

ACKERMAN CENTER PODCAST

Season 2: *A Year in the Third Reich*

Primary Sources

anchor.fm/ackermancenter

**The Ackerman
Center Podcast**



Spotify
Listen on
Apple Podcasts
@holocaustpodcast

EPISODE 2: 1934

Hitler and Mussolini Meet in Venice

Dictators Meet (1934)

117,659 views • Apr 13, 2014

British Pathé
2.24M subscribers

Full title reads: "First & exclusive pictures - PATHE GAZETTE presents - (next screen) DICTATORS MEET - Signor Mussolini welcomes Herr Hitler at Venice."



First Meeting of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini in Venice, June 13, 1934.

Source: Alfred Eisenstaedt, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
Object no. 2016.75.66.30

<https://anchor.fm/ackermancenter>

<https://ackerman.utdallas.edu/virtual-outreach/>

ACKERMAN CENTER PODCAST

Season 2: A Year in the Third Reich

Primary Sources

anchor.fm/ackermancenter

The Ackerman
Center Podcast



Spotify
Listen on
Apple Podcasts
@holocaustpodcast

EPISODE 2: 1934

Hitler and Mussolini Meet in Venice

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—Every man of peace and good will must welcome the breath of sanity in your issue of the 6th instant. That "Sanity" writes as he does and that you, Sir, print his letter show a breadth of view, a vision, and a tolerance that one feared had almost ceased to exist in our mental outlook towards Germany.

Why, one wonders, is there an apparent conspiracy on the part of our Press (with a few honourable exceptions) to lay stress on and even exaggerate every item of news hostile to a friendly understanding of Germany's difficulties, and to ignore all those achievements of Herr Hitler which redound to Germany's credit? No one, nor I, will deny the effect on our minds of the grim-deeds of June 30, but it has been said—"to know all is to understand all," and since we know so little should we not endeavour at any rate to suspend judgment until we know more?

Day after day we read of some deplorable excesses of some provincial Nazi group or groups. These incidents are referred to *ad nauseam*, until the public mind of Britain has become imbued with the idea that nothing but such excesses of a brutal and licentious character marks the Nazi régime. Furthermore, of course, Herr Hitler gets the blame for it all.

Rarely do we read (except in the same journals honourably excepted) anything of the social, educational, or even moral achievements of the Hitler administration. How few British people know of the extensive housing schemes for the poor at Hamburg and elsewhere, in many cases erected or subsidized by the voluntary contributions of the Nazi storm troopers. How few have heard of the maternity clinics and child welfare centres, so widely created under Herr Hitler's direction. How many animal lovers realize that the animal welfare and protection laws promulgated since the advent of Herr Hitler to power are probably a generation ahead of anything yet produced in the civilized world? And what of the purging of those dens of unnatural vice which had become almost a social habit in Berlin and in many of the larger German cities? What of the clean riddance of the gangster element, which had in recent times threatened the lives and property of men, women, and children throughout the German Reich?

(Continues)

throughout the German Reich?

Are all these to be ignored? Cannot some credit be given? Must the Press unite in keeping Britain ignorant of these humane and progressive measures which have so altered the face of modern Germany?

And finally, Sir, what is the force or influence behind our Press which induces them to attack and discredit the one Power which has the courage and the determination to keep Communism from permeating Western Europe with its evil influences? Herr Hitler may have been guilty, either personally or through his followers, of what may seem to us, with our lack of inner knowledge, crimes against his own people, but they are his own people, and he is responsible to them, not to us. And if, as we know, he has the loyalty and trust of those millions of Germans who see in him a saviour, surely it is our duty as a friendly Power to give him fair play.

Herr Hitler has now assumed great responsibilities to his people and to Europe. Would it not be in accordance with our British traditions to grant him our moral support in carrying out those obligations? He has held out the hand of friendship to Poland. She has seized it. He has made a generous gesture to France—even if France does not respond, let us give him the credit for it. He has restored a people of 65,000,000 from a complex of degradation and humiliation to one of self-reliance and hope. He says he wants the friendship of Britain. Would it be wise, in the interests of European peace and concord, to fail him?

Yours faithfully,

T. C. R. MOORE.

House of Commons, Aug. 9.

Source: MOORE., T. C. R. "Herr Hitler." Times, 15 Aug. 1934, p. 6. *The Times Digital Archive*, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CS101133071/TTDA?u=txshracd2602&sid=TTDA&xid=58625b79>. Accessed 13 Oct. 2020.

<https://anchor.fm/ackermancenter>

<https://ackerman.utdallas.edu/virtual-outreach/>