



## A War Map of Central Europe

LOOK at the map above of central Europe! Locate little Austria in the center, surrounded by nations like a hunter's cabin hemmed in by a pack of hungry wolves. Behold a vast territory within which smoldering hatreds rise and fall, over which war clouds thicken anew with every phase of the moon. This is the powder pan of the world!

Nazis murder little Dollfuss. Mussolini snaps his fingers and 48,000 Italian soldiers swing into the Alps. Jugo-Slavia girds for trouble. A like situation presented itself twenty years ago, when the assassination of an Austrian archduke shattered the peace of the world and men reverted to the law of the jungle, bent on destruction of the race. Will there again be war? Perhaps yes. Perhaps no.

It is difficult to predict at this hour the alignment of the powers in a new conflict arising from the shooting of Dollfuss. With Italian forces in Austria to preserve the independence of that tiny republic and to keep it free from Hitler's clutches, Jugo-Slavia would be prone to intervene in the fear that Mussolini might gobble up Austria. France's stand in the event of trouble would be with Italy, because it always is against Germany. But France wields influence over Jugo-Slavia through the French-inspired little entente of Jugo-

Slavia, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania. The Czechs and Rumanians are suspicious of and antagonistic to Germany, but would they be with Italy, a nation which they do not want to see dominating Austria? Diminutive Albania is under the thumb of Italy. It would be compelled to support *Il Duce* in any military venture. Of all important nations of Europe there is only one that is ready now to stand side by side with Germany. That is Poland. But just across Poland's eastern border lies Russia, intensely jealous of the nation that was re-created out of its western provinces. A warlike move on the part of the Poles might put the Red horde into motion. Switzerland surely would remain neutral and aloof. If France should strike at Germany, Belgium might strike, too, still remembering Louvain and the green-gray blight of German soldiery that sapped its life blood for four long years. Holland and the Scandinavian nations have no interest in a possible war over Austria. Hungary would be involved but is unimportant. Turkey still entertains ambitions to dominate the Balkans. And England? Well, England would have to see the lineups and ground rules before deciding what to do.

In Europe little thought is given to the fact that the nations have scant resources with which to finance a new war.



Austria. Red band at north indicates where Italians and Germans might clash; red band at south where Italy and Jugo-Slavia might fight.