

“The Unstoppable Advance” (August 1932)

Abstract

At the beginning of June 1932, Reich President Hindenburg appointed Franz von Papen from the Center Party to succeed Heinrich Brüning as Reich Chancellor at the suggestion of Kurt von Schleicher. Papen formed a “cabinet of national concentration” made up of conservative, mostly aristocratic civil servants without a political mandate. Just three days after Papen’s appointment, Hindenburg dissolved the Reichstag at Papen’s request in order to be able to rule with the help of the Reich President’s emergency laws and effectively disempower parliament. New Reichstag elections were held on July 31, 1932, and the election campaign was accompanied by violent riots between supporters of the NSDAP and KPD. The NSDAP became the strongest party in the Reichstag for the first time but did not win an absolute majority. In this article by Nazi ideologue Alfred Rosenberg, published in the *Völkischer Beobachter* at the beginning of August 1932, the NSDAP’s victory was presented as an inevitable development. However, after the election there was once again no parliamentary majority that could have formed a government. As Rosenberg suggests, the National Socialists derived a clear claim to leadership from their election success. Hitler therefore called for a new government to be formed under his leadership as Reich Chancellor, which Hindenburg rejected at the time.

Source

The Unstoppable Advance

Of the election results of July 31st, two are the most striking: the unstoppable advance of the National Socialist movement, but also the fact that the remaining groups who also consider themselves part of the national opposition did not succeed in any way at concentrating those energies in order to add another 14 percent of votes to the 37.4 percent which the NSDAP represents today. First of all, these conclusions led to the demand to expand the newly gained position and consider it the starting point for a new advance, which we have been making after every election. National Socialism is facing the enormous task of registering those 13.8 million voters in its organization, thus transforming them into true fellow combatants. This is all the more important and requires the individual influencing of millions since the unarguably strong growth of the KPD is the result of a large working class youth. This youth is radical, it is descended from a segment of society which has been disenfranchised by a policy of tribute payments and democratic corruption, and the demagogic association of the Reich Cabinet with us has eventually led to the fact that it is unable to comprehend what the NSDAP means for them as well. It will take hard work to clear the path for a distinct policy towards workers as part of the work of People’s Socialism in general. On the other hand, the growth of communism is in itself a renewed and ever more threatening danger for state and people which will encourage the criminal element within Bolshevism and incite it to more murderous deeds. From this follows that both an iron hand and an uncompromising socially just government is required in order to avert this threat. It is safe to say that it has been shown that a person who is both a reactionary and hesitant at the same time, such as the current Minister of the Interior, for example, is incapable of this. Today, without National Socialism the Bolshevik – and also the entire Marxist – threat cannot be overcome, and this fact in itself demonstrates once again the crime which the Center [Zentrum] party has committed against the German people, since Moscow’s fruit could only ripen due to its support of Social Democracy in the first place. During this election campaign the Center even went so far in its hatred as to portray the Bolshevik bloody revolt against a potential majority for Hitler as the “only means” to beat Hitler on its posters and thus recommend it!

The Center party aided by almost the entirety of the Church, has managed to mobilize its last reserves, even among young people, and has thus maintained its position. Never before has Christendom been abused so shamelessly as a shield for the red-black fraternization as in this election campaign: and unfortunately, again successfully.

The SPD, despite larger numbers of voters, once again leaves the battlefield having suffered a serious defeat. Their usual slogans may not have been entirely ineffective, yet they were only a last resort in order to avoid the collapse.

Among those who have been almost entirely driven out are the German People's Party [Deutsche Volkspartei], the Economic Party [Wirtschaftspartei], and the State Party [Staatspartei]; the Christian-Social party [Christlich-Sozialen], too, has suffered a defeat from which there will be no recovery. So the entire liberalist bourgeoisie collapses and once again the battle lines are drawn. All that is left of the Weimar coalition is a dull memory and thus the judgment on everything connected with the year 1919 has been rendered for all time.

In contrast to this bourgeoisie, the DNVP has survived because at the last moment it created a leadership for itself which, although not strong, is rigid, which for a political entity is still better than a constant change of position. Thus socially reactionary nationalism has maintained its position.

Due to the election results, the formation of a unified government even with regard to the basic issues alone is technically and arithmetically impossible. Attempts at making this parliament "able to govern" will doubtlessly be made. We have no cause to anticipate these possibilities, although the prospect of success is conceivably small. The current Reich government therefore is in a position similar to that of the executive governments of the Länder since a Brüning coalition has become completely impossible as well and the KPD remains beyond consideration. The result of this is a political perspective which can only be governed by the awesome dynamic which has fundamentally expressed itself in the Hitler movement despite all obstacles. If the election result of 1930 had already been considered a landslide at the time, then today's numbers, which have more than doubled, show the awesome power in a way which must make government that bypasses it a thing of the past. Anyone who followed Adolf Hitler's freedom flight over Germany will have to admit that this was the noblest sentiments of the people expressing themselves in stature and will. More than any other party ever before National Socialism in the German parliament emerges as the protector of the best traditions and at the same time as the champion of a new state order, which alone is fit to let the German nation carry out its fateful fight against its enemies.

Just in which forms this will, which can no longer be reigned in, shall assert itself will be under consideration in the following weeks. Adolf Hitler for his part has been given an overwhelming mandate by the German nation, which has not only made his movement by far the strongest in terms of numbers, but which in its inner value and content also unites nearly everything which is authorized to speak for Germany – and not some sort of international.

The fight continues, the final victory cannot be wrested from us now. Germany has arisen, soon our flags will fly from all battlements.

A.R.

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