

**ON THE UNIVERSITY RIGHT**

# 1914 or 1938 ?

by Joseph Sanlei  
 Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor of West Germany made an analogy a few months ago which began a trend among the very trendy segments of political discourse. The Chancellor stated that in his astute, if hardly humble, opinion the world of 1980 was not much different than that of 1914, with political combatants hopelessly drifting toward each other impelled by forces beyond their control. The study of geo-politics, a trend which commenced before the Second World War in popular form, seems to substantiate Herr Schmidt's assessment as the powers extend their influence over vast distances and sundry "strategic locals" around the globe. If this analogy were to be accepted then the Soviet Union and Communist Block is no more at fault for the present world crisis than anyone else as they too are only following a pre-determined course of action, or at least one beyond their

control.  
 The destiny of humankind might as well be written on the stars.  
 The 1914 analogy when it was originally published in the winter issue of Foreign Affairs (the very same publication through which misinterpretation gave us "containment" in the 1950's) by Prof. Miles Kahler of Princeton, would probably have ended up in the great dustbin of history had not the Federal German leader gone to such brilliantly composed and great lengths to publicize its thesis. That Prof. Kahler's article was well documented concerning the anti-bellum period of World War One is beyond contention. Only in the transmission of the reality of 1914 to the conjecture of 1980 does one find holes large enough for an elephant to walk through. For if one accepts the premise upon which this conjecture has been predicated then the role of World-Communism is only as such as has been stated - one of destiny!  
 Realizing the way folks, even brilliant folks

like Prof. Kahler, like to draw upon history to fit it into contemporary patterns the good professor might be forgiven for his passionate moments in writing. Also bearing in mind Chancellor Schmidt's political problems of the last year domestically from the Strauss Christian Democratic Right and even from the left of his own ranks of Social Democrats, it is also possible to excuse his seizing upon the "issue" of 1914 in 1980 out of political need. However, it would be absolutely unforgivable for Free World leaders to incorporate the 1914 formula into their foreign policy. For Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and other Western Democracies to accept the "inevatability" of world war with the Communist World would not only be foolish, but self-destructive and would end either in thermo-nuclear hell or surrender to totalitarianism without the firing of a shot.

It would be a lie to say that the world is not in mortal danger of war at this time, but no less a lie than to say that it is inevitable and irrep-

ressable. For if an analogy can be drawn perhaps 1938 would provide a more suitable year to examine, as Prime Minister Thatcher of the U.K. seems to think.

In this analogy (1938) Soviet Union of 1980 assume the role of Nazi Germany Imperial Japan in the last world war, rather than Austria-Hungary or Edward Grey's England of the war before that. Remember that it was with the blessings of Hitler that Stalin made the Red Armies first offer to move into Poland, a country they still occupy, in 1939. Since then the Reds have repeated their scenario of brutal conquest in the rest of Eastern Europe and more recently in Africa, Asia and Latin America as well.

The lesson of 1938, unlike the myriad of "lessons" from 1914, is clear: appeasement is the surest path to making war inevitable. As the Soviet Union devours the world, bit by bloody-bit, this is a lesson the Free World must quickly learn. As Herr Schmidt's "bit" is on the very doorstep of the foe it surprises me that he has not already learned it; we can only hope that Moscow does not teach it to him!!

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