

THE NEW MAN

In 1922, only a few years after World War I ended, author Ernst Jünger writes about the positive input that the war had on the soldier. Read the excerpt below. Ten years after it was written Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power. List several ideas in Jünger's essay which would find expression in Nazi ideology.

. . . When I observe how they silently cut lanes through the tangles of barbed wire, dig stepped assault trenches, compare their luminescent watches, and orient themselves towards north by the stars, then I am overcome with recognition: this is the new man, the storm pioneer, the elite of Central Europe. A whole new race, smart, strong, and filled with will. What reveals itself here, as a vision will tomorrow be the axis around which life revolves still faster and faster. The path will not always, as here, have to be forged through shell craters, fire, and steel; but the double-quick step with which events are prosecuted here, the tempo accustomed to iron, that will remain the same. The glowing twilight of a declining age is at once a dawn in which one arms oneself for new, for harder battles. Far behind, the gigantic cities, the hosts of machines, the empires, whose inner bonds have been rent in the storm, await the new men, the cunning, battle-tested men who are ruthless toward themselves and others. This war is not the end but the prelude to violence. It is the forge in which the new world will be hammered into new borders and new communities. New forms want to be filled with blood, and power will be wielded with a hard fist. The war is a great school, and the new man will bear our stamp. . . The festival is about to begin and we are its princes. . .

The soldiers are students, cadets with proud old names, mechanics, heirs to fertile estates, saucy big city sorts, and high school students, from whose eyes the Sleeping Beauty dream of some kind of ancient nest has not entirely drifted away. Peasant sons, grown up beneath the lonely thatched roofs of Westphalia or the Lüneberger Heide, ringed by the primeval oaks planted by their forebears around the surrounding fence of stone. . . We want to show what we have in us: then if we fall, we will truly have lived to the full.