

HOMELESS IN PARADISE
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CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 18



IS FEAR OF A NEW FÜHRER FAKE NEWS OR FUTURE FATE?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

ACCORDING to Thanksgiving weekend posts, the President's hard stance against admitting the migrants now seeking asylum in Tijuana drew responses ranging from "Fabulous!" to "Führer!"

If Trump wins the standoff in which he threatened to close the entire US southern border, will a new policy favorable to all sides of the long-standing immigration issue result?

Conversely, if he loses, will those who fear he's America's führer be right?

Entire families of asylum-seekers have been amassing at the southern border in Tijuana. When a group of migrants tried to rush the entry point at San Ysidro, Trump authorized our Border Patrol to use of tear gas and pepper spray, which wrought Pamela Madill's tweet in the Nov. 26 Washington Post:

"So they assaulted people in Mexico, not in America. Isn't that an act of war?"

Is The Border Crisis An Act Of War?

When German Chancellor Adolf Hitler's army invaded Poland in 1939, the title he called himself, "Der Führer," simply meant "The Leader."

By 1945, the World War Two atrocities committed by the Nazis permanently tainted the term, so it now reflects any individual who uses power or authority in cruel, unjust or harmful ways.

For instance, the Washington Post on Nov. 26 also tweeted:

"Fox News guest and Border Patrol Foundation President Ron Colbern says pepper spray being used at the Mexican border is 'natural' and 'You could actually put it on your nachos and eat it.'"

While weekend newscasters announced only 25 children now remain to be returned to their parents, after being separated earlier this year, live images from Tijuana showed men, women and children running from billowing streams of gas from hoses near razor-sharp wire.

In rebuttal, Miles Main tweeted:

“Having personally consumed tear gas while at Basic Training, I can tell you that this is NOT what you want on your nachos.”

Human Rights Day

In ten days, the 70th anniversary of the General Assembly of the United Nations adoption of “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights” will be celebrated. Human Rights Day each December 10th is a reminder the world should remain free from tyrants like Hitler.

How the President responds to Article 16 of the Declaration of Human Rights, especially point 3, will define the legacy he leaves of himself as a leader.

Let us remember: the thousands of people gathering with the hopes of entering the US are virtually homeless. Add them to the 50,000 or more newly homeless victims of the California wildfires, and you’re looking at an unprecedented housing crisis.

To be or not to be known as a führer? It’s your call, Mister President.

Article 16, Declaration Of Human Rights

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Hitler’s First Resurrection

The following feature first appeared in the Women’s World section of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, May 30, 1973, as my Memorial Day reflection on Dachau 25 years after the end of World War Two. Now, 73 years after Dachau’s closure, is a second fuehrer-like resurrection possible if a concentration camp of migrants opens on either side of our border with Mexico?

We’ll have to wait to see how negotiations go with Mexico’s incoming administration.

Dachau Today: Memorial Arena

By Wanda Sue Parrott

DACHAU, GERMANY—Ghosts walk this place—vaporuous, weaving, gaseous, pushing, visible yet infinitely invisible—moving as if they were still living beings in the memories of all visitors who remember this concentration camp as it existed from 1933 to 1945. Today it stands as a memorial.

We will be witness to a spiritual awakening, but do not know this as we begin our 20-minute drive from Munich. We pass fields of daisies and see sheep placidly grazing in backyards of two-story homes with brick chimneys.

It is a religious holiday (Easter) in Germany. Passing through Krofeld, a suburban housing development, then driving through an industrial park, we realize we could almost be driving through an area in East Los Angeles. Almost. . .

A sign bearing Hitler's picture, advertising Alec Guinness in a motion picture, is spelled out in German. Hitler is being resurrected on film and in print worldwide.

Will he become an anti-hero hero? Or will the resurgence of Hitler memorabilia serve to teach generations of young people born after World War II to seek lives of useful constructiveness?

We have been told that Dachau is open to visitors now so that everyone who comes there may remember the accident that became atrocity. . . so they may be shocked to sadness, sorrow, or select processes of reasoning that would prevent future Dachaus.

More than 200,000 prisoners were incarcerated there; more than 30,000 lost their lives at Dachau.

Today, in the museum that once was the concentration camp headquarters, visitors have scratched the eyes out of historical photos showing Hitler.

One of our party (me) has come from America to visit Dachau for personal reasons: a member of her family (my husband) was a concentration camp victim.

But emotion is not our tour guide; open-mindedness is.

What, if any, purpose does this memorial to the dead serve?

(to be continued next week)

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Photo: Before Adolf (The Führer) Hitler abused the term, führer simply meant "leader." Now führers are political characters described as: autocratic, authoritarian, and totalitarian. As personalities, they're known as: bosses, chiefs, potentates, kings/queens and warlords.

Collage of photos courtesy of Clip Art by Wanda Sue Parrott.

Contact Wanda Sue Parrott, 831-899-5887, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com

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