

6 and easily comprehensible fashion. He is a gifted storyteller, enlivening his account with biographical portraits of leading personalities such as Queen Wilhelmina and her ministers, top officers of the Dutch Army, the main German occupation officials and prominent figures in the resistance movement. Although detailed in his coverage the author has been very selective in the choice of his data and the reader never feels oppressed by the wealth of the material presented, even if some historians may believe that well-known events such as Hitler's rise to power needn't have been retold.

Admittedly, much of his work makes for very depressing reading, reminding us of the untold suffering which the Germans inflicted on so many Dutchmen who were either completely innocent victims of Nazi brutality or belonged to the much smaller group who dared to oppose the German oppressors. But their story is told with a restrained and sustained passion which succeeds in communicating the author's indignation, admiration or pity to any sensitive reader.

This is obviously not a historical work written *sine ira et studio*. The author makes no secret of his conviction that Nazism constituted one of the most criminal aberrations of the human mind, the dangerous implications of which most Dutchmen only belatedly recognized. Yet this belief has not prevented him from exposing some of the anti-German myths current during the war. For example, he effectively refutes the widely held view that many Dutch Nazis rendered great services to the Germans by acting as fifth columnists during the invasion of 1940. Similarly, he convincingly argues that the Finnish masseur Felix Kersten was fantasizing when he ascribed to the Germans the plan for deporting almost the entire Dutch nation to Poland. Nor does Dr. de Jong fail to mention some of the more attractive features in the personalities of some leading German officials in the Netherlands such as Seyss-Inquart.

He also makes it clear that many Dutch resistance workers were not primarily motivated by love of fatherland or humanity and that the Dutch government-in-exile committed serious errors of judgment. In a fascinating chapter he discusses the attempts made by the authorities in London to establish regular contact with the resistance movement in order to organize a guerrilla force designed to support the planned Allied invasion and then describes how these contacts were soon detected by the German intelligence, who then took over the allegedly underground communication with England and played their so-called *Englandspiel*, with disastrous results for the Dutch agents dropped in occupied territory.

Not surprisingly, some of the views expressed by Dr. de Jong on the wartime record of his contemporaries have aroused controversy. For example, some Dutch collaborators have strongly objected to his criticisms of their wartime activities, whereas other critics have argued that Dr. de Jong has been too lenient in his treatment of Nazi sympathizers. He has found his most bitter critics among the communists who have characterized