs from Russian resources is the enormous distances which separate Germany from the chief areas of materials in Russia.

There are three main means of communication between the two countries: (1) By the Baltic Sea, from Leningrad to Germany's northern ports; but, except for timber, Leningrad is a long way from most of the sources of raw materials. (2) By the Black Sea and the Danube; this route depends, of course, on the good will of Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary—and on the absence of hostile naval action in the Black Sea itself. (3) By rail, through the territories which until last September were Polish; but, apart from the great distances involved, Russian railway equipment has not been designed for meeting the requirements of an extensive export trade.

The map shows the principal industrial areas of European Russia and the geographical location of various minerals and materials.

(See diagram No. 45 for details of German requirements and Russian exports.)



Russia and the Baltic—

THE balance of power in north-eastern Europe has been entirely altered by the actions of the U.S.S.R. since the signing of the Pact with Germany. Russia has emphatically reasserted herself as a Baltic power, and any possibility of a German hegemony in this area has been, it would appear, definitely destroyed. The U.S.S.R. clearly intends to revert to the position occupied by Tsarist Russia prior to the revolution of 1917 and the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

The map shows the frontiers of Russia up to 1917 ; and the area of coastline to which Russia was then cut down.

The reoccupation of Eastern Poland, the establishment of a virtual protectorate over the Baltic States, and the attempt to end Finnish independence, make it plain that Stalin aims at re-establishing Russian supremacy in the eastern and northern Baltic.



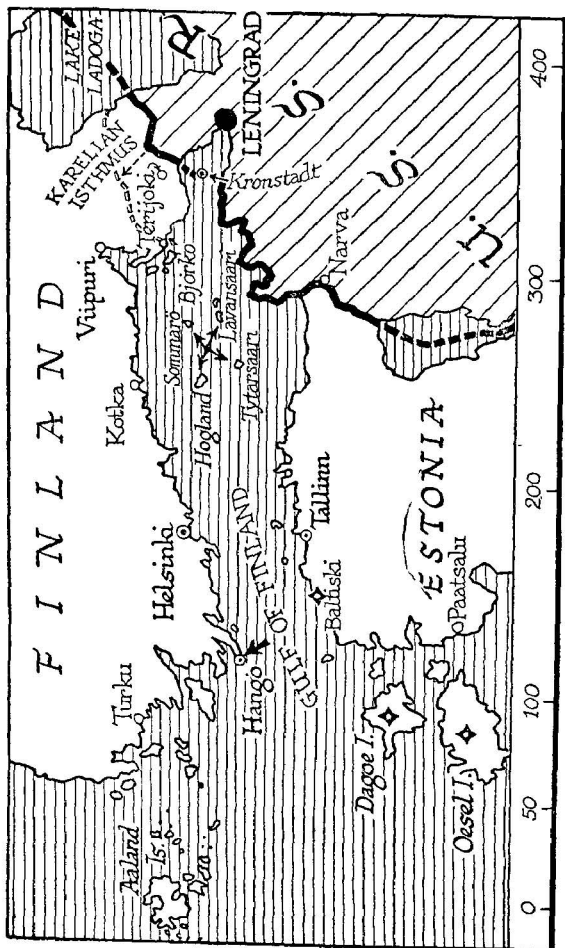
The Baltic States—

RUSSIA's agreements with the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, concluded early in October, gave to the U.S.S.R. military, naval, or air bases in each of those countries.

In Estonia these bases are situated on the islands of Dagoe and Oesel, at Baltiski on the coast of the Gulf of Finland west of Tallinn, and along the coast north of the Gulf of Riga.

In Latvia there are to be Russian naval bases at the two ports of Windau and Libau, as well as artillery bases at the entrance to the Gulf of Riga.

Army bases are to be established at various points inside Lithuania (Lithuania's only port, Memel, was seized by Germany in 1939).

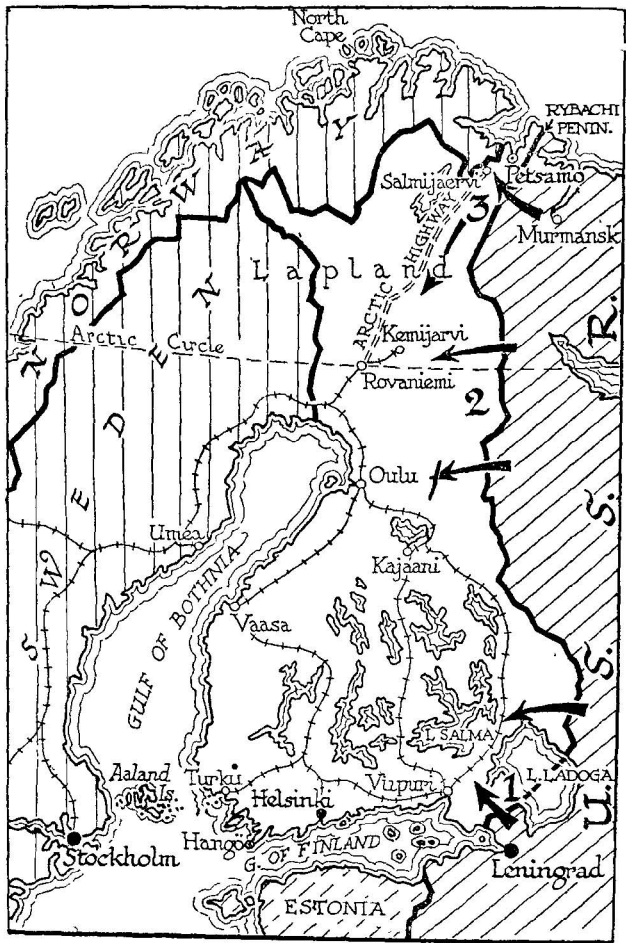


Leningrad and the Gulf of Finland—

THROUGHOUT October and November the U.S.S.R. pressed the Government of Finland for concessions similar to those already obtained from the three Baltic states.

The most important of the demands on Finland were for naval bases in the Gulf of Finland—at the port of Hangö, and on Hogland and other islands at the eastern end of the Gulf, and for the cession of some 14,000 square miles of territory in the Karelian Isthmus, near to Leningrad, which would remove the frontier farther from that important industrial centre.

The Finnish Government stood firm against certain of these demands, and was supported in this attitude by a conference of the Scandinavian countries held in October. After protracted discussions the negotiations between Finland and the Kremlin broke down in the latter part of November and, despite an offer of mediation by the U.S.A., Russia invaded Finland on the last day of that month.



Russia's Invasion of Finland—

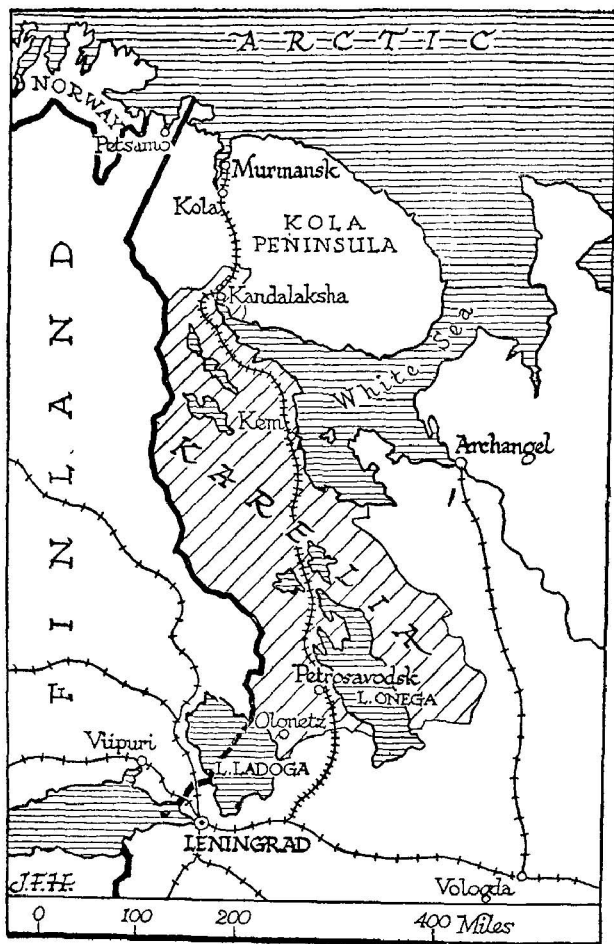
THE Russian invasion of Finland concentrated on three principal objectives.

(1) An attack in the Karelian Isthmus from the frontier immediately north of Leningrad, and a converging movement round the north of Lake Ladoga. In this region the Finns held strong defensive positions known as the Mannerheim Line.

(2) A double drive farther north across the narrow "waist" of Finland towards Kemijarvi, and Oulu on the Gulf of Bothnia. The aim here was obviously to cut the country in half and to destroy rail communication with Sweden.

(3) An attack on the harbour of Petsamo, on the Arctic, and the adjacent nickel mines of Salmijaervi. This offensive came from Murmansk; and it was extended by a movement down the Arctic highway leading from Salmijaervi to Rovaniemi.

At the end of a month's severe fighting the Finns had held their ground everywhere, and the Russians had suffered heavy repulses.

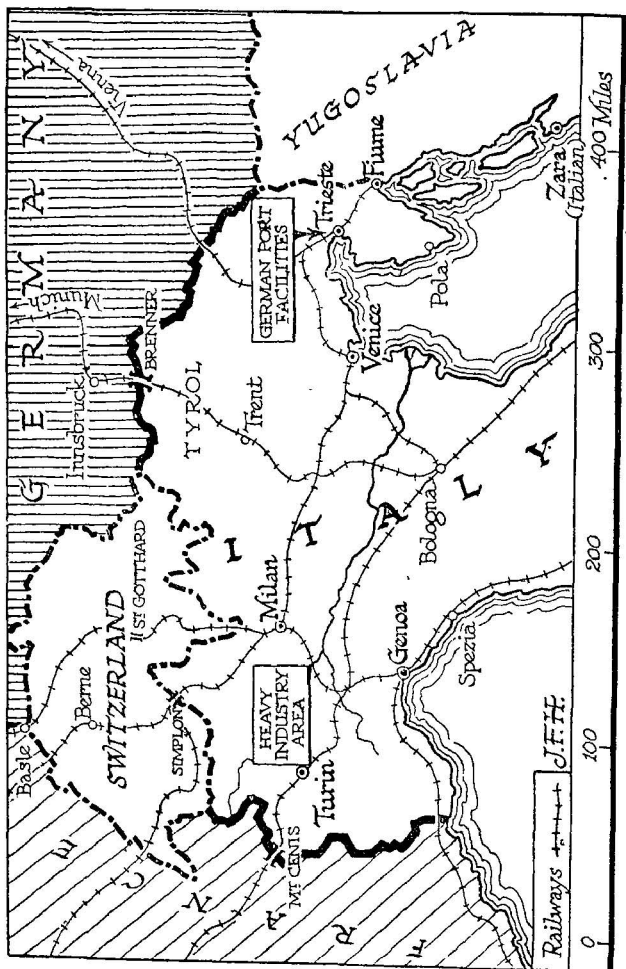


Karelia—

THE greater part of the Russo-Finnish frontier lies along the border of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Karelia.

The lake surface of Karelia exceeds even that of Finland, being 16 per cent. of the total area. Lakes Ladoga and Onega are the two largest in Europe. Forests cover 64 per cent. of the Republic's area, and its total population is about 350,000. Running north and south through the Republic is the Murmansk railway, linking the Arctic coast with Leningrad, and forming the one Russian line of supply in the invasion of Finland. The line is over 800 miles long, and was built by German, Austrian, and Turkish war prisoners during the First World War.

The original Russian offer to Finland included the transfer—in return for the cession of naval bases, etc., to the U.S.S.R.—of an area of western Karelia (north of the great lakes) to Finland.



Italy's Frontiers—

BEFORE the signing of the Russo-German pact European politics were dominated by the alliance between Germany and Italy—the Berlin-Rome Axis. On the outbreak of war, however, Italy announced that she would take no initiative of a military character. The Italian Press made it clear that Italy had no intention of isolating herself in Europe, but that she would protect her own vital interests ; and that she would take advantage of the war situation to increase production and reorganize her export trade.

Italy's land frontier, as the map shows, gives her direct rail communication with France on the west and with Germany on the north-east. The Germans had, by the Berlin-Rome agreement, been granted special port facilities at Trieste, at the head of the Adriatic.

On 18th October an agreement was signed in Rome arranging for the transfer to Germany of all inhabitants of German race in the Tyrol—the area taken over by Italy from Austria at the end of the First World War.

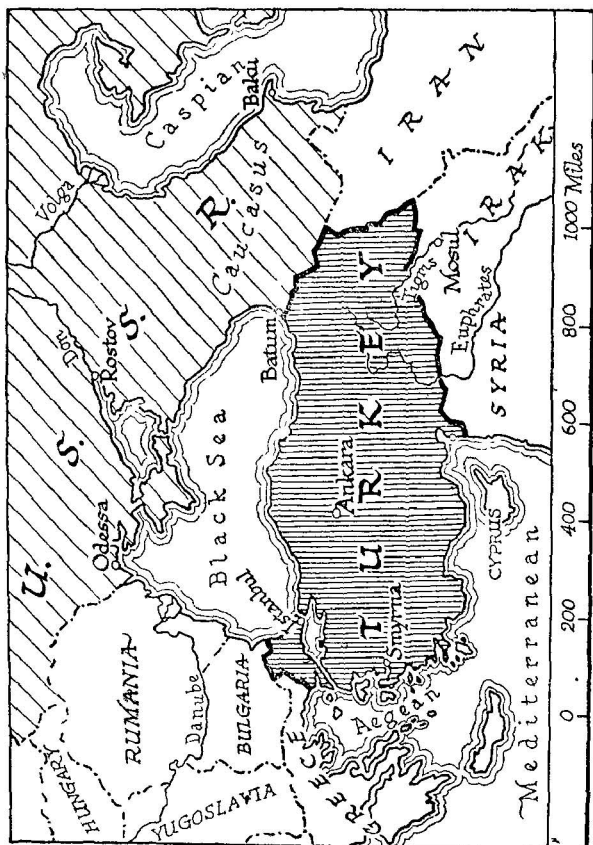


Diplomacy and the Balkans—

ON 19th October, a Pact of Mutual Assistance was signed between Britain, France, and Turkey. This was the first definite result of the intense diplomatic activity in the Balkans which had been going on from the outbreak of the war.

The Partition of Poland brought both Germany and the U.S.S.R. closer, geographically, to the Balkan States—the two Powers now dividing (*cf.* map) the whole northern boundary of the Balkan peninsula.

The extension of Soviet influence was particularly feared by Italy, which, by its acquisition of Albania (April, 1939) had secured an actual foothold on the Balkan side of the Adriatic; and which had watched with suspicion the extension of German economic influence in the Balkan countries.

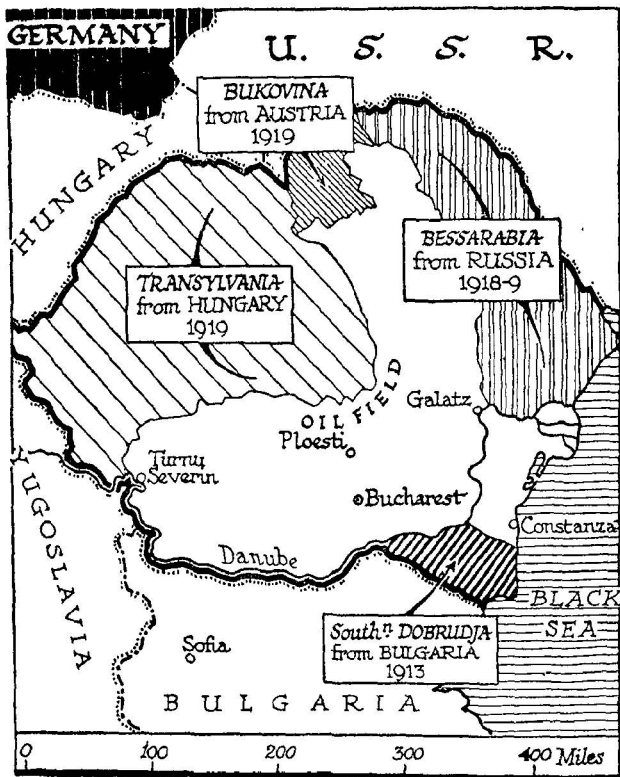


Turkey, the Black Sea, and the Straits—

TURKEY, cut down after the First World War to the central region of the old sprawling Ottoman Empire—the Anatolian peninsula (Asia Minor), with a foothold, in Istanbul and its hinterland, in Europe itself—was made into a modern state by the genius and energy of Kemal Ataturk.

Her geographical position gives Turkey special interests in the Balkan and Black Sea zones, as well as in the eastern Mediterranean. Her land neighbours are: in the west, Greece and Bulgaria; and, on the east and south, the U.S.S.R., Iran, Irak, and Syria.

In 1935 Turkey regained full control of the zone of the Straits (see next map), which had been demilitarized after the First World War. The treaty with Britain and France assures those powers of Turkey's support if they become involved in war as a result of Britain's guarantees to Greece or Rumania; or in any hostilities in the Mediterranean area caused by aggression on the part of any European power.



Rumania—

WAR-TIME economics give a special importance to such commodities as oil and wheat ; and Rumania, an important producer of both, is accordingly an obvious target for Nazi aggression. Germany had already, before the war, established a dominant position in Rumanian trade, taking 26 per cent. of her exports as against Britain's 14 per cent.

Rumania gained great accessions of territory after the First World War from Hungary, Austria, and Russia. She had already, at the end of the Balkan Wars, taken the southern Dobrudja from Bulgaria. As a result she is surrounded by dangerously resentful neighbours. Hungary has never ceased to demand the restitution of Transylvania. And the pledge of the U.S.S.R. not to retake Bessarabia by force of arms may well be "reconsidered" in the light of present events. Moreover, the proportion of racial minorities within Rumania's new borders—6 millions out of some 20 millions—hardly makes for internal stability.

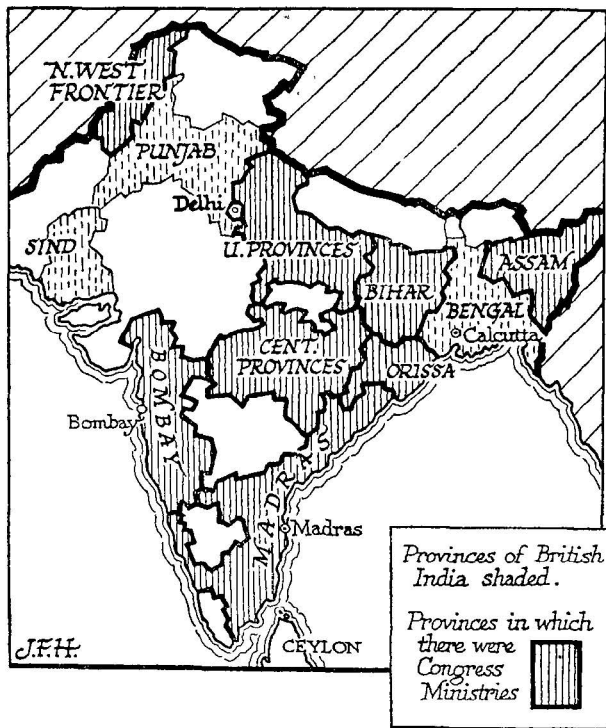


The Way into the Black Sea—

DIRECT sea communication between Rumania and western Europe is possible only via the Straits. Hence the importance of the Anglo-French-Turkish Treaty if the *status quo* in the Balkans is threatened by German aggression. The Turks have reformed the whole zone since they resumed control by the Montreux Agreement, 1935.

Russia's foreign policy since the late eighteenth century, when she drove back the Turks from the northern shores of the Black Sea and attained a southern coastline, was always directed towards Constantinople (Istanbul) and the Straits; and the new orientation of Soviet foreign policy may well lead in the same direction.

Since the First World War, when Bulgaria lost her Ægean coastline, she too depends on the Straits for sea communication with the rest of Europe.

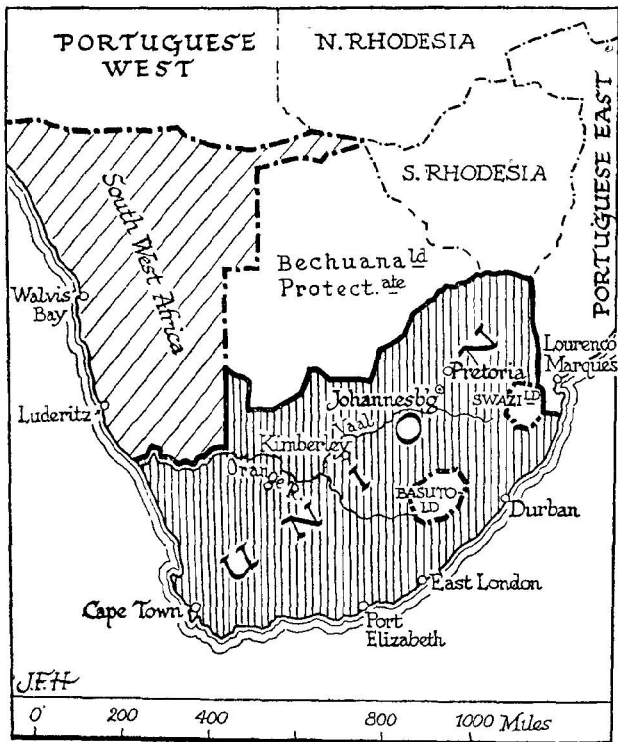


India and the War—

SHORTLY after the beginning of the war the Indian Congress Party—the political organization of the Nationalist Movement in India—asked for a statement of British war aims and urged that, as an earnest of Britain's belief in democracy, immediate steps towards full self-government in India should be taken.

The Viceroy's reply was considered unsatisfactory, and the Congress Executive ordered as a protest the resignation of the eight Provincial Governments in which Congress held a majority.

Congress leaders have repeatedly insisted on their hatred of Hitlerism, but they stress India's right to take part in the war as a free partner or not at all.

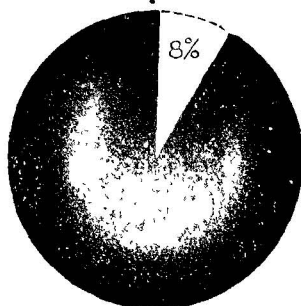
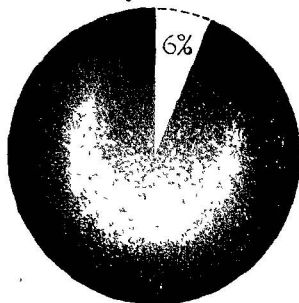
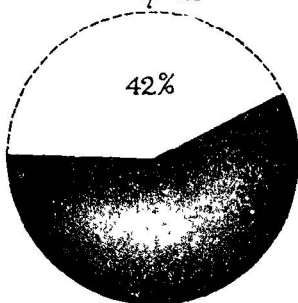
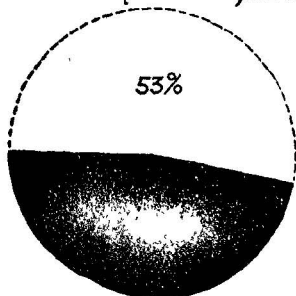


The Union of South Africa—

At the outbreak of the war the Government of the Union of South Africa, under General Hertzog, proposed that the Dominion should follow a policy of neutrality. The proposal was defeated, General Hertzog resigned, and a new government was formed under General Smuts, which at once declared war on Germany.

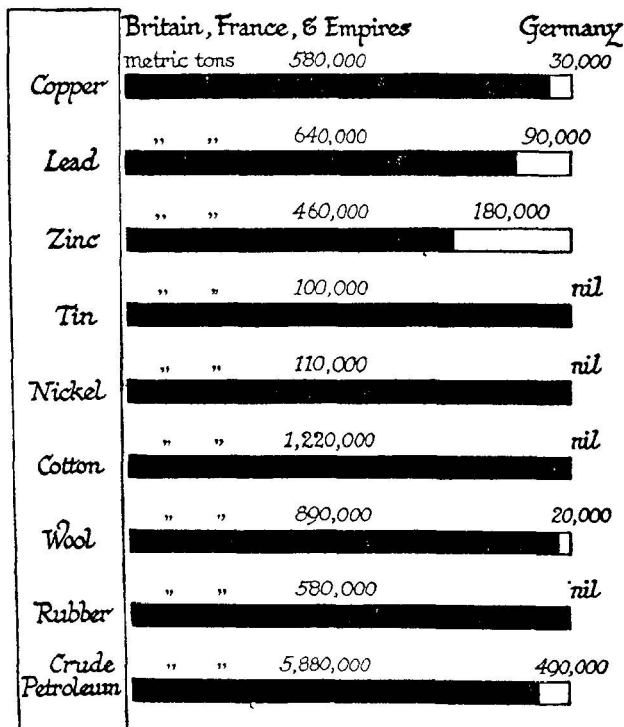
The Nazi menace was already a reality in South Africa. The mandated territory of South-West Africa, formerly a German colony, lies to the north-west of the Union's territories. Its German inhabitants had been organized into a National Socialist movement, and firm measures against certain activities of this movement had been found to be necessary.

(*N.B.*—The two Native Protectorates of Swaziland and Basutoland, though lying within the Union's borders, are administered directly from Britain.)

*Imports***BRITAIN***Exports**Imports***GERMANY***Exports*

The Blockade—

THE diagram shows roughly the proportion of foreign trade cut off by the blockade from Britain and Germany respectively. It is not possible to decide with any certainty all the countries which will be affected; but it is assumed that Germany will continue to trade with countries with whom land communications are at all possible and with Scandinavia and Finland, and that the seas will remain open to British trade. The proportions shown as cut off include the trade of the belligerents with each other, and are calculated as percentages of the value of the trade in 1938.

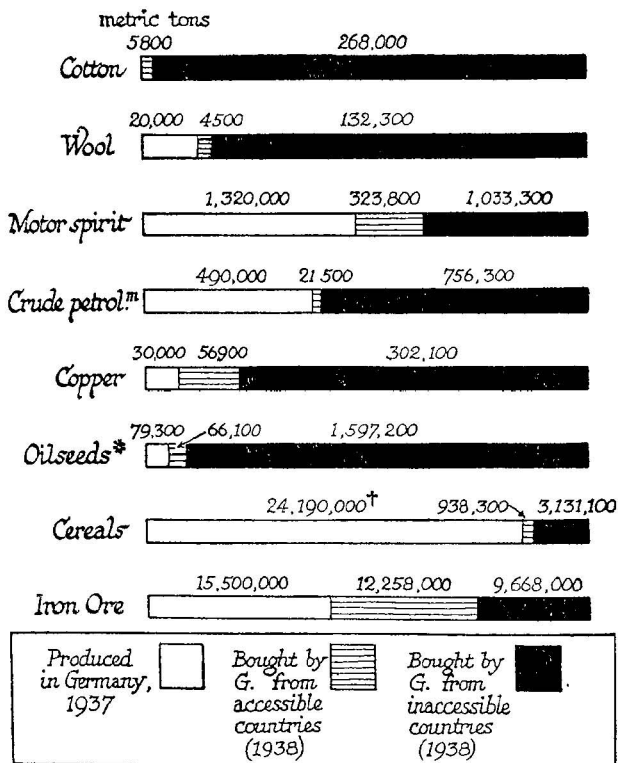


Raw Material Wealth of Britain, France, and Germany—

THE marked superiority of the Allies as compared with Germany (including Austria) in the production of various important raw materials is shown in this table, which refers generally to 1937. The metal content of five non-ferrous metals mined is given, as well as the production of the two most important fibres, cotton and wool. Those vital war-time commodities, petroleum and rubber, are also included, but the figures for these exclude the small production of oil from coal, and synthetic rubber, in Germany.

Note that the table takes into account the British and French *Empires*, and that the relative strength of the Allies therefore depends on sea-power.

4 II

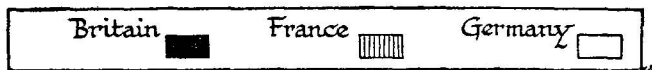


* i.e. rapeseed, groundnuts, cottonseed, soya beans, palm kernels, copra.

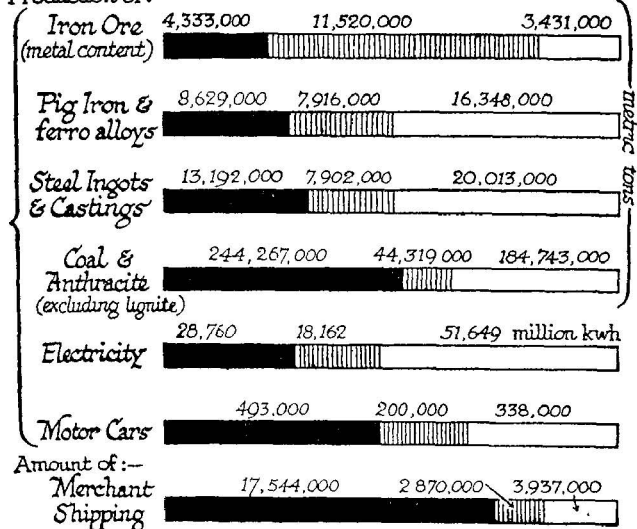
[†] average of 3 years, 1935-37

How far is Germany Self-sufficient?—

GERMANY'S home production of various materials and commodities is here contrasted with the amounts which in 1938 she bought from abroad. These last are divided in the diagram into quantities acquired from countries still accessible to her, and those obtained from countries now probably inaccessible because of the blockade.

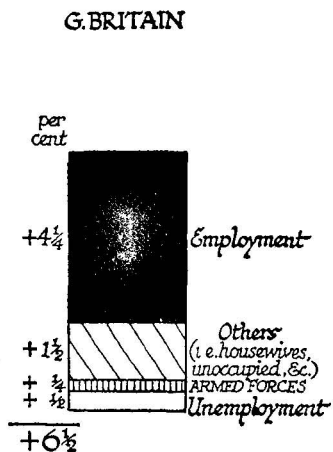
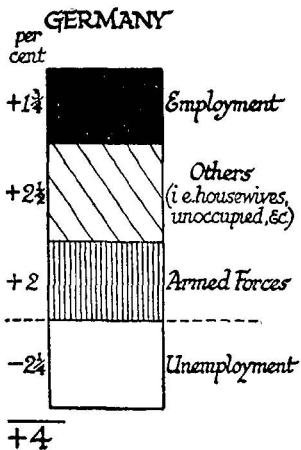


Production of:—



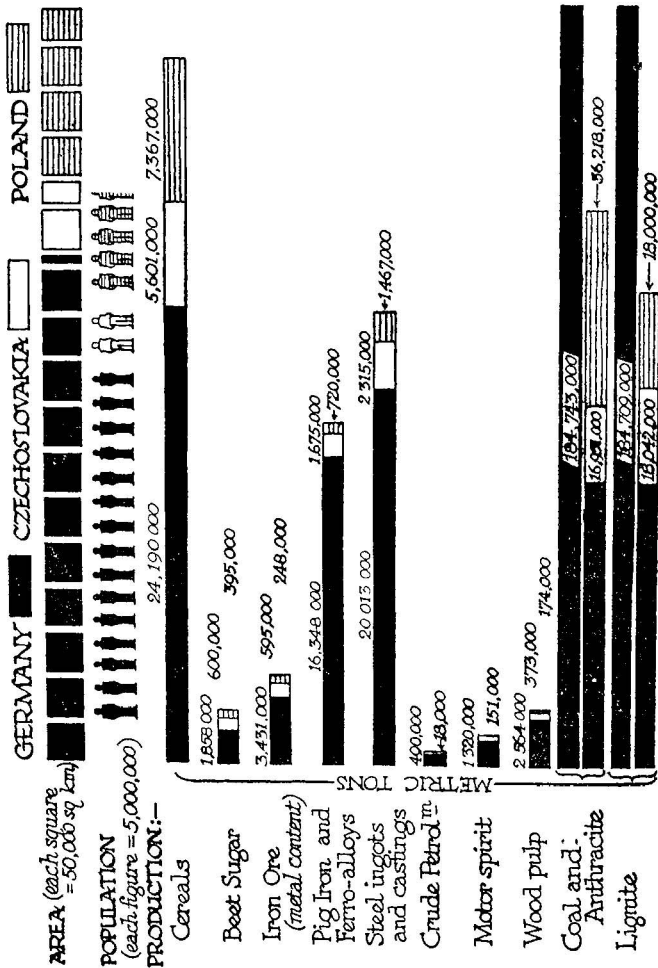
The Economic Strength of the Rival Powers—

HERE is a direct comparison, based on 1937 figures, of Britain, France, and Germany (including Austria) in such things as steel production, electricity generated, motor cars, merchant shipping, etc. The production of coal excludes lignite, which, expressed in terms of coal, would increase Germany's total by about 43 million tons and France's by about 300,000 tons. As the diagram shows, Germany is strongest in the production of pig-iron and steel, and in electric power. But for her supplies of iron ore (*cf.* previous diagram) she is to a large extent dependent on outside supplies.



How the Nazis solved the Unemployment Problem—

THE population of working age in Germany and Great Britain increased between 1929 and 1937 by 4 per cent. and $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. respectively. This diagram shows what happened to these potential workers. Of the British increase, though unemployment went up by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., as much as $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. was absorbed into useful employment. The Germans wiped out most of their pre-existing unemployment, but only by creating a large army.

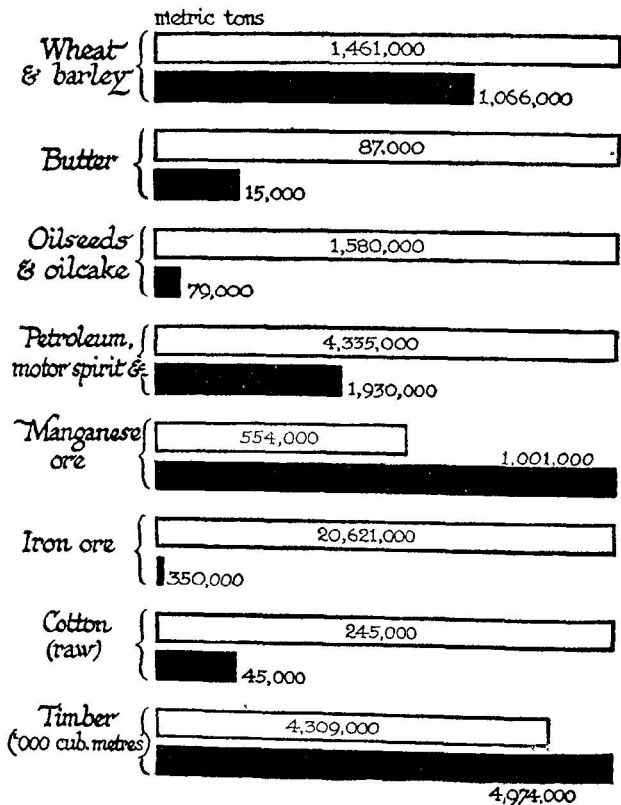


Germany's Gains in Poland and Czechoslovakia—

HERE, tabulated, are some of Germany's gains in men, land, and material by her occupation of Czechoslovakia and Poland. For Czechoslovakia the area and population refer only to the Sudetenland and Bohemia and Moravia, but the production figures are for the whole country. For Poland an estimate has been made of Germany's share in the partition. All Poland's coal and lignite and iron ore, etc., are assumed to have gone to Germany, and all her oil to Russia.

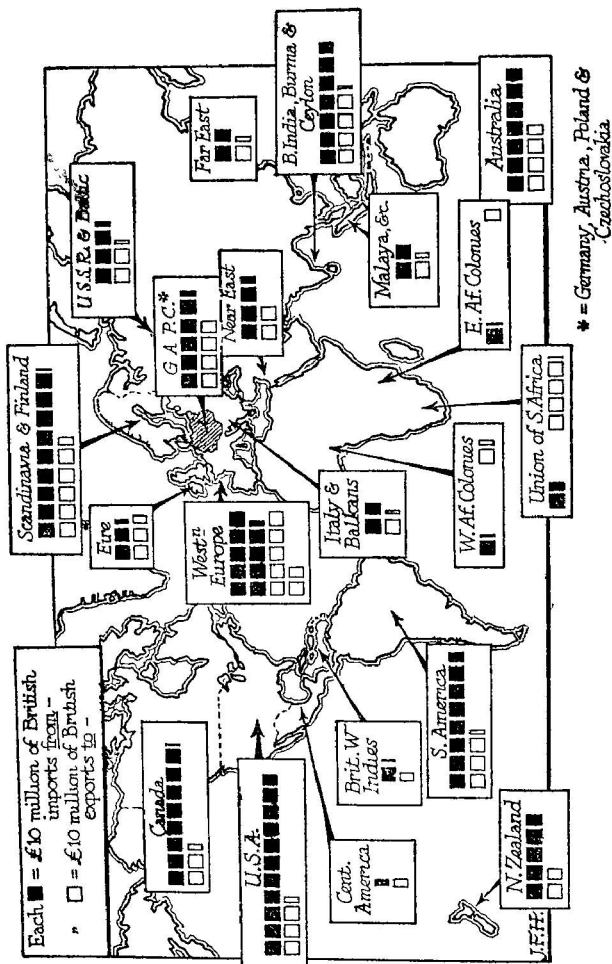
GERMANY'S
total Imports 

RUSSIA'S
total Exports 



Germany's Needs and Russia's Resources—

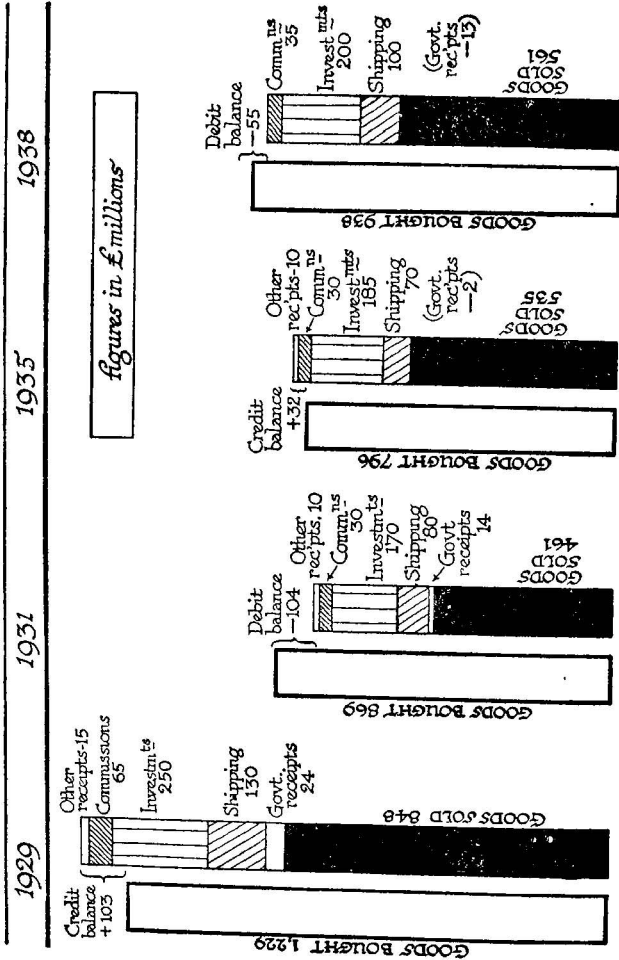
HERE, shown in relative proportions, are Germany's imports (in 1937) of various materials and commodities, and Russian exports of the same. It will be noted that only as regards manganese ore and timber is the Russian available supply greater than the German demand, and the diagram shows clearly how useless Russia is at present as a source of fats and iron ore, though her oil supplies will be somewhat increased by her gains in Poland, whose production of crude petroleum averages 500,000 tons.



Britain's World Trade—

A MAP of the world showing (by average of 1936-37-38) the value of British trade—imports and exports—with various countries and regions.

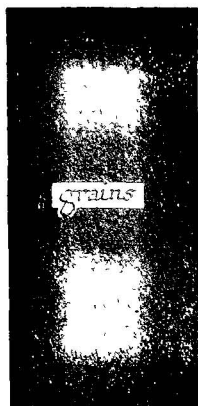
In the map, "E. Af. Colonies" includes Nyasaland and Rhodesia; "Brit. W. Indies" also includes British Guiana; "Western Europe" covers Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Spain, and Portugal; "Near East" includes the Sudan and Iran; "Malaya, etc.," covers also Siam and the Dutch East Indies.



Britain's Balance of Payments—

To pay for the large quantities of food, raw materials, etc., she buys from abroad, Britain uses the proceeds of her exports, her income from shipping, from overseas investments, and from commission, insurance, etc. If these are not sufficient to pay for her imports, as is shown in the diagrams for 1931 and 1938, she must use her reserves of gold and foreign exchange or else curtail her imports. It is obvious, therefore, that in war-time, when credit items such as shipping income and commissions fall off, it is necessary that exports should be kept as high as possible in order that she may continue to buy necessities from abroad without encroaching too far on her gold and foreign exchange reserves.

The figures for goods bought and sold include silver. In 1935 and 1938 Government payments overseas exceeded Government receipts from overseas.



feeding-stuffs



cotton

iron ore
and
concentrates

butter



meat



sugar



copper



tin



wool



oilseeds



Horizontal of each rectangle
represents average distance the
commodity has to be carried:
Vertical represents weight.

SCALE —

4 million tons

3 "

2 "

1 "

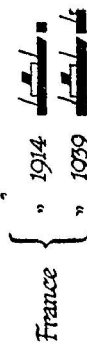
0 "

0 1 2 3 4 5
thousand miles

Shipping Requirements of British Imports—

THE two factors to be taken into account when goods have to be brought from overseas are obviously weight and distance. The rectangles in this diagram have been drawn by taking the weight as the vertical measurement, and the average distance which the commodity has to be conveyed as the horizontal. The area of the rectangle accordingly gives some idea of the relative amount of shipping required for various goods.

NUMBER OF SHIPS—



Each symbol represents
1,000 merchant ships

GROSS TONNAGE—



LOSSES—
(British Empire)

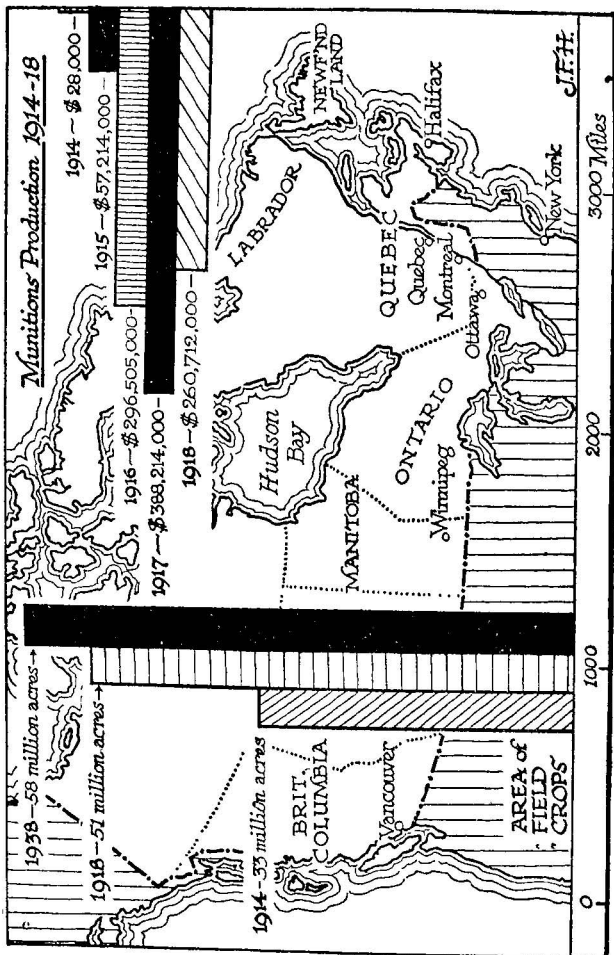
Quarterly average, 1914-18 ■ 592
Sept., Oct., Nov, 1939 ■ 320

'000 gross tons

Merchant Shipping : 1914 and 1939—

THE relative strength of the merchant fleets of Britain, France, and the British Dominions in June 1914 and June 1939. It will be noted that though the actual number of vessels in the British merchant marine is smaller in 1939 the tonnage is larger in relation to the number of ships ; and the total tonnage of Britain, France, and the Dominions actually larger than in 1914.

The diagram also shows, on the same scale, the quarterly average of shipping losses during 1914-18, and the tonnage lost during the first three months of the present war.

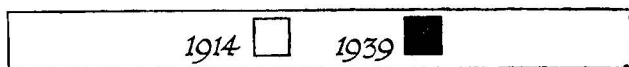


Canada :

The Empire's Arsenal (I)—

THE tremendous economic development of Canada since the beginning of the First World War makes the Dominion an important partner in the war against Germany. Here, superimposed on the map, is shown the growth in the total area of the field crops cultivated. It will be noticed that in 1938 the area was 7 million acres higher than at the end of the last war, when enormous efforts were made to increase Canadian food production for Great Britain. But Canada in 1914-18 was also an important supplier of munitions, as is shown by the figures giving the value of munitions production during those years.

[Continued in next diagram.]



Copper



each square = 50 million lbs.

Lead



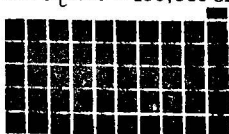
Zinc



Nickel



Gold — (each square = 100,000 ozs.)



Asbestos



Petroleum

1914

5

1939

Canada :

The Empire's Arsenal (2)—

THIS diagram illustrates the enormous advance in the Canadian production of raw materials, particularly metals and petroleum, during the twenty-five years between 1914 and 1939.

(The figures for asbestos are 118,000 tons and 353,000 tons respectively ; and for petroleum, 215,000 barrels and 7,743,000 barrels.)

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