

EIR Special Report

D-Day anniversary: The second liberation of Europe

by Philip Golub

Forty years ago, on the eve of Operation Overlord, more familiarly known as “D-Day,” Europe East and West stood enslaved to the Nazi occupation forces which in 1939 had overrun Poland and in 1940 had completed the conquest of continental Western Europe. Although the Soviet victory at Stalingrad signaled the shift in fortunes of the war, the liberation of Europe would still require two years of enormous effort by the Allies and the resistance.

On June 6, 1944, after months of preparations, the largest military operation in history was finally set into motion; eight Allied divisions landed in Normandy. Two days earlier, on June 4, the armies of Gen. Mark Clark had liberated Rome. But it was not until July that the resistance of German forces was broken at Avranches, opening a path for Gen. George Patton’s Third Army, which spearheaded the offensive which finally crushed the Third Reich.

On Aug. 15, the Free French First Army landed in Provence, and combined with the U.S. Seventh Army in late August to liberate Toulon and Marseille. They proceeded to link up with Patton. On Aug. 25, 1944, the Leclerc Division entered Paris, liberating the French capital. Strasbourg, the Lorraine, and Belgium followed quickly.

The victories were not easily achieved. Conflicting interests dictated conflicting Allied strategies. The United Kingdom had repeatedly postponed the opening of the Second Front in favor of a strategy in the Balkans and the Middle East uniquely tailored to British imperial interests. Churchill and the British elite knew—hence the essential reason for postponing the Second Front in Europe—that American victory and British bankruptcy meant the end of the Empire. Field Marshal Montgomery’s errors and arrogant incompetence during the European campaign—the failure to close the Falaise gap, Operation Market-Garden, and the tragic battle of Arnhem—were viewed as sabotage by more than one observer. General Eisenhower’s chairman-of-the-board approach, his conflict resolution and relative lack of imagination, contrasted starkly with the dynamic offensives of Patton or the brilliantly led Pacific campaign of MacArthur.

One need but compare the strategy, tactics, and results of these giants of the



By saving Europe from the Nazi Dark Age, the Allies saved Western civilization. That European-American alliance is now in grave jeopardy. Shown is General Charles de Gaulle marching down the Champs-Élysées on the day of the Liberation of Paris, August 25, 1944.

French Embassy Press & Information Division

war with the Strategic Bombing Survey's terror bombardment of German population centers, which were supposed to destroy "enemy morale" but instead, stiffened bloody resistance. The strategy of revenge is not a part of the art of war fighting, which instead must center on limiting casualties to their strict minimum, rapidity of deployment and victory, and, ultimately, winning over the populations of defeated nations to higher forms of social and political organization.

This being said, the Liberation of Europe from the dark ages of Nazi barbarism saved Western civilization and awakened hopes for all of humanity. Colonialism and 19th-century imperialist policies crumbled along with the fascist regimes of Europe. President Roosevelt, according to his son's account in *As He Saw It*, sought to accelerate the dismantling of European imperial power. General de Gaulle likewise, in his famous speech in Brazzaville in 1944, spoke of the liberation of colonial peoples. Finally, General MacArthur tried to bring republican principles throughout the Pacific rim and south Asia. India was soon to achieve independence after many sacrifices. Britain was to lose Palestine and the state of Israel was to be formed. Asia entered into a new era. After de Gaulle's return to power in 1958, the Francophone African countries would achieve independence.

In Eastern Europe, however, the hopes of the Liberation were crushed by the brutal and rapid assertion of Soviet power. Raped and plundered by both the Nazis and Russians, Poland was to lose its independence once again, and for a still unending time.

One can ask now, 40 years later, whether the great hopes awakened by the defeat of fascism and the beginning of the

collapse of colonialism have been fulfilled. Although we won the war, we still have failed to win the peace. The 40th anniversary of D-Day symbolizes the unity of Western civilization. Yet even as we celebrate the anniversary today, the sacrifices and achievements of the war are threatened by a daily intensifying world crisis which, once again, endangers civilization itself.

The erosion of the Alliance

Along with the constant evolution of Soviet military power, there has been a deepening erosion of the Atlantic Alliance and the principles underlying Euro-American relations. A process of "decoupling" is occurring which could lead to the third great tragedy in European history in this century, and perhaps world conflict. The present British leadership is made in the image of Neville Chamberlain; devious toward its wartime American ally, it is again acting on secret deals with the aggressor. Official NATO policy is now made by the heir of Lord Mountbatten, Lord Peter Carrington, one of the architects of a "New Yalta" which would cede large areas of the developing sector to the Soviet Union, them Europe.

Britain is but an island, treacherous but neither European nor American. The essential conflict of ongoing European history is being, and will be played out in Central Europe.

The fight for Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany's present policy and political crisis most acutely reflects the crisis in Euro-American relations. A significant part of the policy-making elites

of the Federal Republic have come to identify survival with a significant, long-term rapprochement with the East. Unthinkable under Adenauer and the pro-Western "consensus" years through 1969, until Willy Brandt's chancellorship, this eastward shift is no longer restricted to marginal left-wing or SPD circles.

The hard core of extreme right-wing and Nazi layers are acting as direct agents of the KGB; the alienated anti-Americans of the ecologist and pacifist left ironically converge on the extreme right-wing. But there is a much more influential grouping of appeasers, who believe that realism and self-interest dictate accommodation with the East: Krupp's Bertold Beitz, von Amerongen, and Salzgitter industries are representative of this current, as are foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and former chancellor Helmut Schmidt. There remains a significant body of pro-American opinion, but it is weakening as the crisis grows. The pacifists are but the most noticeable part, therefore, of a much larger shift in West German thinking.

Like Chamberlain in 1938, there are those in England and the United States who are promoting this shift: Kissinger's recent proposals for the "reorganization" of NATO, the advocates of the Mansfield doctrine that America concentrate on the Pacific, the Aspen Institute, and many others have given their imprimatur to this suicidal policy. Not astonishingly, these latter circles are the heirs of those who, once we had won the war, made us lose the peace.

MacArthur's occupation policies in Japan sought, while preserving Japan itself, to uproot and destroy the feudal oligarchical elements which led Japan to conquest and racist policies. But the destruction of Nazism was not made into a liberation of Germany from the pagan, racist insanity of the founders of the Nazi Party. First, the partition of Germany was arranged: Field Marshal Montgomery, acting on a "secret Yalta" deal between London and Moscow, diverted Patton's army south to Bavaria on a pretext, and allowed the Red Army to take Berlin. Germany's surviving population was starved for an extended period ("the turnip winter," etc.). Nor did we spare ourselves the hypocrisy of proclaiming Germans' collective guilt at Britain's Wilton Park "re-education" program, while at the same time integrating Abwehr and SD intelligence elements into our own services. Today, those remaining hard-core Nazi elements are predominantly working for the Soviet Union, as is illustrated in the case of Gen. Otto Ernst Remer, head of the battalion which crushed the 20th of July uprising in Berlin, a Soviet agent no later than 1949, and a Soviet agent today.

At present, the Soviets have overwhelming military predominance in the European theater. To their uncontested conventional superiority is now added the array of middle-range nuclear missiles—the SS-20, SS-21, SS-22, SS-23—deployed since 1977. These weapons serve as a powerful means of extortion in Europe as a whole, and West Germany in particular.

The pressure which the Russians have been building up

since the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 is daily increasing, leading to a palpable rise of tension and fear in all leading European circles. Most recently, violations of the Berlin air corridors, the deployment of SS-22s in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, the buildup of elite forces in East Germany aimed at northern West Germany, have all contributed to fueling appeasement sentiment. The Soviet leadership is currently convinced that the crisis in the West offers them unprecedented opportunities for domination, if not conquest.

This contemporary European crisis is intimately linked to the failure of the countries of the Atlantic Alliance to continue the immediate postwar process of liberating the countries of the Third World from underdevelopment. The moral task of the war was betrayed afterwards by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Club of Rome, and the colonial atavisms of our postwar elites.

A Rooseveltian policy

At the outbreak of World War II, the United States army numbered 113,000 men. U.S. forces were one-third the size of the Polish army, the equal of those of Portugal. By the end of the war, through the continuous struggle of Franklin D. Roosevelt and other crucial leaders, the armed forces of the United States numbered over 10 million men. An unprecedented industrial, technological, and political mobilization made possible the victory over the immense Nazi war machine.

Roosevelt was the architect of victory. He knew that for civilization itself to survive, Europe had to be saved. In contrast to most American opinion, he called for the quarantine of Nazi Germany in 1937, at a time when only de Gaulle among Western leaders had yet called Hitler a true menace to civilization, and most Americans were indifferent, with some even calling upon the United States to support Hitler.

Today, the Alliance needs precisely such a design to preserve peace, reaffirm as essential our historical ties to Europe, and fulfill the unfinished moral task of the post-war era in developing areas of the world. As leading French strategist Col. Marc Geneste put it in a recent conversation with *EIR*, "Our duty, for the sake of peace, is to defend Europe from invasion, and to defend the Russians from temptation to use their crushing military power. The only cheap solution has to be found in modern military defense technologies." By breaking beyond the presently defined "defense industrial base" through military and industrial applications of laser- and kindred energy-beam technologies, we can not only move rapidly out of the age of thermonuclear terror, but also rebuild our rotting industrial economies, and target their output on the development of the backward areas of the world. Beam-weapon technologies, developed in concert with NATO allies and France, will provide the means for continent-, area-, and point-defense against missile attack—including in Europe—while its spill-over effects on industrial and agricultural productivities mean an economic renaissance for our culture.