

A WORD TO ITALIAN-AMERICANS*

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HITLER gives us a useful lesson when, despite his belief in the use of brute force, he has his experts devise formulas to attract the worn-out peoples of Europe. It is in this way that the New Order has come into being. The propaganda of the New Order expounds its beauties. But the people of Italy and France, the people of Europe from Norway to the Balkans, who feel the horror of German oppression, know only too well what the New Order really means: a so-called superior race, namely, the Germans, which exploits and rides roughshod over all other nations in the name of European unity. Not even the craven men of Vichy or Paris or Rome believe a single word they utter, on orders from Berlin, in defence of the New Order. For Italy, it is Fraud Number Three. The first was the swindle of the Corporative State. The second was the Neo-Roman Empire.

What is real, on the other hand, although not of first importance, is the fact that in certain backward circles, even in a revitalized and heroic England and in a free and unbiassed United States, there are heads still turned to the past. These imagine that once Germany lies prostrate, it will be possible to go back to a Europe chopped into bits held together vaguely by the shadow of a paternal super-government designed merely to keep the peace.

A few days ago we witnessed the height of the ridiculous in a speech by a Yugoslav politician who saw nothing more in a victory for the democracies than this one result: the wresting from Italy of the purely Italian city of Trieste, and its secure confinement within the extended borders of Yugoslavia.

Thus even after two years of war there are still minds so immature as to think only in terms of reconstructing that anarchic world in which Fascism and Nazism succeeded in destroying the nascent germs of a superior international law. Without knowing it, without wanting it, these immature minds are prolonging the war.

Do we want more speedily to achieve victory—the victory of a free world?

If that is what we want, and we do, we had better follow the example of the leaders of the American Revolution. Those

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leaders always coupled the fight for the independence of their country with some elemental but essential ideas of human progress—ideas which to this very day are a treasure and a force infinitely greater than all America's gold and natural resources.

As for us Italians, we need only to go back to Mazzini, who always advocated as the task of a free Italy the achievement of unity for all the peoples of Europe. Again and again that pure spirit insisted: "This is our moral duty."

To which I add as a practical matter: "Yes, it is our moral duty, but it also serves our highest national interest."