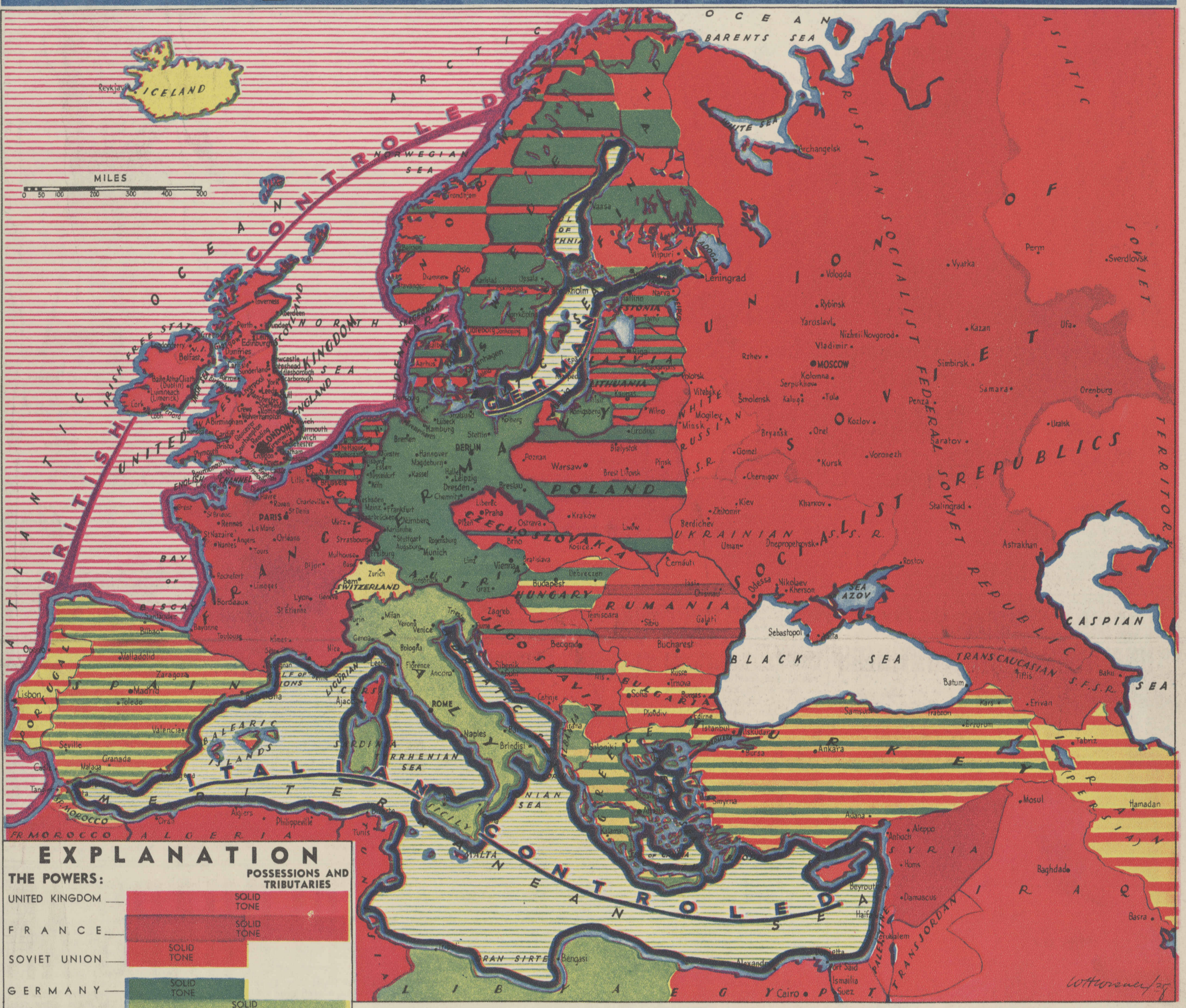


Europe at Critical Hour!



EXPLANATION

THE POWERS:	POSSESSIONS AND TRIBUTARIES
UNITED KINGDOM	SOLID TONE
FRANCE	SOLID TONE
SOVIET UNION	SOLID TONE
GERMANY	SOLID TONE
ITALY	SOLID TONE
NEUTRAL, BUFFER OR UNAFFECTED STATES	SOLID TONE

Countries subject to influence or coercion by, or in sympathy with, one or more of the powers are striped with the colors of those powers, the approximate extent of such influence being indicated by the comparative breadths of the stripes of color.

The intensities or strengths of coloring show the comparative economic sufficiency of the nations.

War Strength of Nations Depends on Resources

TODAY—the day set by Reichsfuehrer Hitler's decree for a "free and secret plebiscite" to permit Austrians to express their sentiments on the question of their country's union with Germany—finds the greater part of Europe divided into two more or less hostile spheres.

● In the center of the continent, as the accompanying map discloses, is a mass of green, extending from the North sea to the Mediterranean. This is Germany and Italy, the sphere of Fascism, the influence of which to a greater or lesser degree can be noted in bars of green in many of the other countries. West of Germany and Italy lie Great Britain and France, both indicated in shades of red, and far to the east lies Russia, also indicated in a shade of red. These are the three great European nations which have indicated they may oppose further territorial aggressions by Germany and Italy. Red

● While this map is like an ordinary map in that it shows national boundaries, it is an entirely new map of Europe in another respect. It discloses to what approximate degrees the influence of the great nations is felt in the minor countries. In Sweden, for example, green predominates, from the fact that the German influence is strong in that country. In Norway, on the other hand, red predominates, from the fact that the British influence is strong there.

● In the event of war involving the important nations of the continent the control of the seas would play a vital part, just as it did in the great war of twenty years ago. Today it still is Great Britain, with its mighty fleet, that controls the western and northern coast of the continent, from the northernmost tip of Norway to the Strait of Gibraltar. England thus lies as a barrier against

the west of Europe, in position to blockade it on the west and in command of the far seas.

● The Mediterranean is dominated by Italy, with an efficient fleet and a highly organized and effective air force. Italy, because of its strategically placed bases, is in position to cut off British shipping to the orient. It is this fact perhaps more than anything else that has affected Great Britain's prestige in the Mohammedan countries. The British obviously recognized their weakness in the Mediterranean during the Ethiopian crisis when Mussolini called their bluff.

● The Germans control all of the Baltic sea from the Skagerrak to north of the Gulf of Bothnia and to the harbor of Leningrad. As a result shipping from the ports of Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, in the case of war, would be at the consent or mercy of German war craft.

● Because of its dominance of the Baltic, Germany is so situated as to be able to coerce Sweden. It can cut off Swedish iron ore shipments to England,

even prevent such shipments going through Norway to the North sea, if it is of the mind to clamp down drastically on the little kingdom of the Swedes.

● Germany's control of the Baltic is reflected in the strong German influence apparent in the little nations that touch that sea. The Russian influence, however, also is strong in these little countries, and it is possible that Russia, when better organized as a military power, may be able to crack the whip over the Baltic states. Establishing a series of air bases, as reports have it, near the eastern border of Finland, Russia will be in position to dispatch air raiders at least as far west as the iron fields of Sweden. This might constitute a threat equally as grave to Sweden as any threat from Germany.

● Ignoring the possibility of national realignments due to new secret understandings, observers see in Europe today two important pairs of natural allies—Italy and Germany, because their governments are Fascist, and France and Great Britain, because of the fact that they were partners in the blunder of the Versailles treaty. The interests of the last-named two nations lie together, making them the enemies of the nations despoiled by the treaty signed at the conclusion of the World war.

● France lies much closer to the congested area of London than does Germany. In other words, London could be bombed (Continued on page four.)