

HANNES EITSLER
Composer

BERTOLT BRECHT
Librettist

DIE MASSNAHME (Strategy and Tactics)

The theme of this play is the incitement of Chinese laborers to revolutionary action through agitation based upon the theories of Lenin, the Communist text-book "A B C of Communism" and other Communist classics. The play describes with acclaim the activities of the Chinese Communist Party. The following citations are illustrative:

"Come forth! Your labor was successful. In this country too marches the Revolution, and formed are the lines of the fighters there also. We are in accord with you."

* * * * *

The four agitators:

"We came from Moscow as agitators; we were to travel the city of Mukden to spread propaganda and to create, in the factories, the Chinese Party. We were to report to party headquarters closest to the border, and to requisition a guide. There, in the anteroom, a young comrade came toward us and spoke of the nature of our mission. We are repeating the conversation:"

* * * * *

The young comrade:

"I am the secretary of the party headquarters which is the last toward the border. My heart is beating for the Revolution. The witnessing of wrong-doing drove me into the lines of the fighters. Man must help man. I am for freedom. I believe in mankind. And I am for the rules of the Communist Party which fights for the classless society against exploitation and ignorance."

* * * * *

The three agitators:

"We come from Moscow."

* * * * *

The young comrade:

"The two of us have to defend the Revolution here. Surely you have a letter to us from the Central Committee which tells us what to do?"

* * * * *

The three agitators:

"So it is: we bring you nothing. But across the border, to Mukden, we bring to the Chinese workers the teachings of the Classics and of the propagandists: the A B C of Communism; to the ignorant the truth about their situation; to the oppressed, class conscience; to the class-conscious, the experience of the Revolution. From you we shall requisition an automobile and a guide."

The four agitators:

"So the young comrade from the border station was in accord with us as to the nature of our mission, and we - four men and a woman - proceeded toward the director of the party headquarters."

* * * *

The four agitators:

"But the work in Mukden was illegal, hence we had to 'cover up our faces'; our young comrade agreed to this. We repeat the incident..."

* * * *

The director of the party headquarters:

"I am the director of the last party headquarters. I am giving my approval of having the comrade from my station go along with you as a guide. There is, however, unrest in the factories of Mukden, and these days the whole world is looking toward this city (waiting to see) whether or not one of us is coming out of the huts of the Chinese workers, and I hear that there are gunboats in the rivers and armored trains on the rails ready to attack us the moment one of us is seen there. I am therefore recommending to the comrades to cross the border as Chinese. You must not be seen."

* * * *

"The director of the party headquarters."

* * * *

The two agitators:

"Yes."

* * * *

"The director of the party headquarters hands them masks."

* * * *

The three agitators:

"The director of the party headquarters."

* * * *

"The director of the party headquarters."

* * * *

The young comrade:

"The director of the party headquarters (calling out loudly): 'In the interest of Communism, in sympathy with the marching on of the proletarian masses of all countries, saying yes to the revolutionizing of the world.'"

* * * *

The four agitators:

"We went as Chinese to Mukden - four men and a woman - to spread propaganda and to create the Chinese party through the teachings of the Classics and of the propagandists - the A B C

it thinks, wherever I live there is its home, and wherever you are attacked, there it fights."

The young comrade:

* * * *

"I saw too much. Therefore I step before them as the one I am and tell the truth. (He removes his mask and yells) - We have come to help you. We come from Moscow. (He tears up his mask)."

* * * *

The young comrade:

"In the interest of Communism, in accord with the on march of the proletarian masses of all countries saying 'yes' to the revolutionizing of the world."

* * * *

"And your work was happy (successful), and you have spread the teachings of the Classics, the A B C of Communism: (You have brought to) the ignorant knowledge of their situation, to the oppressed class consciousness and the experience of the Revolution. And the Revolution marches there too. And there too the lines of the fighters are orderly. We are in accord with you. But also, your report shows us how much is needed to change the world; ire and tenacity, knowledge and uprising; quick action; deep thinking; cold suffering; endless waiting; understanding of the individual and understanding of the whole masses. Only taught by reality can we change reality."

* * * *

4.

THE NEW SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
66 W TWELFTH ST NEW YORK

September 12, 1940

Honorable Sir:

In connection with the non-quota visa application of Dr. Hanns Eisler, I wish to confirm the fact that he has taught at our institution in the capacity of Professor during the following specific periods:

October 5, 1935	to	January 18, 1936
February 2, 1938	to	May 21, 1938
October 5, 1938	to	May 24, 1939
October 4, 1939	to	January 24, 1940
March 13, 1940	to	May 29, 1940

I also wish to make mention of the fact that Dr. Eisler is conducting experimental demonstrations of music in film production at our institution in connection with the Rockefeller Foundation. This study commenced on February 1, 1940 and is to run over a two-year period.

Yours truly,

Fred Grotz

COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS
N. Y. Co. Clerk's No. 89
N. Y. Co. Reg. No. 29 C1
Commission Expires May 2, 1941

AJ:SM

Alvin Johnson

Alvin S. Johnson
President

Honorable Horatio Mooers
American Consulate
Mexicali, Mexico

References for Hanna Haler

Professor Arnold Schoenberg
University of California at Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Mr. Rudolf Kolisch (Leader of Kolisch Quartette, NDG Concert service)
219 West 81st St.
New York City

Mr. Georg Szell (Conductor NBC)
7 Park Avenue
New York City

Mr. Artur Schnabel (Pianist)
Hotel Stuyvesant
2 West 86th St.
New York City

Dr. Frits Stiedry (Conductor)
New Friends of Music
15 West 44th St.
New York City

Mr. Carl Engel
G. Schirmer & Co.
3 East 43rd St.
New York City

Professor Charles Seeger (Director, Pan American Union)
9606 Fairway Ave.
Silver Spring, Maryland

Mr. John Marshall
Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th St.
New York City

Mr. Erich Leinsdorf (Conductor)
Metropolitan Opera House
New York City

Dr. Karl Menges
Columbia University
New York City

Curriculum Vitae of HANNS MIELER

Hanns Mielér Born 1898, Leipsig

Gymnasium in Vienna

University of Vienna

Musical Education:

Conservatoire Vienna

Pupil of Arnold Schoenberg

Winner of 1924 Prize for musical composition of the City of Vienna

While still a student he was appointed also as teacher of Harmony, Counterpoint and Composition for the city of Vienna in 1919-1924 and for Composition in the "Volkshochschule" in Vienna (similar to a University Extension)

of
Teacher / Harmony, Counterpoint and Composition at the Stern'sche Conservatoire and later at Volkshochschule, Berlin, 1924-1933

Delivered many guest lectures at the Conservatories and Universities of Prague, Vienna, Paris, Brussels, Antwerp, Copenhagen, Strassbourg, London.

1924 Appointed teacher of Theory, Composition and History of Music, New School for Social Research

1935 Appointed Head of the Music Department, New School for Social Research

1939 Received a grant from Rockefeller Foundation for research on music and the film.

Composer of many chamber, orchestral and vocal works; of scores for numerous plays, including *The Mother*, *The Expedient*, *The Roundheads* and *the Pointed Heads*, *Danton's Death*, *Night Music*, *Medicine Show*; for motion pictures, including *No-Man's Land*, *Kuhle-Wampe*, *Le Grand Jeu* (with Jacques Feyder), *In the Streets*, *The New Earth*, *Pete Kulem* and *His Cousins for the Petroleum Building* at the New York World's Fair, *The Four Hundred Million*, *Soil for the U.S. Department of Agriculture*, *White Floods*, *Forsotten Village*.

the School, compensation for the lectures to be given by him was on a salary-guaranteed basis, ranging from \$1,000 in 1935 to \$3,000 in 1942, per school term. However, review of the above payments made to him indicates that while he taught the periods 1935 to 1936 and 1938 to 1942, the total compensation received by him amounted to only \$2,026.06.

In addition to the lecturing Eisler did at the School, he also directed the research under a Rockefeller music fund grant made to The New School in the year 1940. The Rockefeller grant was made to the School for the purpose of experimenting with musical arrangements as applied to the film industry. The ledger of expenses shows that the School was granted the sum of \$20,160 to carry out this project and that of this sum Eisler received as salary \$8,250, salary payments running from February 28, 1940 through and including October 1, 1942. In this connection, it will be noted that Eisler received over \$1,000 as salary from June 4 to October 1 during the period when he was in Hollywood, California.

* A portion of the lectures for this course given by Horensteiner during the period Eisler returned to Mexico.

** Card indicates Eisler was called to Hollywood April 10, 1942.

7624464

Memo re: EUGEN BERTHOLD FRIEDRICH BRECHT.

File 7624464 of the Immigration and Naturalization Service indicates that Eugen Berthold Friedrich Brecht was issued a quota immigration visa by the American Consul at Helsinki, Finland, September 3, 1941. According to information appearing in the application for visa, the subject is a native and citizen of Germany, of the Caucasian race, 49 years of age, having been born at Augsburg, Germany on February 10, 1898; his occupation is shown as writer; and he was destined to William Dieterle of 3351 North Knoll Drive, Hollywood, California. His purpose in entering the United States was to reside permanently.

The record further indicates that the subject was admitted to the United States for permanent residence upon presentation of the said immigration visa at the port of San Pedro, California, July 21, 1941. His application for certificate of identity as an alien enemy indicates that he received his German citizenship by birth and lost it by expatriation by the Nazi Socialist Government in 1933. He claimed the only organization to which he belonged at that time was the Pen Club (author's club). Under relatives living in the United States he listed Helene Brecht wife, Stefan Brecht son, and Maria Barbara Brecht daughter, all of 817 - 25th Street, Santa Monica, California.

On February 10, 1947, the subject filed an application for a return permit in which he stated that he was desirous of going abroad to negotiate with publishing houses concerning the publication and translation of his works in Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, France and Italy, and for the purpose of negotiating with theatres in the said countries concerning the production of his plays. The application further indicates that his temporary address abroad would be c/o Praesens-Films, Weinbergstr. 15, Zurich, Switzerland, and that he had declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States December 8, 1941, and had been issued Certificate No. 112901 in the District Court for the Southern District of California at Los Angeles, California. On March 11, 1947, permit No. 1437991 was issued to the subject.

The file does not contain any information derogatory to the subject.

Helene Brecht *Wife*
Stefan Brecht *Son*
Maria Barbara Brecht *Daughter*

BRECHT Berthold

8/17/62
bjm

HOAC

Investigative Name Files

Series 1

8 983 3-15-1

Screened

10-26-06

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on
Un-American Activities

Washington, D. C.

MEMO

May 10, 1947

TO: Mr. Robert E. Stripling
Chief Investigator

FROM: D. T. Appell

SUBJECT: Berthold Brecht

According to the files of the Visa Division, State Department, Berthold Brecht, in a telegram from the American Consulate at Stockholm, Sweden, dated April 24, 1940, is described:

"Individual is a German author who came to Sweden in 1936. Went recently to Finland. Reported to have said he hopes to join friends in New York, no visa issued in Sweden. Police understand he has been in Russia and is very much to the left.

"I have received a telegram for him addressed to this Consulate General signed Alvin Johnson, President of New School for Social Research, offering him appointment as lecturer in literature. Helsinki informed.

/s/ Johnson"

A telegram from Helsinki dated May 3, 1940, stated that Brecht had, on April 28, applied for a visa for himself and family. In this telegram Brecht was referred to as Bert Oldbrecht. The State Department, in reply, asked for true identification of Oldbrecht, understood by the Department to be Bert Brecht.

On May 11, 1940, Helsinki wired:

"Identified as Bert Oldbrecht by German passport issued New York January 28, 1936. He claimed residence Berlin from birth to 1933, in Denmark to 1938, in Sweden to 1940. Spent five months in New York 1935. Visited Russia 1931 and Austria 1932. Stated he is not Communist, has Jewish wife and two children. Visitor's visa refused because he has no domicile abroad to which he could return."

On June 5, 1940, Helsinki wired:

"Berthold Brecht definitely identified as Bert Brecht. He was thoroughly examined on the basis of the Department's telegram No. 79 to Stockholm and we are satisfied that he is not inadmissible under law specified. President Johnson of the New School for Social Research has invited him to join faculty until next January. Brecht desires visitors visas for himself, family and secretary and will have permits to reenter Finland. Please telegraph whether Department has objection to issuance."

Bessie Beatty, Secretary of "The P.E.N." (a World Association of Writers), American Center, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City, wrote the Visa Division in behalf of Brecht. She wrote that she knew him only through his clever version of "The Beggars' Opera", which was a tremendous hit in pre-Hitler Germany. She continued: "I also know that Dorothy Thompson holds Brecht in good esteem as it was at her direction that he was invited to the Pen World Congress of Writers last year."

Brecht was not issued a visitor's visa and on April 18, 1941,

Helsinki wired:

"Berthold Brecht and two children have now executed formal application for immigration visas. Brecht has presented evidence of new appointment as lecturer on faculty of the New School for Social Research and support guaranteed by William Dieterle, Hollywood producer. Since he has, upon careful examination, shown he is not inadmissible under the immigration laws, his case is referred to the Department."

On April 24, 1941, the Department wired Helsinki that there would be no objection to the issuance of visas to Berthold Brecht and family.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMO

May 10, 1947

Berthold Brecht

As a cross reference to the above, see Anna Seghers report.

Berthold Brecht is listed as a personal correspondent of Anna Seghers. The source from which the Civil Attache Office in Mexico received this information, describes Brecht as a German Refugee, author and Communist.

Ruth Fischer has stated that in her opinion, Brecht wrote the words to some of Hanns Eisler's revolutionary songs and it is my understanding that the two of them are now engaged on the music score of a picture now in production.

Donald T. Appell.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMO

August 8, 1947

TO: Mr. Robert E. Stripling
Chief Investigator

FROM: Robert B. Gaston
Investigator

SUBJECT: Hanns Eisler - Employment by Department of Agriculture Soil
Conservation Service in production of motion picture.

Mr. Gordon Zimmerman, chief of the Division of Information, Soil
Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, is the source of the
following information relative to the motion picture stated by Mr. Russell
to be entitled "Soil" and produced in 1938.

This picture - its real name being "The Living Land" - was produced
by the Soil Conservation Service. Mr. George Barnes, then chief of the
Division of Information of the SCS, was in charge of the production of
the picture, he being the person whose idea it was; the script was written
by a Helen Hill, then a writer for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics;
the editing was by Reed Haythorne, a camera man employed by the Department
of Agriculture; and the narrative was by Milton Eisenhower who succeeded
Mr. Barnes as chief of the Information Division and who had been Land Use
Coordinator in the Department of Agriculture. Hanns Eisler wrote the score
for the picture and Oscar Levant was the conductor of the orchestra.

The method used by SCS in making such a picture, which was one reel,
less than 380 feet, is to let out the making of the picture to various
contractors, i.e., production is given to one contractor, music and talent

to another contractor, etc. As a result of this method, the Department of Agriculture does not know how Eislser was chosen to compose the score for this picture. The man to whom the contract for music and composition for "The Living Land" was assigned was James Bradford, deceased, who was paid \$890 on January 29, 1940, for his services on the picture. Mr. Zimmerman believes that Eislser's share of this money was probably around \$100, since that was the average at the time the picture was produced. The GAO voucher number for the work is 115927.

It was ascertained that this picture was poorly produced and it was immediately withdrawn from use by the SCS, the narrative being too intellectual to be used for the purpose for which it was intended. It is now out of circulation.

Mr. Barnes was with the Department from 1935 to 1940, when he left to go with the Office of Facts and Figures, predecessor of the OWI, and he is now chief of the Press Division of the United Nations.

Mr. Eisenhower is now president of the Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, Manhattan, Kansas.