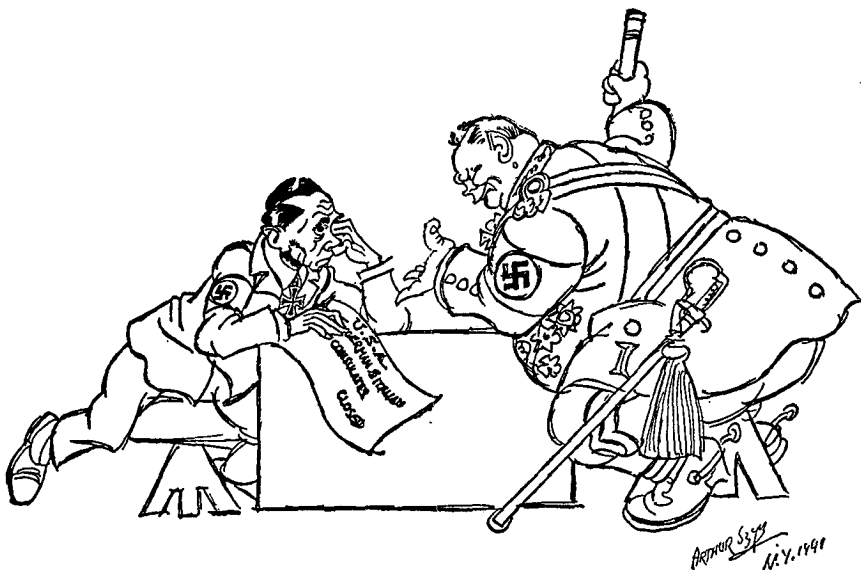


SIX DRAWINGS BY ARTHUR SZYK

THE AMERICAN MERCURY is pleased to present in this issue six original drawings by Arthur Szyk, the celebrated Polish artist now residing in America. Mr. Szyk's illustrations are familiar to book lovers the world over. Recently Putnam's made a volume of his topical cartoons available to a larger public under the title *The New Order*. His work has been reprinted by newspapers and periodicals. But this is the first time that Mr. Szyk is contributing his sharp commentary on world affairs directly for an American magazine, as a regular feature.

Mr. Szyk has created a truly original form of cartoon art, distinguished by fine composition, lucidity, firmness and brilliant characterizations. Polish born, his career unfolded chiefly in Paris. He interrupted his art studies in that city to fight for Russia in the first World War and later joined the Polish Army against the Bolsheviks. His son is now fighting with the Free French forces.



"Don't worry, Joseph, we still have the French Consulates!"



STRANGER THAN FICTION

Stalin: "There . . . will . . . always . . . be . . . an England. . . ."

- *Would the Soviets survive defeat?
Can Russians fight guerilla war?*

THE LIMITS OF RUSSIAN RESISTANCE

BY FRED A UTLEY

HITLER's Panzer divisions and Luftwaffe are deep within Russia, hammering at the Eastern giant, as this article goes to press. The results are still in doubt. Watching the mighty spectacle, the world inevitably asks questions crucial for the outcome of the larger war: Could the Soviet government survive severe military defeats and the loss of most of its European territory? Would effective guerilla warfare be waged in conquered areas? No less inevitably, one turns to the experience of China in seeking the answers.

In China the loss of many battles and capital cities and the retreat of government and army into the interior have not meant a Japanese victory. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek moved his capital from Nanking to Hankow in 1937, to Chungking a year later. He could assert confidently, "Wherever I am, there is the capital of China, and the center of national resistance." In four years of war Japan has been unable to break the will of the Chinese people to resist. She

has occupied most of the fertile and productive provinces and cut Free China off from the sea. But her hold on the conquered territory remains tenuous and does not extend far beyond the towns, railways and main roads. Guerilla forces and the hostility of the peasant population have prevented consolidation of the conquests or their economic exploitation, while necessitating a large army of occupation.

Most observers are assuming that Germany in Russia will be confronted with the same hopeless task as Japan in China. Russia, too, has a vast area, a huge population, rich resources, a low standard of living, and could deny to the invader any profit from his conquests by waging relentless guerilla warfare. Some optimists, like Edgar Snow,¹ lacking first-hand knowledge of the Soviet Union, even believe that Russia "in terms of political morale" is "immeasurably stronger" than China, and hence able to wage guerilla warfare even more successfully.

¹ *The New Republic*, July 14, 1941.