

ently fought by Germany partly for the purpose of determining through them what the German destiny may be. The German mind is contradictory, despairing, and tragic, but we are all heartily sick of suffering with her. If the German mind cannot make itself up, then we must make it up for her, by force. . . . But we should never despair of German aid in achieving that clarity." And we should remember that "Germans who would gladly see Hitler perish and Europe live freely will fight to the last drop of blood for German unity. The fear of dismemberment . . . constitutes Hitler's greatest psychological asset today."

Americans must change their think-

ing about Europe if the United States is to play with dignity and responsibility its part in the postwar world. Our traditional isolationism has not equipped us well for this task. But the difficulties of readjustment are not half as great as we think. Dorothy Thompson found the formula: she looked at the Germans as people. Germans came to this country to find the freedom and unity which they could not create at home; they fought here and died here for those ideals. In America they have not proved themselves militarists and aggressors. If we think of what our nation would be had the United States never found unity, we should be able to understand.

the greatness of the Russian people and while she never learned to like their smell, she learned to admire their spirit.

Leaving the Soviet Union, Miss Moats made her way to the Middle East, digging in for what then appeared to be an impending Axis onslaught. From there she reached North Africa, and the great bulge of West Africa, where she took the flying-boat that deposited her on this side of the South Atlantic narrows. Thus ended an eventful trip around the world.

This book is not the diary of a magazine writer. The author made no attempt to get in touch with the top people in the countries she visited. Nor is this merely the record of the little people in and on the verge of war. This book has a special flavor because it is the story of Miss Moats and the universe, and it is an exhilarating combination.

The picture of the author on the jacket of the book reveals some delightfully photogenic features. In this case it is not irrelevant to know that the author is both young and pretty, because this book is full of youth's defiance of conventions and the arrogance of beauty.

Witty, sophisticated lady authors are in great vogue now that Clare Booth Luce has skyrocketed to phenomenal fame. But Miss Moats is not "catty." She is a wildcat! Almost from the first page of her book she carries on a feud with America's former Ambassador to Moscow, Laurence Steinhardt, and that battle royal is etched so deeply and with such a verisimilitude of life that the book is worth reading for that reason alone. For Miss Moats it was a real fight, but she is too great an artist not to know that venom kills the printed word. Her printed words remain very much alive.

Few people could imitate Miss Moats in blending her most purely personal experiences with a recording of world history. The result is simply irresistible, probably because she has a sharply chiseled personality and also because she is an artist of the expressive word. In other words, this book is one of those "naturals" that happens only once in a great while.

Not Peace But a Distaff

BLIND DATE WITH MARS. By Alice-Leone Moats. Garden City: Doubleday, Doran & Co. 1943. 486 pp. \$3.

Reviewed by EMIL LENGYEL

IN the mid-summer of 1940 Alice-Leone Moats was commissioned by the editors of *Collier's* to write articles for them from the Soviet Union. Since it took many months for Moscow to issue her visa, she was to see a large section of the Far East. First she visited Japan and observed the island-empire in the paroxysm of the super-nationalist exaltation that led to Pearl Harbor. From Tokyo she made her way to French Indo-China, which was soon to become Japanese territory in all but name. Singapore was the next stop in her Far-Eastern odyssey, and there she noticed some of the reasons that accounted for the tragedy of a supposedly impregnable naval base.

From Singapore Miss Moats turned northward and joined a convoy of trucks that reached China via the Burma Road. She spent some time in the capital of Free China, Chungking, and there had her first taste of being bombed.

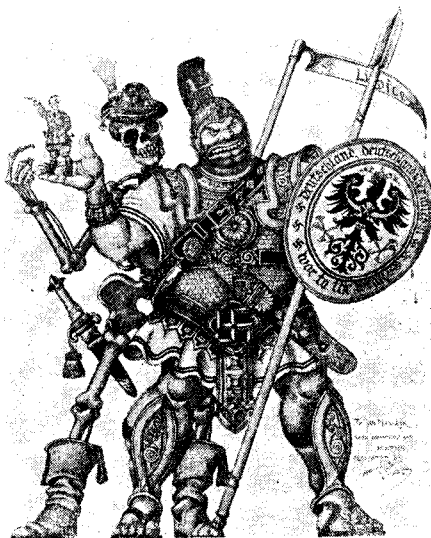
Finally, the Soviet visa reached her and she now flew westward, skirting the great Gobi desert of Mongolia, following the ancient route of silk and tea. She saw enough of Chinese Turkestan to confirm the widely held belief that the Soviets were there in actual control. It was at Soviet Central Asia's Alma Ata that Miss Moats first touched Russian soil.

The bulk of the book is a record of what Miss Moats saw in Russia. She reached Moscow just in time to see it under pre-war conditions. The Ambassadors of Germany and Italy opened their hearts to her and she learned about the impending invasion days before it actually occurred. Either the Axis diplomats were indiscreet or they

were instruments of Hitler's war of nerves.

Miss Moats is frank in her condemnation of the Soviet way of life. Just because she is such an unfriendly critic, her testimony about Russia at war is of great value. More than any other eye-witness, she makes it clear why the Russians are beating the Germans. She saw the women of Russia seizing German incendiary bombs with bare hands and flinging them out of harm's way. Because of innumerable acts of unrecorded heroism, Moscow has suffered comparatively little material damage in this war.

She also saw many heroes of the heroes, the guerrilla fighters, men, women, and children, operating behind the enemy lines, sneaking across the front, reporting to Soviet headquarters. These partisans knew that if they were captured theirs would not be the honorable custody of war prisoners, but the noose of criminals and spies. It was while dodging the bombs in Moscow that Miss Moats discovered



This drawing by Arthur Szyk was inspired by the murder of Lidice.

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DOUBLE-CROSTIC (No. 463)

WILLIAM S. GILBERT:
PRINCESS IDA

If you'd cross the Helicon
You should read Anacreon,
Ovid's Metamorphoses,
Likewise Aristophanes,
And the works of Juvenal;
These are worth attention all;
But, if you will be advised,
You will get them Bowdlerized.

Nazi Economic Warfare

GERMANY'S MASTER PLAN: *The Story of Industrial Offensive.* By Joseph Borkin and Charles A. Welsh. New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce. 1943. 339 pp. \$2.75.

Reviewed by HANS W. WEIGERT

THE trade cartel, let it be said at the start, has bred hardly anything in this century except slums at home and disasters abroad. . . . The world of 1942 is its complete indictment." With this accusation *Fortune Magazine* began an article whose objective it was to shed light on the maze of international cartel systems which—with the United States a party—had balkanized world production and trade. The title of the article was "No Peace with I. G. Farben." This slogan describes perfectly the purpose of a book which aims at exploring the geopolitics of Germany's truly secret weapon: the international cartel under German domination.

How did it happen, how could it happen here? A feudal German industry, like a Phoenix arising from the ashes of 1918, succeeded in drawing the industrialists in the democracies and their organizations into their cartel and patent net. The industrial managers of the victor nations became the junior, and only too often the juvenile, partners of the super-organizations of a defeated Germany. The German cartel Geopolitikers prepared for "The Day."

In spite of the investigations of the Bone, Murray, and Truman committees the American public has still but a vague conception of the business deals with the Axis lasting until shortly before Pearl Harbor, of the almost fatal blunders hampering the production of synthetic oil, synthetic rubber, steel, and aluminum. The American people have a right to know and a duty to learn. This book will serve as an eye-opener.

The authors of "Germany's Master Plan" are well equipped to tell the story of one of the most dangerous pincer movements in the German drive for world conquest. They have learned the facts not from books but on the stage of the Washington war theatre. Joseph Borkin has been for many years Economic Adviser to the Antitrust Division, Department of Justice, particularly in relation to foreign international cartels. Charles A. Welsh is a cartel expert for the Office of Price Administration. Thurman Arnold has written an introduction to the book in which he calls it "a brilliant and arresting exposition of the result of the disease of cartellization." It is, in Arnold's words, the story of international cartels to whom "we owe the

peace of Munich," and of our own cartels to whom "we owe the failure to expand American industry prior to Pearl Harbor." The authors could have called their book "While America Slept." During this sleep, there took place, under German orders, the conscientious withdrawal of many American industries from efficiency, a withdrawal which has prolonged this war and for which thousands are paying with their lives.

Messrs. Borkin and Welsh paint a vivid picture of Hitler's economic victories in America. They take up one strategical raw material after the other, one industry after the other. And their findings lead always to the same conclusion: American industry perceived as little the global scheme of German economic warfare as the American nation understood the dark shadows of German political and military strategy—until it was almost too late. Whether it is synthetic oil or rubber, dyestuffs, plastics or drugs, steel alloys or precision optical goods, the secret but remorseless struggle for power between the industrial giants always ended with victory of the Germans over the cartels of the democracies. They were the "easy dupes" because they continued doing business as usual and doing business with Hitler, a long time after the centralized cartel organizations of Germany had become an integral part of the Nazi machine. "To Germany, cartel understandings were stimulants; to her enemies, they were opiates, lulling them into false delusions of peace and prosperity." "The weakness of democracy," conclude the authors, "lies not in the lack of planning, but in its tolerance of industrial oligarchy, the twin of Fascism."



—From "The New Order," by Arthur Szyk.
Fair Exchange

With this statement, the authors touch upon one of the most crucial problems democracy will have to solve in order to win the peace. Our managers of the private governments of international cartels have often failed to see their responsibilities towards the nation. The unrestricted use of monopoly powers has strangled trade, cut down production and jobs. It has threatened the very life of the nation. It is for this reason that Mr. Arnold is right in saying that such a book should be read by everyone interested in the economic future of America.

This book, however, must be read critically. It seems to be written in a hurry and the authors have overdone the journalistic approach. In their attempt to illuminate what they believe was an old master plan of German Junkers, industrialists, and generals, they have not avoided numerous overstatements and inaccuracies, particularly in their somewhat sketchy remarks on historical subjects. This and an often would-be picturesque verbiage (for instance, why do they constantly speak of Germany as the "sandbox" of Europe?) do not augment the value of the book. Also I feel that the authors have not always been very fortunate in the selection of their source material. They show a preference for sensational literature and, on the other hand, refrain from quoting certain publications which, like G. Reimann's "Patents for Hitler" (1942) and a number of articles in *Fortune Magazine* are more important than many of the books quoted in the bibliography. But the main criticism of this reviewer concerns the obvious attempt of the book to whitewash Standard Oil of its responsibility in having enabled I. G. Farben almost to strangle vital parts of America's industry. The issue cannot be explained by simply saying that American companies were decoyed into agreements, "the purpose of which they did not sense." "Our businessmen were peaceful traders, the enemy's businessmen were and are all over the world agents of aggression." Such appraisals shed no light on one of the darkest chapters of modern economic history.

It is only natural that a book that deals with the most controversial and complicated phases of economic warfare and geopolitical strategy asks for criticism and objection. The main thing, however, is that the authors have daringly attacked the cartel problem as one of the most crucial problems which must be solved if we hope to win a lasting peace. It is for this reason that I hope that many will read this book and take its lessons to heart.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS