

# HOMELAND SECURITY INSTITUTES A HITLER-LIKE DICTATORSHIP AFTER WHICH WILL COME HITLER'S *UNIFORMITY OF THE STATES* LAW

## Homeland Security Act a modern-day version of Hitler's Enabling Act

On March 23, 1933, about two months after terrorists committed an arson attack against the German Reichstag Building, the German Parliament passed a measure bearing the innocuous title "Law for Removing the Distress of People and Reich." "Its five brief paragraphs took the power of legislation, including control of the Reich budget, approval of treaties with foreign states and the initiating of constitutional amendments, away from Parliament and handed it over to the Reich cabinet for a period of four years," wrote historian William Shirer in his study *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. While the Enabling Act explicitly permitted the Reich cabinet to enact laws that "might deviate from the constitution," it also specified that the powers of Parliament would be protected.

In a speech delivered that day before the Parliament, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler promised that his government "will make use of these powers only insofar as they are essential for carrying out vitally necessary measures." To those worried about the possibility that the confederated German states would be absorbed into a centralized dictatorship, Hitler extended these assurances: "The separate existence of the federal states will not be done away with." He also sought to placate those concerned about freedom of religion and other liberties: "The rights of the churches will not be diminished and their relationship to the State will not be modified. The number of cases in which an internal necessity exists for having recourse to such a law is in itself a limited one."

Hitler's pose of moderation soon gave way to a reign of terror. As Shirer observes: "It was this Enabling Act alone which formed the legal basis for Hitler's dictatorship. From March 23, 1933 on, Hitler was the dictator of the Reich, freed from any restraint by Parliament ... To be sure, much remained to be done to bring the entire nation and all its institutions completely under the Nazi heel ... " But Hitler was able to accomplish that task almost entirely within the law — because Parliament



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had made the Chancellor a law unto himself.

Shocking as it may seem, the powers to be given to President Bush by Congress in The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (H.R. 5005) are even more expansive than those Hitler received through the Enabling Act. It is a dangerous idea to restructure the federal government in a way that could hasten the establishment of a domestic police state. Clearly the proposed Act would increasingly transfer local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies into a national police force. In order to preserve our American system of independent local police, which is the foundation of our freedom as Americans, this act must be defeated.

Even now, state and local police can provide the most effective counter-terrorism force, if they are provided with critical intelligence in a timely fashion. Following last September's attack, Johnny Mac Brown, a former head of the National Sheriff's Association, pointed out: "This is not a federal problem. This is an American law enforcement problem. The FBI certainly has to get this information to the local authorities." Creating a bureaucratic logjam in a new "Homeland Security Department" would do nothing to help local police uncover and prevent future terrorist plots. We must insist that Congressman Dooley vote NO ON H.R. 5005!

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"A long chapter of German's history ended with the promulgation of the 'Law for the Uniformity of the States with the Reich' in the late spring of 1933. It was an important move in the transformation of the Federal Reich into a single centralized State.... Young Nazis burning the State line markers, merely imitated what the halberdiers of the French King had done centuries ago.

The Nazi reorganization of the Reich is a revolutionary break with the past....to establish a 'totalitarian' State in which there is only one God (Germany), and only one prophet (Adolph Hitler). This policy demands the unification of the Reich both physically and spiritually.... bending to the will of the leader. The individual States must be abolished because their existence spells the danger of rival loyalties, eclipsing the only true faith. Political and spiritual resistance must be made impossible. Every function of the State must be coordinated...

Under the Law of the Uniformity of the States with the Reich, the central government in Berlin, acting through the President, appointed Vice-Regents for each of the seventeen States. The Vice-Regents were made responsible only to the Federal government, and they could not be overthrown by a vote of 'no-confidence' of the State legislatures. They were empowered to appoint the State governments, which were responsible to them and not to their States. Both the legislatures and the governments were threatened with being put out of business in the near future and then the map would be clean of German States. Meanwhile, the legislatures and governments were allowed to lead a shadow existence, stripped of the right to voice opinions or to command. Celebrating the first anniversary of the Nazi rule on January 30, 1934, the Reichstag adopted in five minutes the Reich Reform Bill, permanently abolishing the State Legislatures and placing their governments under the direct authority of Berlin, of which they will be merely the executive local organs." ....Taken from "The Twilight of the German Free States" written by Emil Lengyel