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John Curtis Clark & Wife

HITLER AND THE NEGRO

by

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Words have a quite human way of becoming besmirched by the company they keep. A case in point is the bad odor in which the damning epithet communist finds itself today after having properly and correctly characterized the simple life of not a few respected American Colonies as well as the early Christians when (Acts 4, 34) "Neither was there any among them that lacked, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the prices of the things and laid them down at the Apostles' feet, and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need".

This writer has no desire to whitewash the baby of the efficient propagandists who have so ably manipulated their job in collaboration with the March of Time. In the interest of clear thinking, however, and even more importantly to sweep the cobwebs from our own ideology, the issue between Stalin and Hitler with the basal motivation energizing each in the titanic struggle which threatens to engulf civilization and all humanity, should be dispassionately and intelligently faced.

Let it be understood at the outset that the only "ism" for our breed, the only allegiance that challenges our loyalty, the only brand of social, economic and political ideas and ideals that carries our blank check endorsement is the American brand. Birth, training and tradition, willy nilly, have made us Americans. For better for worse, for richer for poorer, till death do us part. Here we stand and God help us, we can no other. The leopard cannot change his spots

nor the Ethiopian his skin. We cannot afford the open Forum of pure academic reasoning about Nazism, Fascism, Communism or orientalism. The Japanese are a wonderfully progressive people. They are desperately in need of expansion for their rapidly multiplying population, and they are brown. Kagawa their great poet is one of the most saintly characters the world has ever known. All of which goes for nothing with us. Japan has attacked the U. S. A. She is at war with **us**. Admiration for her prowess, sympathy for her cramped natural limitation, even humane ties of Christian brotherhood must be held in abeyance while the war lasts, however painful the process. Altogether different is the case of Stalin against Hitler. Soviet Russia long ago declared war on capitalism, disfranchised its own aristocracy and enthroned the proletariat. So hateful does the whole Red ideology seem to most orderly minds trained under the American economic system of free enterprise that only the greater and more absorbing hatred of Hitlerism can render even a temporary and superficial alliance with Russia thinkable. We tolerate Stalin while and because he is pulling our chestnuts out of the fire. Even the least sympathetic must admit he is doing a magnificent job and invaluable service. One prominent columnist expresses it: "I'd love to have Stalin eat Hitler up raw and then die of cramp colic". Here again sentiment and abstract theories must give way before cold facts. However closely identified we may imagine ourselves to be with the bottom rail which the Russian Revolution put on top, it is undeniable that in our country the best brain and blood have followed consistently the Nation's conscience and that reforms have been wrought not by violent outbursts from below but by considerate conferences and adjustments between the more and the less privileged with a peculiarly American love of fair play and a willingness to look at things from the other fellow's view point. For capital it must be admitted, that any equal distribution of wealth "unto every man according to his need", could never have produced **for all the people** the Carnegie libraries, the Rockefeller foundations for the study and eradication of disease, the Mellon Art Treasures and the many Rosenwald benevolences. Our benefactors of great wealth need have no fear of a bolshevist invasion. Malefactors, great or small are being looked after by the F. B. I.

and surely we of the less privileged will gain nothing by wishing cramp colic on Stalin. Hitler, on the other hand embodies the one idea that threatens not alone our country's foundation principles but octopus like it would send its deadly tentacles into the vitals of every individual man and woman cutting adrift every racial variety of human form not answering "perfect" to his plans and specifications. Elimination of the unfit, ruthless and forcible elimination, ultimate annihilation or enslavement, not of Jews alone, but of Frenchmen, Italians, all Mediterranean races and nations and finally the now courted and applauded Japanese just so soon as they have served his purpose by closing the pincers around the democracies. Such is Hitler's ideal declared or implied and such his deliberate aim and purpose to make room for the supremely fit, the glorified progeny of Germanic kultu, the unadulterated Nordic breed, divinely appointed overlords and sovereigns of the earth. No need of a prophet to tell what would befall the darker races of this hemisphere should Hitler triumph. Nor would it take an orator's eloquence to persuade a racial minority wherein lies its only hope in the present struggle.

Negroes of unquestioned citizenship and unquestionable loyalty, realize all too keenly that law-allowed inequalities impeach the four freedoms enunciated by our great President and that injustice, not to speak of mob violence, still embarrasses this Land of the Free and Star of Hope for the oppressed of other lands. The right to work with its prerequisite, the right to opportunities for training in the arts of making a living is an essential element in the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But most emphatically we realize further that responsibility to make the great American dream of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln come true, rests alike upon every citizen of the Republic, high and low, rich and poor, black and white. In squarely shouldering his responsibility as a citizen and eagerly answering his country's call for service whatever the placement, the American Negro does not ignore abuses that exist through human imperfections, greed or selfishness in high places. He has learned, or is learning the difference between genuine and spurious Americanism and to discriminate between loyal and recreant Americans. No single individual in a democracy has a right to think of himself as on the receiving end only of its privileges and

immunities nor can any even of the humblest minority group dare to nurse personal grouches when the country is in peril of attack on its most cherished ideals. In the language of the Council for Democracy: "If the world is to be a place where a free man can hold up his head, **We have to help make it so** with our own blood and sweat and tears", and by loyal and honest cooperation with the forces that make for righteousness at all times. This duty, responsibility and high privilege rests upon every mother's son without distinction of race, color, creed or condition.

And so, "We rededicate ourselves to the principles of American Democracy, to the perpetuation of our faith in human brotherhood, to the promotion of Christian manhood and womanhood, to the preservation of faith in ourselves under God and belief in the efficacy of Education; Christian Education, to make life livable as well as to make a living in America today under the Constitution".