

## **Joseph Goebbels: excerpt from the speech *Nation, Rise Up, and Let the Storm Break Loose*<sup>5</sup>**

“My third thesis is that the danger is immediate. The paralysis of the Western European democracies before their deadliest threat is frightening. International Jewry is doing all it can to encourage such paralysis. During our struggle for power in Germany, Jewish newspapers tried to conceal the danger, until National Socialism awakened the people. It is just the same today in other nations. Jewry once again reveals itself as the incarnation of evil, as the plastic demon of decay and the bearer of an international culture-destroying chaos.

This explains, by the way, our consistent Jewish policies. We see Jewry as a direct threat to every nation. We do not care what other people do about the danger. What we do to defend ourselves is our own business, however, and we will not tolerate objections from others. Jewry is a contagious infection. Enemy nations may raise hypocritical protests against our measures against Jewry and cry crocodile tears, but that will not stop us from doing that which is necessary. Germany, in any event, has no intention of bowing before this threat, but rather intends to take the most radical measures, if necessary, in good time (*After this sentence, the chants of the audience prevent the minister from going on for several minutes*).”

“Total war is the demand of the hour. [...] The danger facing us is enormous. The efforts we take to meet it must be just as enormous.”

“Again, let me say that the heavier the sacrifices the German people must make, the more urgent it is that they be fairly shared. The people want it that way. No one resists even the heaviest burdens of war.”

“The front shares our desires. The entire German people agrees passionately. It is no longer willing to put up with efforts that only waste time and resources.”

“The present day has a remarkable resemblance for every genuine National Socialist to the period of struggle. We have always acted in the same way. We were with the people through thick and thin, and that is why the people followed us. We have always carried our burdens together with the people, and therefore they did not seem heavy to us, but rather light. The people want to be led. Never in history has the people failed a brave and determined leadership at a critical hour.”

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<sup>5</sup> Joseph Goebbels: excerpt from the speech *Nation, Rise Up, and Let the Storm Break Loose*, German Propaganda Archive, Calvin University, available at <https://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/goeb36.htm> (last visited Nov 11, 2022).

“I am happy to reveal this plan for victory (*Stormy applause*) to the German people. They not only accept these measures, they have demanded them, demanded them more strongly than ever before during the war. The people want action! It is time for it! We must use our time to prepare for coming surprises.”

“To make the truth plain, however, my German comrades, I want to ask you a series of questions [...] I have invited to today’s meeting, a cross-section of the German people in the best sense of the word. (*The minister’s words were accompanied by stormy applause that increased in intensity as he came to the representatives of the army present at the meeting.*)[...] No class, no occupation, no age remained uninvited. I can rightly say that before me is gathered a representative sample of the German population, both from the homeland and the front. Is that true? Yes or no? (*The masses spring to their feet. A hurricane of thousands of voices shouts yes. The participants experience a spontaneous popular referendum and expression of will.*) You, my hearers, at this moment represent the whole nation. I wish to ask you ten questions that you will answer for the German people throughout the world, but especially for our enemies, who are listening to us on the radio. (*Only with difficulty can the minister be heard. The crowd is at the peak of excitement. The individual questions are razor sharp. Each individual feels as if he is being spoken to personally. With full participation and enthusiasm, the crowd answers each question [...] a single shout of agreement.*)

“Fourth: The English maintain that the German people is resisting the government’s total war measures. It does not want total war, but capitulation! (*Shouts: Never! Never! Never!*) I ask you: Do you want total war? If necessary, do you want a war more total and radical than anything that we can even imagine today?”

“Fifth: The English maintain that the German people have lost faith in the Führer. I ask you: Is your confidence in the Führer greater, more faithful and more unshakable than ever before? Are you absolutely and completely ready to follow him wherever he goes and do all that is necessary to bring the war to a victorious end? (*The crowd rises as one man. It displays unprecedented enthusiasm. Thousands of voices join in shouting: “Führer command, we follow!” A wave of shouts of Heil flows through the hall. As if by command, the flags and standards are raised as the highest expression of the sacred moment in which the crowd honors the Führer.*)”

“I have asked; you have given me your answers. You are part of the people, and your answers are those of the German people.”

“Now we must and will succeed! I stand before you not only as the spokesman of the government, but as the spokesman of the people.”

“Now, people rise up and let the storm break loose!”

*(The minister’s final words were lost in unending stormy applause.)*

### **QUESTIONS FOR A DISCUSSION:**

Is this speech true? Why? Does it contain any of the 5 fallacies we mentioned? Highlight the sentences in which they can be found.

Is this speech good? Does it respect human dignity?

If you lived in Germany at this time do you think you would share or support this speech? Why or why not?