

## Today's lesson of the 1939 Hitler-Stalin Pact

by Patrick Ruckert

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### **Partners in Tyranny: The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact—August 23, 1939**

by John Kolasky

The Mackenzie Institute, Toronto, 1990

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With the March 11 declaration of independence by Lithuania, one of the most disgusting frauds of the 20th century may come to an end. *May* come to an end, because the responses are not all in. Shortly, Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, and Georgia will be issuing independence declarations.

Mikhail Gorbachov must make an example out of Lithuania, if he is to hold the disintegrating Russian empire together. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, the Bush administration is doing all it can to aid the new Russian Czar. As of the end of March, Bush has refused to recognize Lithuania's independence, in direct conflict with the 50-year, stated policy of the U.S. government of not recognizing Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia as legitimate parts of the Soviet Union.

John Kolasky's *Partners in Tyranny*, written 50 years after the signing of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, by which Hitler and Stalin agreed on the division of Europe into their respective spheres of influence, is a lesson in history of the futility and disastrous consequences of such agreements. It is a lesson that Bush, Thatcher, and Gorbachov need to learn.

The Bush administration's condominium agreement with Gorbachov, to support each other in keeping the countries within each's sphere of influence in line, is the 1990 version of the Hitler-Stalin Pact. Yet, like that earlier version, this Kissingerian "balance of power" agreement will result in world war. The earlier 1815 Treaty of Vienna, upon which Kissinger has designed the last 25 years of U.S. foreign policy, too, resulted in collapse and war.

However, unlike 1939, today there is a worldwide revolutionary process under way against tyranny, which threatens to short-circuit all the plans and policies of both the Eastern communists and the Western financiers. The mutual propping-up exercises of Bush and Gorbachov may not last for long.

John Kolasky is well qualified to write about the East-West condominium. Born in Ontario, Canada, of Ukrainian

émigré parents, he joined the Communist Party during the Depression. He has a masters degree in history from the University of Toronto, and has taught school in Manitoba and Ontario. In 1963, Kolasky was selected for leadership training by the pro-Communist Ukrainian organizations and the Communist Party of Canada, and sent to the Higher Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine in Kiev, where he spent the next two years. Soviet reality soon shattered his illusion. He became part of a growing movement of dissent in Ukraine. In 1965, he was arrested by the KGB, questioned and later expelled from the U.S.S.R. Kolasky is the author of numerous books on Ukrainian and Soviet topics, including: *Education in the Soviet Ukraine*; *Two Years in Soviet Ukraine*; and *The Shattered Illusion*. In addition, he translated and edited *Report from the Beria Reserve: The Protest Writings of Valentyn Moroz*.

In this present small book the author is able to present a wealth of historical documentation, personalities, intrigues, and consequences of the period leading up to and resulting in the pact between two tyrants, which contributed to creating World War II. The author describes the relations between Germany and Soviet Russia from the end of World War I to the Nazi attack on Russia on June 22, 1941. He outlines the agreements between the two whereby Germany set up facilities for the manufacture of planes, tanks, ammunition, and poison gas; trained pilots and military officers; and tested equipment—an agreement made necessary by the terms of the Versailles Treaty.

Although cooperation was halted after Hitler came to power, the documents show that as early as 1933, Stalin was continually attempting to come to an understanding with Hitler. But it was not until he had disposed of Czechoslovakia (with the inestimable help of the British) that Hitler was prepared to come to terms with Stalin.

This book reports on the Russian occupation of Western Ukraine and Belorussia, the "negotiations" with the representatives of the Baltic states, the arbitrary and forceful occupation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and the subsequent murder and deportation of Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, and Baltic people. The Russians came as the cruelest of conquerors, executing, imprisoning, or exiling those they feared most, and oppressing under a harsh dictatorship those that remained.

When Gorbachov demanded recently that Lithuania must pay \$33 billion as the price for its independence, only those who were the primary victims of the Hitler-Stalin Pact really understood the ghoulish nature of such a demand. By rights, as Kolasky's book shows us, Moscow should pay billions to the people of the Baltic states and Poland in reparation for the millions of lives destroyed by 50 years of slavery.

Regrettably, *Partners in Tyranny* is short on historical background of the perfidious role of the British and Western financiers, who, through the Versailles Treaty at the end of World War I, made the Hitler-Stalin Pact inevitable.