

THE BIRMINGHAM AGE-HERALD
NOVEMBER 16, 1938
EDITORIAL

THIS MORNING
by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II



*"Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from Pole to
Pole..."*

A DOLF HITLER'S Germany is proof of the fatal gap between men and machines, or rather between the average man and the science developed by exceptional men. In that Germany the implements of science and machinery are being employed for ends more bestial and dark than machine-less and unscientific days gone by imposed. The middle ages are being brought back in stream line. The persecution of a great people, the invocations to force, the herding of men, the commandeering of immortal souls, the purges, the betrayals, the denials of religion, honor, art, humanity—all these things are done now to the tune of the latest in science, the most modern in machinery. The radio, the airplane, the miracles of chemistry, the marvels of machinery, the most scientific processes in metal, the most intelligent in finance, the most ingenious in trade, are serving men whose points of view are as narrow as the Inquisition's own and whose souls are insanely fired.

They say it is a return to the Dark Ages but the Dark Ages were never like this. The Dark Ages lacked the machines and the science to be as black as the pit from Pole to Pole.

Never was the case for democracy more apparent, or the need of saving democracy from those who would sell it for a temporary peace more plain. For democracy requires and makes for enough of excellence in the average man to fit him for his science and machine. It gives him the liberty and the education to live up to his machine and employ his science in the ways of a civilization. It makes him worth his radio, up to his automobile, fit for his flying machine, competent to employ decently his chemistry, psychology, metallurgy, and finance. Or, rather, it should and must do these things—and our great American task is to make sure that it does do them.
