

PRAVDA, *The Official Soviet Newspaper*

27th August, 1938

THE NAZI-SOVIET PACT SIGNED IN

MOSCOW: A MISTAKE OR AN

ACHIEVEMENT BY THE SOVIET

GOVERNMENT?



Molotov signs the German–Soviet non-aggression pact. Behind him are Ribbentrop and Stalin.

PRAVDA is proud to announce that a non-aggression treaty was signed by the German and Soviet leaders on the early morning of 24 August.

Us, the people in charge of the well-known Soviet PRADVA newspaper, and the rest of the inhabitants of the USSR, are proud that our government, led by Joseph Stalin, took the right policy and signed a peace treaty with Germany avoiding future wars, and protecting our people.

The agreement renounced warfare between the two countries and pledged neutrality by either party if the other were attacked by a third party. Each signatory promised not to join any grouping of powers that was "directly or indirectly aimed at the other party."

However, many are aware of Hitler's plans to take over Russian territories. We hope this treaty will prevent future disputes and keep lasting peace between

the now allied countries of Germany and the USSR. The people of the USSR fervently wish that this recently signed pact will give our country enough time to create new forces against the possible enemies we may have in the near future. A British politician stated yesterday: "Britain and France helped Hitler achieve his aims by rejecting the idea of a united front with the USSR. They hoped to appease Hitler by giving him Czech territory. They wanted to direct German aggression against the USSR." Stalin, who courageously faced critics from a minority of his people, said in a speech during a conference which recently took place: "It will be asked how it was possible that the Soviet government signed a non-aggression pact with so deceitful a nation... We secured peace for our country... which enables us to make military preparations."

Background to the NAZI-SOVIET PACT:

On 24 August, the terms of the Nazi-Soviet Pact were announced to the astonished Russian people. The German leader, Adolf Hitler, had signed a non-aggression pact with our leader, Joseph Stalin.

It was alarming to the USSR how Hitler, Germany's Führer, came to power in 1933. He had stated before his interest in conquering Russian land. Stalin, after various attempts of reaching lasting agreements with Britain and France, gave up, noticing it was totally meaningless. It seemed to Mr. Stalin that the French and British were quite "happy" and "enthusiastic" with Hitler taking over Eastern Europe and then the USSR. Although the Russian leader signed a treaty in 1935 with France, he doubted, as most of the USSR's people, that the French would stick to it. Nevertheless, the British Prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, seemed reluctant to commit Britain in an alliance with the USSR and France against Hitler.

RELATED WITH THE PACT, IN EXCLUSIVE:

In exclusive, PRAVDA, with the consent of the foreign minister Molotov, publishes the main terms of the German-Soviet non-aggression pact signed three days ago in Moscow. These are the followings:

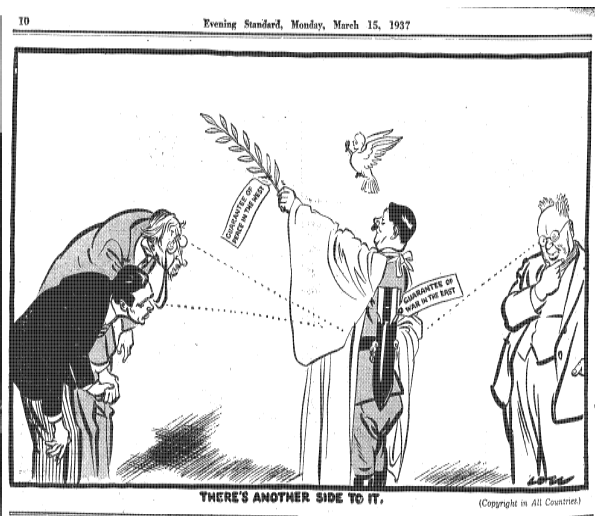
The Government of the German Reich and The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, directed by the wish to strengthen the cause of peace between Germany and the USSR . . . have reached the following agreement:

Article 1: The two contracting parties undertake to refrain from any act of violence, and aggressive action, or any attack against one another, whether individually or jointly with other powers.

Article 2: In case of the contracting parties should become the object of warlike acts on the part of a third party, the other contracting party will no longer support that third power in any form.

Article 4: Neither of the two contracting parties will participate in any grouping of powers which is indirectly or directly aimed against the other party.

Article 5: Should disputes or conflicts arise between the contracting parties regarding questions of any kind whatsoever, the two parties would clear away these disputes or conflicts solely by means of friendly exchanges of views or if necessary by arbitrary commissions.



a) "There's another side to it". Cartoon by David Low, which shows how Hitler planned to attack and invade the USSR, and how he promised peace to Britain and France. (Guarantee of peace in the West / Guarantee of war in the East) Comments by David Low: "Hitler from time to time made nebulous 'peace offers', but efforts to bring him down to detail were invariably futile. At last, more specific than usual, he made a 'gesture' to Britain and France jointly: if France would cancel her pact with Soviet Russia he would guarantee to keep peace in the West. He would give no undertaking concerning the East."

b) **Ribbentrop** and **Stalin** at the signing of the Pact.



c) Soviet Cartoon of Joseph Stalin, being congratulated by the Soviet people for the Non-aggression pact signed with Germany.