

JANUSZ PAJEWSKI

THE POLICY OF GUSTAV STRESEMANN  
IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT RESEARCHES

The Author discusses some recent works concerned with the personality and policy of Gustav Stresemann, one of the makers of Locarno, laureate of the Nobel peace prize.

Many works on this subject have appeared in the post-war period as the political situation of Western Germany after 1945 has many analogies with the German situation after 1918.

In that period Stresemann proved to be a master in the complicated political play which by various ways led to the reconstruction of German imperialism. Therefore no wonder that policy arouses curiosity among professional investigators of German history between the two World Wars and throughout the whole German nation.

These researches are greatly facilitated by the abundance of original material available for western historians. To recent times the main source of knowledge of Stresemann's activity were three volumes of his papers chosen from his private records and published with some abbreviations. At present the western historians are able to examine Stresemann's complete records comprising his whole political life.

Among many problems concerned with Stresemann's policy one of the most interesting is his pseudo-change of ideas and tendencies which, it is said, occurred in the first postwar period and transformed an imperialist into a real apostle of peace.

The most interesting among these works is that of a German, Annelise Thimme. This author had given an extremely accurate and subtle analysis of Stresemann's methods in politics, underlining the precise differentiation in his life practice between the notions „bekennen” and „verkünden” and finally she reached the conclusion that this change, „Wandlung”, could not be proved by documents.

With the passage of time Stresemann learned mainly tactics and methods. An American — Edward Hallett Carr has explained this curious problem why the West believed in Stresemann's transformation from a supporter of conquest into an apostle of peace. The Author states that this myth created in the West was a necessary factor for the purpose of gaining a loan for Germany.

Further the Author discusses the problem of Locarno Treaties and Stresemann's policy towards Russia. He comes to the conclusion that the aim of German imperialism was to control Russia either by economic means or by aggressive war, either with the Western capitalism or alone. Stresemann's role in preparing these plans was prominent. This was, however, a more distant aim. A less distant aim and indispensable for the realization of the first one was the destruction of Poland. The struggle with Poland played an eminent role in Stresemann's policy.

WŁADYSŁAW ROGALA

THE POLICY OF THE GERMAN MINORITY IN WIELKOPOLSKA  
FROM 1919 TO 1923 (IN THE LIGHT OF POLISH MATERIALS)

For the Polish State the years from 1919 to 1923 are a period of great importance. Liberated from foreign rule the nation was beginning to rebuild its country.