

Part II

Politics and Technics: Years of Crisis

“The new dwelling is an instrument for the destruction of the family and the race.”

“To oppose ‘bolshevist’ urban architecture, Nazism must . . . encourage young architects to create an architecture based upon ‘nature and the soil,’ using Handwerk rather than machine technology.”

In July of 1931 . . . in a long article on the Reichforschungsgesellschaft, the paper [the Völkischer Beobachter] devoted several columns of invective to “the members of the Jewish-Bolshevist architectural organization, the Ring” . . . (and) promised that the party would “settle accounts” with these men when it came to power.

Barbara Miller Lane, Architecture and Politics in Germany, 1968

By 1930, the American system was in serious trouble. . . . As the economy ground to a halt, more and more people became unemployed; banks were forced to close their doors, and more Americans faced bankruptcy. During the winter of 1930–1931, many homeless Americans simply wandered about the countryside while others began to live in shacks made of scraps of lumber, old boxes, and newspapers. In New York and other cities, public soup kitchens opened, and long lines of hungry people formed before them.

Heritage of Freedom: A Brief History of the United States, n.d.