
Subject: Re: Search Google, 1960:s-style
Posted by [Rod Speed](#) on Thu, 20 Dec 2012 23:08:29 GMT
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<hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote
> Dan Espen <des...@verizon.net> wrote

>> Not to forget he made the deal with Germany
>> to divide Poland. Leading directly to WWII.

>> Why when Germany invaded Poland did the Allies
>> declare war on Germany, but give Russia a free pass.

> Good question. I suspect it was because they felt
> Germany was a country the Allies could defeat,
> while going to war against the Soviet Union
> would be a much tougher prospect.

Nope, it was because it was clear that germany
would be attacking russia pretty soon. They had
already warned Stalin that that was going to happen.

> As an aside, IMHO the events of the 1930s deserve much more
> study than they get. Lots of people decry the use of atomic
> weapons against Japan or the horrible firebombing of Germany
> and Japan. But those events were a 'done deal' by the time
> they happened as a result of prior experiences of the war.

That's very arguable with firestorm bombing of civilian citys.

> What is more significant are the diplomatic and military events of
> the 1930s that eventually greased the skids for WW II to happen.

Its easy to say now, once it became clear what Hitler was up to.

> The issue of appeasement--including the domestic politics
> of it--needs to be further addressed. That is, if Chamberlain
> put his foot down early, would the people of Great Britain
> and France supported him to go to war against Germany?

Nope, not when the only thing germany had done was kick
foreign troops out of the Rhineland, and then return germans
outside germany to the Reich. They weren't about to die for that.

> Likewise with the US and Japan. With hindsight being 20/20,
> we should look at events and decisions of 1940-1941--should
> the US have drawn a hard line against Japan early on?

The US did, particularly about the rape of Nanking, and imposed an oil embargo on Japan at a time when the US was the main source of oil for Japan, and ensured that Japan would grab the Indonesian oilfields so that they had a source of oil again.

There is a real sense in which the oil embargo produced the war in the Pacific. Japan might have been happy with China without that. The US was never in any position to stop the Japanese invasion of Manchuria and neither was anyone else.

- > One sad mark in all this was Thomas J. Watson Sr's acceptance
 - > of a medal from Hitler. Although Watson eventually returned
 - > the medal, it remains a black mark on his record and IBM. While
 - > Watson may have truly personally felt world trade would equal
 - > world peace, it was also quite clear that Hitler was nuts and very
 - > militaristic, and just because he was trading with you wouldn't
 - > prevent him from going to war against you.
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- > When Tom Watson Jr was in the air corp, he had the
 - > chance to visit Europe. He took the opportunity to check
 - > on IBM operations in other countries (per his memoir).
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