



Afterword

There are many kinds of fiction. While Smith and Rani are historical inventions, Gruenberg was a contemporary one, the creation of Joseph Goebbels' fertile imagination. His writings were remarkably prescient, with just the right touch of oracular ambiguity. Peace came, as predicted, in August 1945, but the event was the Allied defeat of Japan rather than some sort of truce with Germany. Goebbels and his wife Magda killed their five children and then suicided the day after Hitler's death. She had great confidence in Gruenberg's predictions. It is not known whether her husband ever disabused her.

1948 was the year of the Berlin Airlift, which led to the creation of NATO and the Federal Republic of Germany. Germany, or three-quarters of it, was readmitted to the Western family of nations in order to present a united front against what Hitler called Russian Jewish Bolshevism. He might well have regarded it as his greatest geopolitical triumph.