

THE ALEMANHA ENSANGUENTADA OF AQUILINO RIBEIRO: THE TESTIMONY OF A PORTUGUESE AUTHOR ABOUT THE GERMAN DESIRE OF REVENGE BORN OF VERSAILLES

A ALEMANHA ENSANGUENTADA DE AQUILINO RIBEIRO: O TESTEMUNHO DE UM AUTOR PORTUGUÊS SOBRE O DESEJO DE VINGANÇA ALEMÃO NASCIDO DE VERSAILLES

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Titulo Abreviado: *A Alemanha Ensanguentada* de Aquilino Ribeiro

Abstract

This article aims to demonstrate, through the work *Alemanha Ensanguentada* by Aquilino Ribeiro (1885-1963), how the Treaty of Versailles was received by the Germans after the First World War. And it highlights the possibility that the terms of this Treaty may have promoted the German desire for revenge that would culminate with the beginning of another World War.

Moreover, the opposition to Versailles seems to have been one of the reasons for the emergence of Geopolitics in Germany immediately after the Great War period, as we attempt to emphasize here.

Finally, we will stress the role of cultural development and sentiment relationships, as noted by Albert Einstein (1879-1955) and Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), especially through the knowledge of foreign languages as a means to foster peace.

Keywords: *Alemanha Ensanguentada*, Aquilino Ribeiro, Treaty of Versailles, First World War, War, Geopolitics.

Como citar este artigo: Fernandes, M., 2014. The Alemanha Ensanguentada of Aquilino Ribeiro: The Testimony of a Portuguese Author About the German Desire of Revenge Born of Versailles. *Revista de Ciências Militares*, novembro de 2014 II (2), pp. 243-263.
Disponível em: <http://www.iesm.pt/cisdi/index.php/publicacoes/revista-de-ciencias-militares/edicoes>.

Resumo

Este artigo pretende demonstrar através da obra *Alemanha Ensanguentada* de Aquilino Ribeiro (1885-1963) o modo como o Tratado de Versailles foi recebido pelos alemães logo após a Primeira Guerra Mundial. E coloca em evidência a possibilidade das imposições deste Tratado terem fomentado o desejo de vingança dos alemães e alimentado a vontade de desforra numa outra Guerra Mundial.

Por outro lado, a oposição a Versailles parece ter sido também uma das razões para o surgimento da Geopolítica na Alemanha no período imediato à Grande Guerra, como aqui se procura salientar.

Finalmente, destaca-se o papel do desenvolvimento da cultura e das relações de sentimento notado por Albert Einstein (1879-1955) e Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), em particular através do conhecimento de línguas estrangeiras, como forma de fomentar a Paz.

Palavras-chave: Alemanha Ensanguentada, Aquilino Ribeiro, Tratado de Versailles, Primeira Guerra Mundial, Guerra, Geopolítica.

Introduction

This article aims to demonstrate, through the prose of Aquilino Ribeiro (1885-1963) in *Alemanha Ensanguentada* (1935), that the manner in which the Versailles Treaty (1919) was devised ensured the promotion and incitement of War, rather than being a real Treaty towards and for Peace.

It is against this background, and based on the work *Alemanha Ensanguentada*, that we will seek to highlight German living conditions and sentiment in the post-First World War (1914-1918) period and especially right after the impositions of the Treaty of 1919, as well as the birth of Geopolitics in Germany as an equally German reaction to the Treaty.

We will also seek to understand how, given the existence of a “*tempo trípico*” (Moreira, 2005) in social reality (in which the Present is the result of current circumstances and a consequence of the Past and a preparation for the approaching Future), the Treaty of Versailles became a French act of revenge for suffering defeat in the Franco-Prussian War (1870/1871) and especially for the loss of the Alsace-Lorraine territories, stimulating the subsequent German desire for *revanche* which would feed Adolf Hitler’s rise to power in 1933 and result in the Second Great War in 1939.

This article is based on primary (Ribeiro, Jünger, Haffner, Haushofer, Hitler, Einstein e Freud) and secondary sources (Barrento e Braga; Allen, Aly, Fischer, Graebner, Henig, Lichtenberger, Milza, Opitz, Patrício, Schulze e Weitz; Almeida, Defarges, Fernandes, Losano, Silva, Vives e Tuathail), namely on these authors’ approaches to the work of Aquilino Ribeiro, the end of the First World War, the context in which the Treaty of Versailles was elaborated, the Weimar Republic and Adolf Hitler’s rise to power and, lastly, the emergence of Geopolitics in Germany in the period between the two wars. The article is divided into four main sections.

Part one, “The Portuguese Author Aquilino Ribeiro (1885-1963) and the Work *Alemanha Ensanguentada*”, begins with the life of Aquilino Ribeiro to then address the way in which the portuguese author made contact with Germany. To conclude this section, we will also put the contents of *Alemanha Ensanguentada* into context.

Part two, “The Treaty of Versailles: a *Diktat*”, will show what the Treaty of Versailles actually meant for Germany. A Treaty put together without Germany’s participation, and which emphasized the situation of “crisis” in which the First World War had left the country. It was, therefore, the French assurance of German isolation and weakening.

Part three, “The German Reaction to the Treaty of Versailles”, first describes how Aquilino Ribeiro witnessed, *in loco*, this Treaty’s impact on German life, and then provides a context for the emergence of Geopolitics in Germany as a pursuit of the desire of subverting the Treaty of Versailles. We will address the evolution of the German School of Geopolitics from 1919 to 1945, with 1933 as the turning point; highlight the character of Karl Haushofer as the mentor of the German School of Geopolitics, also the inspirations and influences that affected his geopolitical thought; and depict the relationships between Haushofer’s Geopolitics, Hitler’s National Socialism and War.

Lastly, part four, “Towards and For Peace: the Contribution of Albert Einstein (1879-1955) and Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)” highlights the importance of cultural development and sentiment relationships which will, in turn, bring us to the role played by the knowledge of foreign languages.

1. The Portuguese Author Aquilino Ribeiro (1885-1963) and the Work *Alemanha Ensanguentada*

1.1. Aquilino Ribeiro (1885-1963): From young troubled mind to accomplished writer

Born in Sernancelhe, Beira Alta, on September 13, 1885, Aquilino Ribeiro is considered the “greatest portuguese prosaist of the 20th century”¹, having published sixty nine books during the course of his life, in different literary genres like the novel, the novella, ethnographic and historical studies, biography and also children’s literature. He also worked as a translator, uncredited, having written in his memoir, *Um Escritor Confessa-se*², “The books I had translated, I would see them looking festive on the shop windows, but they were keeping quiet on who the *négre* was who had translated them into Portuguese” (Ribeiro, 2008, p. 165). He became an accomplished author in the 20th century Portuguese literary scene, although in the beginning and against his mother’s wishes he had chosen the letters over a career in the church and, in his own words, “regardless of my efforts, my existence became troubled. (...) I kept writing, mentally walking the tightrope, financially.” This did not, however, cause him to relent. He kept insisting and persisting.

¹ General Directorate for Book, Archives and Libraries (DGLAB) S.d. Biografia Aquilino Ribeiro. [Online] Lisbon: DGLAB Available for consult at: <http://www.iplb.pt/sites/DGLB/Portugues/autores/Paginas/PesquisaAutores1.aspx?AutorId=9659> [Consult.18 Mar.2013].

² A Writer Confesses.

He accomplished. Hence his trademark “Alcança quem não cansa” [Whoever does not tire will achieve]³.

Unique, Aquilino Ribeiro did not follow any of the literary movements of his time (like Modernism, Presencism⁴ or Neorealism). That did not, however, prevent him from being presented with the Ricardo Malheiros Award by the Lisbon Academy of Sciences in 1933, for his work *As Três Mulheres de Sansão*⁵, and from being made corresponding member of this institution, becoming a full member in 1957. An acknowledged author inside and outside Portugal, his nomination for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1960 was supported by several personalities such as: Francisco Vieira de Almeida, José Cardoso Pires, David Mourão-Ferreira, Urbano Tavares Rodrigues, José Gomes Ferreira, Joel Serrão, Mário Soares, Vitorino Nemésio, Abel Manta, Alves Redol and Vergílio Ferreira; he was honored in Brazil in 1952; and when he was criminally prosecuted for publishing his work *Quando os Lobos Uivam*⁶, in 1958, a work which was deemed offensive to the New State, he managed to have the case dismissed through amnesty, once more thanks to national (a petition signed by some three hundred portuguese intellectuals and the defense conducted by the lawyer Heliodoro Caldeira) and international support, the latter coming from France in the form of a petition later published on the French press, signed by François Mauriac, Louis Aragon and André Maurois, among others.

At his mother's insistence, he enrolled in the Beja Seminary, a place where “discipline was mild and the knees were not scraped by prayer.” (...) Above all, we were sure to gulp down thomistic and canonical science without overmuch burning the midnight oil”, even because “there was the refuge of rebels, cheaters and all those who saw priesthood as a job on the same level of teacher or veterinarian” (Ribeiro, 2008, p. 43). In 1906, he was expelled and moved to Lisbon, starting with writing editorials for newspapers such as *A Vanguarda*⁷, a Republican newspaper, also devoting himself to translation and, on invitation from the future regicide Alfredo Costa (1885-1908), to writing the serialized novel *A Filha do Jardineiro*⁸, a mix of fiction and Republican propaganda and a criticism to the Monarchic regime, specifically aimed at King Carlos I (1863-1908), penultimate King of Portugal.

As a consequence of the 1908 Regicide, in which he did not participate, although he maintained relationships with two regicides, Alfredo Costa and Manuel Buiça (1876-1908) whom he had met at Café Gelo in Rossio, and although he was aware of the plans seeking to overthrow João Franco (1855-1929) instead of the King (Ribeiro, 2008, pp. 265-273), as can be surmised from the work *Um Escritor Confessa-se*, Aquilino Ribeiro was not included in the amnesty decree and decided to emigrate to France, setting course for Paris (Ribeiro, 2008, p. 305). The writer had escaped from the prison where he'd been detained after a bomb

³ Camões. Instituto S.d. Figuras da Cultura Portuguesa: Aquilino Ribeiro. (Figures of Portuguese Culture: Aquilino Ribeiro) [Online] Lisbon: Camões Institute. Available for consult at: <http://cvc.instituto-camoes.pt/conhecer/bases-tematicas/figuras-da-cultura-portuguesa/1398-aquilino-ribeiro.html> [Consult. 18 Mar. 2013].

⁴ Portuguese literary movement linked to the Presença literary magazine.

⁵ *Samson's Three Wives*.

⁶ *When the Wolves Howl*.

⁷ *The Vanguard*.

⁸ *The Gardener's Daughter*.

explosion on the street where he lived, Rua do Carrião. He survived this explosion, but the doctor Gonçalves Lopes and the tradesman Belmonte de Lemos were killed. The latter two had been connected with Luz de Almeida, “one of the heads” (Ribeiro, 2008, p. 187) of the Carbonária and also responsible for asking Aquilino Ribeiro to keep “the ammo” in his room “for some time” (Ribeiro, 2008, p. 188).

It was then, in Paris, that his first contact with Germany took place, as we will show. He returned to Portugal at the beginning of the First World War, and there continued writing fiction and chronicles for the periodical press. He taught classes at *Liceu Camões* (today the Camões Secondary School) for three years and later, in 1919, he became second librarian at the National Library, on the invitation of Raul Proença. In 1921, he was one of the directors of the magazine “Seara Nova” (New Crop), and in 1956 he founded the Portuguese Society of Writers, becoming the society’s first President.

Politically, and as a Republican, aside from a renewed controversy (around his eventual connection to the Regicide) in 2007⁹, when his remains were transferred to the National Pantheon, in 1927 he participated in the failed rebellion against the Military Dictatorship that came out of the Coup d’État of May 28, 1926, and consequently self-exiled in Paris. He then participated in the Pinhel regiment movement in 1928, and was sent to the Fontelo prison, in Viseu. He endeavored to escape once more into exile, in Paris, returning in 1932, already accompanied by his second wife Jerónima Dantas Machado (1897-1987), the daughter of deposed President Bernardino Machado (1930-1944), and by the younger of his two sons (and only child of this union) Aquilino Ribeiro Machado (1930-2012). In that same year, he received amnesty and set up home in Cruz Quebrada. From that moment on, he devoted himself entirely to writing.

He fell ill unexpectedly in 1963 and died on May 27, in the CUF Hospital. The Portuguese Society of Writers was preparing a tribute to the author at that time, meant to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of his first book, *Jardim das Tormentas*¹⁰. This year (2013), we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the death of Aquilino Ribeiro, “a writer-lark”¹¹, as he was dubbed by his son Aquilino Ribeiro Machado.

1.2. Aquilino Ribeiro’s contact with Germany

It was in Paris, at the Sorbonne, where he was enrolled in Philosophy and Sociology – the author had left Portugal due to “having taken part in the fight against the dictator João Franco” (Ribeiro, 2008, p. 327) -, that Aquilino Ribeiro met and fell in love with Grete Tiedemann (c.1890-1927), a young woman from Northern Germany, from the State of Mecklenburg-

⁹ Público. 2007. Aquilino Ribeiro vai partilhar a sala do Panteão Nacional com Humberto Delgado. (Aquilino Ribeiro to share a National Pantheon room with Humberto Delgado). [Online] Lisbon: Público. Available for consult at: <http://www.publico.pt/politica/noticia/aquilino-ribeiro-vai-partilhar-a-sala-do-panteao-nacional-com-humberto-delgado-1305225> [Consult. 18 Mar. 2013].

¹⁰ Garden of Agonies.

¹¹ Expresso. 2007. Aquilino Ribeiro: Figura marcante da história mas sobretudo da literatura portuguesa – Filho. (Aquilino Ribeiro: Important historical figure but above all a figure of Portuguese literature – Son.) [Online] Lisbon: Expresso. Available for consult at: <http://expresso.sapo.pt/aquilino-ribeiro-figura-marcante-da-historia-mas-sobretudo-da-literatura-portuguesa-filho=f118578> [Consult. 18 Mar. 2013].

Vorpommern, daughter of a lawyer and banker. His description of her: “wide brimmed straw hat, blue plaited skirt against an immaculate white silk blouse. (...) I dashed in pursuit. They were two German girls (...), marching with the confidence and ease peculiar to their race. They were in Paris for an improvement course. The day after, I was strolling with one of them in the garden of Luxembourg; (...) (Ribeiro, 2008, p. 326).

In 1912, Aquilino Ribeiro travelled to Germany in order to meet the young woman’s family. He married Grete the following year in Schwerine, afterwards returning to Paris. The couple’s only child was born in 1914, Aníbal Aquilino Fritz Tiedemann Ribeiro (1914-1999), but some months later, at the start of the First World War, the family moved to Portugal.

1.3. *Alemanha Ensanguentada* (1935)

Alemanha Ensanguentada was first published in 1935, in spite of having originally been written as a travel journal of Aquilino Ribeiro’s return to Germany, a few years earlier, between September and November of the year 1920, after the end of World War I. According to João Barrento, this is the context in which Aquilino Ribeiro, as a writer, takes on the role of mediator. From that role emerged the “works as bridges between realities which, historically, have not always been as close as they are today: these metaphors point to a dual way of approaching the other, one of *desire for knowledge* and one of *transfiguration* of this other. The entire image of the other is a fiction of the other, and the premise applies, naturally, also to the case in point, Portugal and Germany”¹².

The work under analysis is then a Portuguese report on German reality and, consequently, a means of bringing closer two countries of different, if not opposite characteristics, starting with either’s geopolitical position, which, according to the Geographic Determinism followed by Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), Friedrich Hegel (1779-1831) or Friedrich Ratzel (1804-1904), just to mention a few examples, is a direct influence on a people’s character, history and on the way its power is originated and expressed¹³. However, it must be mentioned that there are currently several cases that disprove the idea of Geographic Determinism, with technological development as one of the most visible influences in decreasing the importance of aspects like stability in the geopolitical space.

Thus, *Alemanha Ensanguentada* emerges according to the logic evidenced by Barrento: “Writers, as guarded as they are regarding their independence, are not islands, and European literature grows aware of that when Goethe, in the early 19th century, announces the coming of an age of “world literature”, a first project of literary “globalization”, even if only at a European scale.”¹⁴

¹² Barrento, J., 2005. Os escritores como mediadores. (Writers as mediators), Supplement to the Journal of Letters (JL), [Online], 917. Available for consult at: <http://www.instituto-camoes.pt/encarte/encarte93a.htm>, [Consult. a 16 Mar. 2013].

¹³ We must only recall that one is a maritime country and the other continental; one is a country located in Southern Europe and the other in Central Europe.

¹⁴ Barrento, J., 2005. Os escritores como mediadores. (Writers as mediators), Supplement to the Journal of Letters (JL), [Online], 917. Available for consult at: <http://www.instituto-camoes.pt/encarte/encarte93a.htm>, [Consult. a 16 Mar. 2013].

This relatively little known work is divided in two parts: a longer first part, titled “From War to Peace”, and a second, shorter part titled “On the Battle Fields”. This study will focus mostly on “From War to Peace”, the main section of the work, and also where the German reaction to the Treaty of Versailles is described.

2. The Treaty of Versailles: A *Diktat*

The First World War ended with the signing of an armistice on November 11 1918, followed by the Treaty of Versailles on June 28 1919. Germany had not been allowed to participate in the preceding negotiations (Milza, 2007, pp. 9 and 10), which greatly explains why this Treaty was also known as the *Diktat*. It had been a document negotiated by the “winners”, that is, the U.S.A., Great-Britain, France and Italy, but it was mainly the first three who decided to create a new order for the 20th century, starting with the redefinition of borders.

Germany lost land on the West as well as in the East which was integral to its geopolitical space: the territories of the Alsace-Lorraine, which would be returned to France (acquired by Germany through victory in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/1871, which had allowed it to achieve political unification under the banner of the *Kleindeutschland*¹⁵ idea)¹⁶, the greater part of Poznań and West Prussia would be given to Poland (who gained access to the sea through Danzig) and the Memel region, along with the great Baltic port, would be under the control of the Society of Nations (SDN), while the regions of High Silesia and the Sarre, among others, would be subject to a people’s referendum regarding their fate. Essentially, the new border regimen broke the “natural” political geography of Central Europe, while also excluding millions of Germans from their native country (Murphy, 1997, p. 46).

Additionally, the Treaty would drastically reduce Germany’s Armed Forces (by limiting the maximum number of effective soldiers – 100 000 men, of which 4000 were officers – and navy – 15 000 men and 1500 officers; compulsory military service would be suppressed and the General Staff of Armed Forces dissolved, as well as all military schools and paramilitary associations), preventing Germany from organizing an Air Force. Germany would also be required to deliver large quantities of its military material to the allied forces, would not be allowed to own tanks, heavy artillery or military aircraft and would have to turn over its war fleet (Milza, 2007, pp. 19 and 20).

Germany would also lose all colonies, which would be consigned under mandates to the victors by the SDN, and would be prevented from belonging to the SDN and from concluding agreements with Austria. Furthermore, it is relevant to refer that article 231.^o assigned to Germany (and allies) sole responsibility for the war, which established a legal basis for the matter of War reparations, the sum of which was not defined in the Treaty (Weitz, 2007, pp. 35

¹⁵ Little Germany.

¹⁶ It was the unification of German territories into an Empire, with the exclusion of Austria, under the rule of an authoritarian Prussian emperor, William I (Schulze, 2005, pp. 103 and 129). The choice of *Kleindeutschland* was based, for Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898), on the realization of his primary goal at the time of his nomination for Chancellor, the unity of Germany (Fischer, 2007, p. 49). This unity would be impossible to achieve given the inclusion of a multinational Austria-Hungria – according to the Pangermanist idea of *Großdeutschland* [Great Germany] – due to its being only one fourth German, on the one hand, and on the other for not being in the disposition to accept that Prussia, being the greater power in Northern Germany, be its equal or even its better (Fischer, 2007, pp. 51 and 52).

and 36). However that sum was determined in 1921, coming up to 132 billion in gold marks, to be paid over a period of 30 years (Milza, 2007, p. 21)¹⁷.

Along these same lines, Germany was forced to give preference to allied imports and exports. Germany also lost its patents, and its main rivers (Rhine, Elba, Oder) were internationalized. The mines of the Sarre and Upper Silesia would be given to France and Poland, while major quantities of coal and coke were delivered to France, Italy and Belgium. The German companies in the un-annexed Lorraine were appropriated and prevented from owning mines and steelmaking factories in Mosel, and Luxembourg was made to leave the German economy and customs system (Milza, 2007, pp. 20 and 22).

In effect, Germany was threatened with invasion by the three “winner” States if the Treaty of Versailles was not signed and ratified (Weitz, 2007, p. 37). The Treaty was comprised of fifteen sections and four hundred and forty articles¹⁸ which, in the view of John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946), author of *The Economic Consequences of Peace* (1919), dictated a “Carthaginian Peace” (Weitz, 2007, p. 38).

In the view of Ribeiro as well, “by leaving the war torn, famished, wounded, disillusioned with God and Caesar, always heroic. The *Diktat* of Versailles had started its work, or the leveling of a people, like bullies with Chinese fastidiousness, as one does to road grits” (Ribeiro, 1975, p. 7).

Effectively, the Treaty of Versailles, as noted by Silva, heightened the already existing “generalized feeling¹⁹ of political and economic, moral and intellectual, cultural and scientific crisis, the result of a quick industrialization, population growth and growing urbanization taking place in the absence of an economic, political and social structure in a period of disputes for space, whether in the bosom of Europe itself, whether in the overseas colonies seeking a consumer market for raw-materials”.

Famine²⁰, food rationing, unemployment and inflation²¹ were the German reality. Many Germans returned from the War were a lost generation; physically and psychologically, no longer the same who had left in 1914 in the hopes of a prosperous and mighty Germany coming

¹⁷ Germany halted this payment throughout the Second World War. The Federal Republic of Germany returned to it later, after the end of the War, and paid it in full in 1983. However, the London Agreement of 1953 stipulated the payment of interest on the loans contracted by the Weimar Republic for the payment of war reparations in case Germany was reunified. Thus, and after the German reunification, this payment of interest began in 1996 and only ended in 2010, on October 3, Germany’s “official” date for the end of the First World War. Bild. 2010. NACH 92 JAHREN. Am Sonntag endet für Deutschland der 1. Weltkrieg. [Online]. Berlin: Bild. Available for consult at: <http://www.bild.de/politik/2010/am-sonntag-endet-fuer-deutschland-der-1-weltkrieg-14107970.bild.html> [Consult. 21 Set.2014].

¹⁸ Yale Law School. 2008. The Versailles Treaty June 28, 1919. [Online] New Haven: YLS. Available for consult at: <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/parti.asp> [Consult. 16 Mar. 2013].

¹⁹ Silva, A., s.d.. A Geopolítica Alemã na República de Weimar: O Surgimento da Revista de Geopolítica (German Geopolitics during the Weimar Republic: The Appearance of the Geopolitics Magazine), [Online]. Available for consult at: <http://cecemca.rc.unesp.br/ojs/index.php/estgeo/article/viewFile/265/221>, [Consult. a 15 Fev. 2009].

²⁰ According to the experience of the German Sebastian Haffner (2005, p. 58): “Beggars were seen everywhere and there were many notices of suicides in the papers. The “Wanted for Theft” posters glued on the streets by the police were abundant, for robbery and theft occurred in large scale. One time, I saw an old woman – maybe I should say an elderly lady – sitting on a park bench and strangely rigid. (...) «Dead», someone said. «Starved to death», said another”.

²¹ “Half a kilo of potatoes which, on the previous day, had cost fifty thousand marks was worth one hundred thousand the next day. A salary of sixty five thousand marks brought home on a Friday would not be enough to buy a pack of cigarettes on Thursday”(Haffner, 2005, p. 56).

out of the war. Women's roles were different, as they had been forced to leave the home and work to provide for themselves and their families. Authority was seen with contempt. Mentalities were changed, with the fury of War destroying many social and artistic conventions. This was a period for trying out love²², sex²³, beauty and power, now with the heightened consciousness of the fleeting nature of life that came with Total War (Weitz, 2007, pp. 9, 11, 13, 24, 27 and 38).

The Weimar Republic was a period of great intellectual and artistic creativity, but also of chaos in the German order of things. There was no political consensus: the right hailed a culture of violence, glorifying war and defending the permanence of the sense of solidarity among men in the battle field, and the left, counting war veterans among its ranks, saw an example to be followed in the Bolshevik Revolution (Weitz, 2007, pp. 38 e 39). The very government of the Weimar Republic, supported by the political right, authorized firing against all those caught bearing arms or who were working on the struggle for a more democratic and socialist Germany (Weitz, 2007, p. 31).

It was under these and to these conditions²⁴ that Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) adapted and rose to power in 1933, and, as referred by Aly (2009, p. 29): "lured thousands of educated people who had lost their class arrogance in the trenches of the war of positions, and took into its ranks workers of socialist conviction, small artisans and clerks longing for social recognition and better opportunities of life and jobs for their children."

Truthfully, Hitler "promised everything to everyone", namely "the return to the great martial game of 1914-1918 and the repetition of the victorious anarchist loot of 1923", his future international and economic policies. "He appealed to the two great events that had marked the younger generation", which easily earned him his "true disciples, the core of the Nazi Party" (Haffner, 2007, pp. 76, 78 and 82).

As for Hitler's racist National-Socialist doctrine defended in *Mein Kampf*²⁵ (1925), against the Jewish plutocrat and the Bolshevik Jew, seen as the source of Germany's problems, it was accepted owing to the promise of work, purchasing power and social protection ensured before and during the Second World War (Aly, 2009, pp. 31, 32, 55, 79, and 92-95)²⁶. Everything the Germans had lost with the War of 1914-1918.

²² Still according to Haffner (2005, p. 56): "Love without romance has become fashion: carefree, joyous. Feverish. Matters of the heart followed an extremely fast, straightforward pace. The young people who learned to love in those days learned to ignore romance and embrace cynicism."

²³ Along these lines, it is also worth recalling the words of another German, Ernst Jünger (2005, pp. 41-44), according to whom: "The longer the war lasted, the stronger it left its brand on sexual life", so that "They did not have the time for a long courtship with romantic developments, in the environment that was still a necessity for the daughter of the most modest of bourgeois parents. They demanded from the present instant the flower and the fruit."

²⁴ We should equally recall the effects of the Economic Depression of 1928-1930 in the heightening of the economic, social and political crisis already existent in the Weimar Republic.

²⁵ My Struggle.

²⁶ It should be mentioned that for the German Haffner (2007, pp. 112-116), it was first fear and later "a vile and despicable motive" which led many Germans to adhere to and follow National-Socialism. "It was cowardice, weakness and treachery of Hitler's opponents, who stopped opposing him, which contributed to the strengthening of the Third Reich and which changed the Nazis from a minority group in German society to counting in the party's ranks, "hundreds of thousands of people who had until then been opponents", militants of their own free will (...)" (Fernandes, 2014, pp. 139-140).

2.1. The French Assurance of Isolation and Weakening of German Power

In fact, France, aware of the demographic and industrial potential of the *Reich*, intended for the Treaty of Versailles to stop Germany from recovering its continental hegemony (Milza, 2007, p. 20). One of France's main goals was related to the desire to recover the Alsace-Lorraine, annexed by the Reich during the Franco-Prussian War in 1871 (Defarges, 2003, p. 101).

The Alsace-Lorraine territories had belonged to France since 1648, through transfer from the House of Habsburg. Deprived of these territories, provinces of priceless industrial value, France had lost an element of its national pride to Germany. Furthermore, "in the collective imagination, the Alsace-Lorraine turned into a veritable myth, its memory kept alive by songs, poems, novels and stories which sung the history of the regions annexed by the *Reich*" (Lichtenberger, 1923, pp. 8 and 11; Patrício, 2007, pp. 86 and 87).

In effect, the Alsace-Lorraine territories became, from the Treaty of Frankfurt (1871) onwards, a symbol of unity for Germany, the grounds for its existence as a Great Power in Europe (Lichtenberger, 1923, p. 7).

This way, if Bismark's policies after the unification of Germany were fundamentally constituted by a series of alliances destined to isolate France (Opitz, 1998, p. 261), France's conduct in planning the Treaty of Versailles was based on a longed-for isolation of Germany, wherefore the French State was even responsible for a large part of the dispositions in the military clauses and, after the end of the First World War, developed a metallurgy project with the purpose of taking from Germany almost half of its energy potential (Milza, 2007, p. 22).

Moreover, German supremacy was supported as much on military power – it possessed the best Army in the world and also the most dynamic General Staff -, as on the wealth of raw-materials such as coal, iron and steel. Possession of these raw-materials contributed greatly to the growing industrialization from 1860 onwards. Then also in possession of the Lorraine territories, Germany had greater coal resources and was even preparing to attain supremacy regarding iron and steel, thus consolidating its Economic Power.

The payment of reparations was equally crucial for the French State, as these would allow it to pay off debts contracted during the war, to rebuild the country, to elaborate the defense budget and to balance public accounts, and also contribute to the weakening of Germany (Milza, 2007, p. 63).

It should also be noted that, following the Franco-Prussian War, France had been made to pay reparations to Germany until March 1874, which greatly shook French Economic Power. Only after this payment was concluded did Germany withdraw its troops from the occupied territories, something which Bismarck had managed to anticipate, ensuring the signing of a convention by France in June 29 1872. Thus, the evacuation of German troops stationed in French territory would be concluded in the Fall of 1873 (Patrício, 2007, pp. 86 and 88).

3. The German Reaction to the Treaty of Versailles

3.1. In the View of Aquilino Ribeiro

According to Aquilino Ribeiro (1975, p. 119), the Peace of Versailles “is the greatest blemish in history since men began killing one another with iron”. The Portuguese author considers that this peace brought along several problems for Germany: “Among others, the most momentous of those problems were: delivery of war material at appointed days, (...); the shipping of locomotives and wagons, a clause stemming from the armistice and which was no easier to satisfy than the first, for it put the whole transport system in a state of disorder; the demobilization and forcing back of borders to under a (star-shaped) mass of nine million men; Germany’s supplies, altogether dwindling; the epidemic of strikes which, one after the other, threatened to subvert what little economic activity remained (...)” (Ribeiro, 1975, pp. 71 and 72).

Ribeiro (1975, p. 28) makes the reader aware early on of the German sentiment over having to surrender their arms, writing: “The Government (...) Disbanded the army, registered the militias, even if in Schlossplatz one can still watch the changing of the guard, ceremony accompanied by fifes, drums and curtsies, that many come to the end of the world to see. It proceeds to disarm the population and there is no fence, there is no public building from which does not hang row upon row, compact rows of a banner framed in black with the sayings: *Liefert die Waffen ab* (Surrender your arms). (...) turns into an obsession throughout the streets. It is Germany’s first act of contrition.”

Moreover, the sentiment of crisis, heightened by this Peace as earlier stated, had a reflection on the suicide rates, on which Ribeiro (1975, p. 158) comments: “The suicide epidemic advances throughout Germany. For the German, living has become despair, (...) Surely defeat, in its moral influence on a people of pride, conscious of their greatness, is to blame for this morbid condition. But, above all, the economic aspect is dominant.”

In rebellious attitudes and values, as the Portuguese author states: “The girls are the most forward. They laugh, they provoke, they bare their legs, defy our appetites with their naughty, languid eyes. Reversal of the sexes? Who can say!” (Ribeiro, 1975, p. 159); and in crime, on which Ribeiro (1975, pp. 23 and 24) writes: “And if the walls of hotels, restaurants and streets are solicitously covered by the police with signs reading: *Vor Taschen dieben wird gewarnt*²⁷, it is because the pickpockets and scoundrels are legion. I have been warned that if one does not keep one’s hands in one’s pockets while crossing the street, or leaves one’s shoes to shine outside the door at the hotel, or keeps an eye on the waiter who serves us the nauseating *Schweinebraten*²⁸, one has been robbed. Decomposition thrives in this land, such a short while so healthy. *Gott mit uns*²⁹ was a deceitful legend.”

Furthermore, many Germans who had been spread out over the world had been forced to return to a Germany where, in the words of Aquilino Ribeiro (1975, p. 89) “The mark drops lower with each day, each hour, and the cost of life, in contrast, rises like a rocket of tears”

²⁷ Watch out for pickpockets.

²⁸ Roast pork.

²⁹ God with us.

and where unemployment was the reality. The Portuguese author writes: “From where came the flood which turns the great centers to crowded ant-hills and has not stopped feeding the small lands? It came out of the provinces lost by the Treaty of Versailles, 80 000 from the Alsace-Lorraine, 400 000 from Posen, Pomerania and Silesia, many thousands from Schleswig and a few thousands from Eupen and Malmedy.” (Ribeiro, 1975, p. 35)

Later, Ribeiro (1975, p. 35) speaks similarly on the German return from the former colonies: “A healthy flow came also from the German colonies as they changed owner, and from the detention camps in the countries that had declared war on the central empires and it was almost the whole war. Pursued by hatred, driven out by laws of circumstance, or even longing for their homes, the Germans dropped onto the motherland like flocks of migrating birds. Hence the human deluge; hence the Reich holding within its current borders a population higher than in 1913, even after losing some two million in the war. In cafe-restaurants, hotels, theaters, there is an overabundance of service staff. There are two or more servers for customer. If you dismiss one, you will hear a whine: – There is no work; we are not wanted abroad...”

There was hunger, such that Ribeiro (1975, pp. 52, 54 and 55) advises: “Whosoever is a gastronomist, stay away from today’s Germany. Beef and veal are rare and cost an arm and a leg and the sausages have everything in them, from cat liver to fish tripe. (...) – Germany broke at the seams (...) Eating well for a German is thinking right and well and, equally, doing with intelligence and activity. (...) A lack of everything was the norm, even milk for the babies and mothers. The clothes everyone wore, from maid to nanny, were made out of paper.”

The Germans also endeavored to face a scarcity of raw-materials using their practical and inventive spirit, as is noted by Aquilino Ribeiro (1975, p. 81): “Arts and sciences have devoted themselves to inventing the products essential to the national economy and the necessities of war, which had to be imported or were uncommon in the blockaded country. Applied chemistry, among others, was the good fairy godmother of the Germans. It endeavored to remedy all deficiencies, from industrial materials to food. On the eve of the armistice, synthetic rubber was discovered, I heard, capable of replacing caoutchouc.”

The Germans were then disillusioned with their living conditions in the period right after the First World War, as we have been demonstrating through the words of the Portuguese author. They were disappointed with the impositions of the Peace of Versailles and also with the German government, Ribeiro (1975, p. 115) comments: “Disillusioned is the general state of the German people, disillusioned with God, with statesmen, with justice, with force, disillusioned from head to toe with this social-democratic government with Ebert as president, maintaining the most orthodox of bourgeoisies towards workers, revolting servant of the allies for the nationalists.”

Finally, one other aspect frequently noted throughout the first section of *Alemanha Ensanguentada* concerns the German desire of revenge born out of Versailles, the fuse that would spark another Great War. Ribeiro (1975, p. 28) writes “All we call light weaponry, such as rifles, machine-guns, flame-throwers, those are kept safe by everyone «for the day of retribution that is to come». A few pages later, the author continues “I do not know, but

I believe that from the peace so vilely forged at Versailles will come either a Germany with all the instincts of a hunted beast, ready to jump at the right moment, or a Germany which will surrender to Lenin heart and soul" (Ribeiro, 1975, p. 32). Later on, we are shown an important trace of the German personality, when Aquilino Ribeiro (1975, p. 51) mentions that "Germans are as ruthless as any to those who cannot captain them or who have dragged them to disaster. (...) The German, for so long as he cannot punish the unfortunate, hates him and covers him with derision. And this is a harsh form of retaliation. His derision does not scratch, or scrape; it does not gain expression in ironic smiles, but in boorish laughter; it is not about inspiring shame but about injecting poison. For him, success is everything (...)."

Thereof the reader may be taken to associate Germany to the mythological figure of the Phoenix reborn from its own ashes, for only a few pages later Ribeiro (1975, pp. 98 and 99) writes "Thus is Germany. Carve it, impoverish it, bleed it well, it has vitality to spare to endure the treatment which nations periodically inflict upon one another with unspeakable savagery." And the author insists: "Beaten, but not defeated, Germany will unsheathe its sword again, in which, moreover, it does nothing but obey the stupid human condition. War is not the mother of all things, as Heraclitus defended, but what it is surely mother of is war (...)" (Ribeiro, 1975, p. 166)

In effect, Germany would survive this humiliation, and when it lifted itself up, it did so wanting revenge. Aquilino Ribeiro (1975, p. 172) could sense it: "The German people brought in their eyes the scales described in the Scriptures; their soul was a pit of illusions. The dream of peace was the most stupendous and calamitous of all. It was over! The tree of hatred was planted in Versailles by Clemenceau and Lloyd George. The children and grandchildren will sense over their heads the perfidious shade and will eat the poisoned fruit. (...) The Germans hate; could they be humanly capable of not hating?"

The section "From War towards Peace" concludes with the following lines from the Portuguese author, summarizing Germany's position towards the Warmongering Peace: "Deep down, the Great War was none other than the fight for ownership of the planet. We are in the final stage of divisions and the German, theorist and dreamer that he is, with an ability to do that surpasses all other people, a product of will, cannot be resigned to the role of witness. Unmarked by hypocrisy, unable to tell the difference between good and evil, passionate and violent, strong and primal, with a wonderful sense of reality, opportunistic, he is for the time being in the chapel of rest of his two million dead, churning over his own misery in his chest. When he is recovered, he will come out fighting." (Ribeiro, 1975, pp. 188 and 189)

3.2. Pursuing the Desire to subvert Versailles: the Emergence of Geopolitics

The goal of subverting the Treaty spread to all Germans and became the starting point for the emergence of geopolitical thought in Germany during the Weimar Republic.

In this context, the birth of the publication *Zeitschrift für Geopolitik*³⁰ (1924), with theoretical contents founded primarily on the thoughts of the German Friedrich Ratzel and the Swede

³⁰ Magazine for Geopolitics.

Rudolf Kjéllen (1864-1922), also marked the birth of Geopolitics in the Germany of Karl Haushofer (1869-1946), who would become known as their highest expression.

3.2.1. The German School of Geopolitics: before and after 1933

We have identified two main periods in the evolution of the German School of Geopolitics: from 1919 to 1933, and from 1933 to 1945. The year of Adolf Hitler's rise to power, 1933, is a turning point. It was from that moment on that, in the perspective of Vives, German Geopolitics ceased to be constrained to the field of sciences and became a mechanism of the National-Socialist State. (Vives, 1961, p. 52)

Of the two main periods mentioned, the latter, between 1933 and 1945, can be further divided into two stages: from 1933 to 1936 and from 1936 to 1945.

Phase one, from 1933 to 1936, during which the German School started feeling pressure from the National-Socialist Party, is essentially a period of propaganda. The influence of the Racist Aryan Doctrine of the Third Reich can equally be seen in Alfred Rosenberg (1893-1946), a follower of the Germanophile theories of Joseph Arthur de Gobineau (1816-1882) and Houston Stewart Chamberlain (1855-1927). The role of Cartography with a pedagogical intent of spreading and establishing geopolitical ideas to all layers of the population is particularly noteworthy.

The maps put together since then express expansionist desire and Aryan racial supremacy, letting us observe, for example, an increase in German population in Europe based on a criterion of linguistic predominance. This presented an image in which the borders of the *Reich* were shown as much broader than they effectively were on the official map. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that an equally frequent goal consisted in demonstrating that Germany was threatened by all sides and that resorting to force was the only solution. One of the better known maps, drawn by Rupper von Schumacher, showed that very thing, resorting to colors and signs to highlight certain elements and suppress others, depending on the idea being developed.

Phase two, from 1936 to 1945, during which period the German School was completely under the control of Third Reich politics, as a promotional tool for the war effort and as racial and territorial justification. It is in this context that the second edition of Haushofer's work *Grenzen in ihrer geographischen und politischen Bedeutung*³¹ is banned in 1939. The reasons for this ban were a mention of the issue of the German population on the South Tyrol, a space annexed to Italy, the main ally of Hitler's Germany, in 1919. This was the sole European region regarding which the border revision according to the principle of nationalities would not be mentioned or even reclaimed. Additionally, and once the Second World War had begun in 1939, there was a reduction in page number in the *Zeitschrift für Geopolitik*, and from 1942 onwards, the contributions of Karl Haushofer were progressively reduced. His works amounted to a kind of catalogue of key-words, a collection of titles, names and dates. In 1943, his articles spoke of the relationships between Geopolitics and Religion, Geopolitics and

³¹ Borders in their geographic and political sense.

Medicine, Geopolitics and Ethnology. In this same year, the *Zeitschrift für Geopolitik* merged with the magazine *Schule der Freiheit*³², an anti-Semitic and anti-Soviet publication. Already in 1933, as director of the *Zeitschrift für Geopolitik*, Haushofer was ordered to cease publication.

3.2.2. Karl Haushofer (1869-1946): The Mentor of the German School of Geopolitics

Born on August 27 1869 in Munich, Karl Haushofer was admitted into the Bavarian army in 1887, becoming an officer in 1889. He studied topography and geography (as well as geology), in accordance with the tradition followed by German general officers since Helmuth von Moltke (1800-1894), from Albrecht von Roon (1803-1879) to Alfred Schlieffen (1833-1913), and he read the works of Karl Ritter (1779-1859), Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904) and Albrecht von Roon's political geography treatise.

He was well versed in the regions of Asia and the Pacific. What is more, it was his mission in Japan between 1908 and 1910, where he acted as advisor artillery instructor and studied the Japanese army, which originated his calling for geopolitics (Haushofer, 1986, p. 160). And as such, it is worth mentioning that his experience in the Far East was reflected on works like *Dai Nihon. Betrachtungen über Gross-Japans Wehrkraft, Westellung und Zukunft*³³, 1913; *Japan und die Japaner*³⁴, 1923; *Der deutsche Anteil an der geographischen Erschließung Japans und es subjapanischen Erdrums und deren Förderung durch den Einfluß von Krieg und Wehrpolitik*³⁵, 1914; *Grundrichtungen in der geographischen Entwicklung des Japanischen Reichs (1854 bis 1919)*³⁶, 1919; *Das Japanische Reich in seiner geographischen Entwicklung*³⁷, 1921 (Losano, 2007, p. 224). And he was equally influential to the process of rebuilding cultural relationships between Germany and Japan³⁸ (Losano, 2007, pp. 229-231), as well as in creating the Anti-Komintern Pact signed between the two States in Berlin on November 25, 1936. Perhaps due to this experience, Haushofer was tasked, as a member of the *Zeitschrift für Geopolitik* group, with the discussion of issues pertaining to the Indo-Pacific.

He was awarded a Doctorate in Geography in 1913, and in 1914 he participated in the First World War. Once the War was over, he devoted himself to teaching the same subject at the University of Munich, where he had Rudolf Hess (1894-1987) as a student. His friendship with Hess came, however, from the military world, as they had both fought in the Eastern Front during the War. After Haushofer visited Hess at Landsberg prison, Hess introduced him to Adolf Hitler, leader of the *National sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*³⁹ [NSDAP].

³² School of Freedom.

³³ The Great Japan. Observations on the defense, global positioning and future of the Great Japan.

³⁴ Japan and the Japanese.

³⁵ German contribution for the geographic exploration of the sub-Japanese space of Japan, and development (of these geographic areas) through the influence of war and defense policy.

³⁶ Basic geographic directions on the development of the Japanese Empire (from 1854 to 1919).

³⁷ The Japanese Empire in its geographic development.

³⁸ Such as, for example, the foundations of the German-Japanese Institute in Berlin, and the Japanese-German Institute in Tokyo. It should also be mentioned that Haushofer became a member of the *Deutsche-Japanische Gesellschaft* [German-Japanese Society], in Bavaria. Cfr. Losano, M., "La Missione Militare di Haushofer in Giappone e la Geopolitica", in *Rivista degli Studi Orientali*, No. 20-22, pp. 230 and 231.

³⁹ National-Socialist Germany Worker's Party.

During the Third Reich, while married to a Jew, Haushofer had always had the protection of Rudolf Hess. However, from 1941 onwards he lost that support and was then persecuted by NSDAP forces, “all because he tried to stop the «School» from being completely at Hitler’s service” (Almeida, 1990, p. 124). In 1944, Haushofer was arrested and sent to Dachau, and in 1945 his son, Albrecht, was killed by the Gestapo. On March 10 1946, Haushofer and his wife Martha Meyer-Doss took their own lives.

3.2.2.1. Inspirations and influences that affected his Geopolitical Thought

Concerning Haushofer’s geopolitical thought, mention must be made to the inspiration of Rudolf Kjéllen (1864-1922), Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904) and Halford Mackinder (1861-1947).

Just like Rudolf Kjéllen (1864-1922), the Swedish inventor of the term Geopolitics, Haushofer saw Geopolitics as an autonomous science with its own object different from that of Political Geography, and also shared his perspective in considering Geopolitics a *Wegweiser*⁴⁰.

From Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904), a political geographer, Haushofer took the notion of *Lebensraum*⁴¹, adapting it to his vision by defending the integration of peoples with a common language and culture in a single body. Both Ratzel and Haushofer were Pangermanists, supporters of the idea of a *Großdeutschland*⁴², according to their own methods, respectively that of Political Geography and that of Geopolitics.

Finally, from Halford Mackinder (1861-1947) Haushofer took the idea of Heartland as a dominant continental mass, located in Eurasia, between Eastern Europe and Siberia, rich in raw-materials, hard to access, extensive area and rigorous climate, conditions which would allow it to become the center of world power. Influenced by Mackinder, Haushofer believed that Germany should form an alliance with the USSR (upon the creation of a maritime-continental block, from Germany to USSR to Japan). And, unlike Ratzel, he deemed naval competition to be prejudicial for Germany, believing it should focus on continental power.

3.2.2.2. Haushofer’s Geopolitics, Hitler’s National-Socialism and the War

Haushofer wished to be the advisor of German spatial politics that would later be determined and acted out by Hitler. Consequently, Geopolitics would function as a political guide. The desired goal was to build a better future, avoiding the mistakes of the past, and above all avoid making the same mistakes which had led to Germany’s humiliation in Versailles.

As a Pangermanist, the German General did not share the racist ideals of National-Socialism. Hitler appropriated Haushofer’s Geopolitics, adapting them to his own politics. Remembering Almeida (1990, p. 124) “Hitler could win over crowds” but it was “the «School» that won over elites”.

⁴⁰ Practical guide for political action.

⁴¹ Living space. Here adopted according to the Blood and Soil formula. However, the concept originally referred to the States as living organisms in a permanent struggle for survival, in search for more space, necessary for their realization and development as political beings. According to the logic of natural selection laws, only the strong States survive and thus expand their *Lebensraum*.

⁴² Great Germany.

In this context, mention should be made of Karl Haushofer's arrest along with his son, Albrecht, in 1944, with the latter being released after eight weeks. The attempt on Adolf Hitler's life on July 20, known as Operation Valkyrie and in which Albrecht may have been involved, ended up leading him again to prison along with his brother Heinz (1906-1986). In the night between the 22nd and the 23rd of April of 1945, Albrecht was assassinated by the Gestapo.

After disagreeing with Hitler regarding Operation Barbarossa, which would lead to the invasion of the Soviet Union in May 22, 1941, and especially since Rudolf Hess' departure in May, 1941, and Haushofer's loss of protection, he was exposed to the persecution of the Third Reich.

Furthermore, in Haushofer's opinion, Hitler had never correctly understood the principles of Geopolitics which Hess had passed on to him. Joachim von Ribbentrop (1893-1946), whom Haushofer had taught to analyze a map, was the main culprit for the distortion of Geopolitics in Hitler's mind. Hitler would, in turn, use Geopolitical thought at the service of his National-Socialist politics, paving the way for a new Great War in 1939 and the end of Peace.

This distortion also contributed to the status of *Geopolitik* as a cursed science and to its notoriety as a tool for War. However, it should be pointed out that Haushofer refused to review *Mein Kampf* prior to its publication, considering that the work did not pertain to Geopolitics but was instead a book intended for German agitation. (Fernandes, 2011, p. 279).

4. Towards and For Peace: The Contribution of Albert Einstein (1879-1955) and Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

4.1. Cultural Development and Sentiment Relationships

In 1932, one year prior to Adolf Hitler's rise to power, Albert Einstein (1879-1955) suggested to the International Commission for Intellectual Cooperation (later the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation) an exchange of letters with Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) regarding the theme of War. By this time, the German physicist known for his pacifist leanings had already ceased being a member of this Commission. He had been a member from 1922 to 1931, on invitation due to being a representative of German sciences – he had been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921 -, even though Germany was only admitted to the Society of Nations in 1926.

Upon Freud's acceptance of Einstein's invitation, this exchange in correspondence originated an issue titled *Warum Krieg?*⁴³ The title was chosen by Freud, as Einstein was then on his way to America. The psychologist devised a title that had to be short and would sound good in German, English and French. The issue was immediately banned in Germany.

Reading the issue in question could and will lead us to think that if, instead of the humiliation imposed on Germany by the Peace of Versailles and the estrangement imposed by the Society of Nations, Freud's suggestion in the correspondence traded with Einstein in 1932, defending that "everything which contributes to the development of culture also works

⁴³ Why War?

against war” (Einstein, 2007, p. 63) had been followed, it may have ended the hate and desire of revenge, thus preventing another equally Total Great War.

Especially because, still according to the father of Psychoanalysis, “two factors ensure the cohesion of a community: coercion through violence and sentiment relationships (...). If one factor disappears, the other may be able to hold the community together (Einstein, 2007, p. 48).

4.1.1. The Knowledge of Foreign Languages

Taking Freud’s suggestion, we stress the need for developing culture and sentiment relationships. Furthermore, languages are the reflections of the history and culture of a people, and the knowledge of foreign languages seems to be crucial and worthy of encouragement.

Not only because it reduces differences, inducing a greater understanding between different peoples, but also because it contributes to the development of ties of sentiment – on which, Freud states, “rests (...) the edifice of human society” (Einstein, 2007, p. 57) –, insofar as the other’s being and thought becomes better known and understood. In this, it is worth remembering Saint Augustine’s words “We only love that which we know.”

Conclusion

It all began in Versailles... The proclamation of the Second Reich after the German victory in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 and also the signing, on June 28 1919, in the same mirrored room, exactly five years after the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand (1889-1914), of a Peace Treaty which would bring about the emergence of Geopolitics as a science in Germany in 1924, Adolf Hitler’s rise to power in 1933, his also growing power, as well as the adherence and agreement of Germans with National-Socialist politics in face of the German sentiment post-Versailles and of the economic, political and social situation in Germany witnessed by the Portuguese author Aquilino Ribeiro in 1920.

In effect, the Peace period from 1919 to 1939 was the gestation period of another Great War, the Second World War, which would be a War of continuance of the First World War. In truth, whether in the First World War, whether in the Treaty of Versailles, the relationship between Germany and France played a central role in how events played out.

The German impositions on France after Germany’s victory in the Franco-Prussian War would feed the French desire of revenge and, above all, the desire of recovering the Alsace-Lorraine territories that had been under dispute by the two States for centuries. These territories would be recovered with the end of the First World War, thanks to one of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Furthermore, possession of these two provinces had always been of interest to France and Germany for their wealth in coal and steel resources, potential resources for conducting operations during both War time and Peace time.

Effectively, both Germany and France had been longtime rivals for a place of dominant power in the European space. In their relationship, it was only in 1951, with the constitution of the European Coal and Steel Community (CECA) and the subsequent communitisation

of the coal and steel industries, crucial to industrialization, that cooperation began to prevail over rivalry.

Although the European space (specifically the States which constitute the European Union) currently faces an economic and financial crisis in which the euro – the sole currency – has played a central role, it is certain that, thanks to this cooperation based on the Germany-France relationship, the European space has not known, to date, another Great War after the Second World War. Moreover, the States with commercial relationships are economically dependent from each other, which encourage avoidance of conflict.

Finally, in the Germany-France relationship, as well as in the relationships between the other States in the European space, encouraging the study of a foreign language has played a crucial role in bringing different cultures together, proving that the development of the sentiment relationships defended by Einstein and Freud in 1932 has remained current. A Treaty is not, on its own, always a synonym for Peace. Versailles showed us just that. It is, primarily, dialogue, the tightening of relationships, especially of cooperation, which fosters Peace and keeps War at bay...

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