

ANCIENT CITY OF KRAKOW



PADEREWSKI

# POLAND

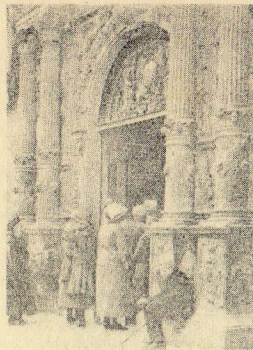
CENTURIES OF OPPRESSION  
HAVE NEVER EXTINGUISHED  
THE HOPE OF LIBERTY



NAERØ DAL

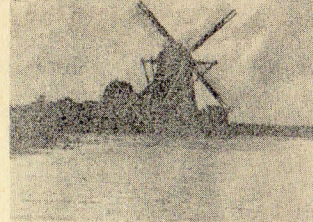
# NORWAY

FREEDOM IS A CREED · LIBERTY A  
NECESSITY FOR THE SONS  
OF THE ANCIENT VIKINGS



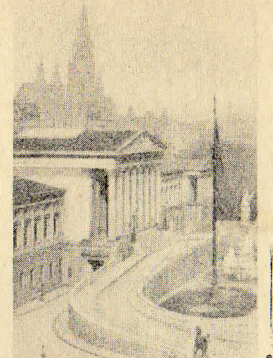
# LUXEMBOURG

THE "CROSSROADS" OF EUROPE  
A BEAUTIFUL PAWN ON THE  
CHECKERBOARD OF EMPIRE



# THE NETHERLANDS

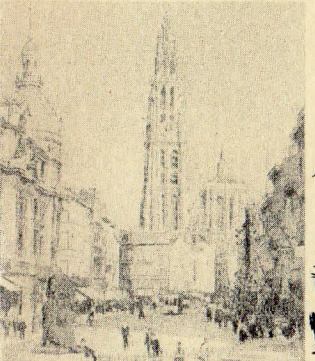
LAND OF SHIPS AND WINDMILLS  
AND HOME OF A STURDY PEOPLE



VIENNA

# AUSTRIA

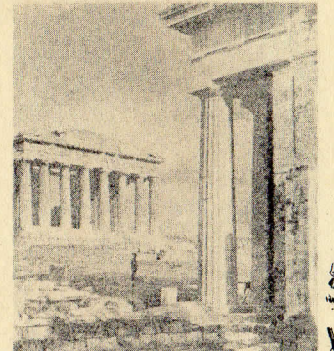
HOME OF MOZART AND STRAUSS  
A LAND OF BEAUTY  
AND CIVILIZATION



# BELGIUM

TRAGIC "COCKPIT" OF EUROPE  
FOR CENTURIES THE BATTLEGROUND  
OF FOREIGN ARMIES

## An AMERICAN PHILATELIC TRIBUTE to *the Occupied Nations* ★ 1943



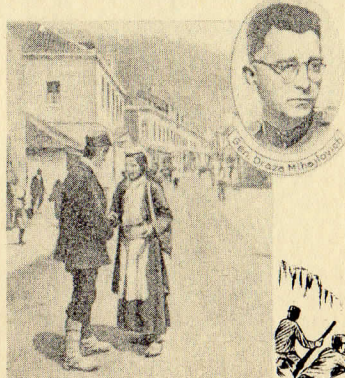
# GREECE

THREE THOUSAND YEARS  
OF GLORIOUS AND HEROIC HISTORY



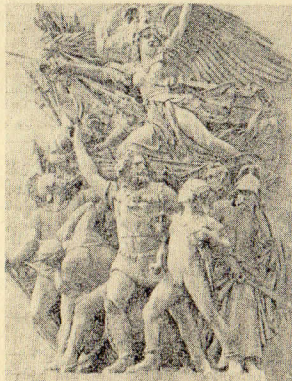
# ALBANIA

HOME OF FIGHTING MOUNTAINEERS  
A KEY POINT IN THE ADRIATIC



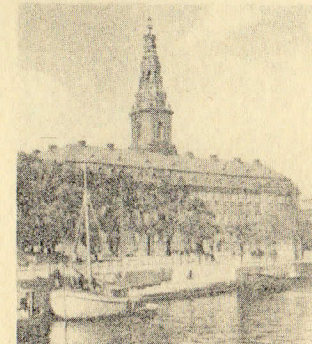
# YUGOSLAVIA

HOMELAND OF THE "CHETNICKS"  
AND OTHER  
LIBERTY LOVING GROUPS



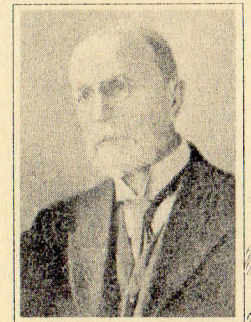
# FRANCE

"LA MARSELLAISE" A DETAIL OF  
THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE, PARIS  
SYMBOLIZING THE FRENCH SPIRIT  
OF REVOLT AGAINST TYRANNY



# DENMARK

THE OLDEST KINGDOM  
IN EUROPE  
THE OLDEST FLAG IN THE WORLD



T. G. MASARYK

# CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CARRYING THE TORCH FOR THE  
LIBERTY LOVING PEOPLE  
OF THE WORLD



*An Historic Collection*  
*of*  
UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS  
*The "OCCUPIED NATIONS" Series*  
Of 1943



ISSUED TO HONOUR  
THE TWELVE MARTYRED NATIONS OF EUROPE  
NOW UNDER GERMAN DOMINATION

*"Fortitude and Patience"*



# THE TWELVE OCCUPIED NATIONS

**POLAND.** The attack on Poland, on the morning of September 1st, 1939, brought about Great Britain's declaration of war by the Chamberlain Government, and thus, on that day, the Second World War began. Russia moved in on Poland from the east almost immediately. Poles fought bravely for nearly a month, but were no match for the German mechanized forces with their new "Blitz" type of warfare. Organized resistance was pretty well crushed by September 27th.

Germany and Russia signed a Treaty of Partition, September 29th, under which, the Reich took over 72,500 square miles, the Soviet 78,000. Later, about one third of Poland was incorporated into the Third Reich. On July 30th, 1941, a Polish-Russian treaty abrogated the German-Russian accord.

Few of Poland's leaders escaped, but a Polish Government in Exile is functioning in Gt. Britain. Polish air men have rendered valiant service in the Royal Air Force.

**AREA — 150,470 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 34,775,000.**  
**CAPITAL — WARSAW.**

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** In industry as well as agriculture, this little country, which came into being as a result of World War Number One, was about the best developed of any in Europe. It was a victim of Hitler even before the invasion of Poland began. Under the appeasement program of 1938, the Sudetan land was occupied — October 1st. More territory was conceded in November, and virtually complete control was taken by the Germans when, on March 14, 1939, Prague was seized and Slovakia declared its independence under "Hitler's Protection".

Dr. Joseph Tiso was named Premier; elevated to the Presidency on October 26, 1939. Reinhard Heiderich was appointed Protector September 27, 1941. He was assassinated in June, 1942. Shortly afterwards, the little village of Lidice was charged with having aided the assassins, and was completely destroyed. Every adult man was shot; the women carried away to Germany to an unknown fate, and the children sent to various institutions.

The Czech Government now functions from London.

**AREA — 54,244 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 15,247,000.**  
**CAPITAL — PRAGUE.**

**NORWAY.** The invasion of Norway began with that of Denmark, in April, 1940. The Germans met with stiff resistance by the loyal Norwegians, aided in a small way by a small force of British troops landed above Bergen, and by the British fleet. These forces, however, were gradually overcome, and by Mid-June control of the entire country was pretty much in German hands. Norwegian Nazis had formed a strong organization throughout the country called the "Nasjonal Samling" Party, whose members joined openly in welcoming the invaders and giving them every possible assistance. The notorious head of this group, Vidkun Quisling, was appointed Minister President and has worked assiduously since in behalf of Hitler, Himmler & Co. The name "Quisling" is now synonymous throughout the world for "Traitor".

King Haakon VII and most of his loyal ministers escaped and have set up a Government in Exile in Great Britain.

**AREA — 124,556 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 2,937,000.**  
**CAPITAL — OSLO.**

**LUXEMBOURG.** This is the smallest of the Occupied Nations. It was occupied on May 10, 1940, and shortly afterwards, incorporated into the Reich Custom's Border, with German money made legal tender. Later, on August 30, 1942, it was formally incorporated into the Third Reich.

The Luxembourg Government in Exile, under Grand Duchess Charlotte, is now established at Montreal.

**AREA — 999 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 301,000.**  
**CAPITAL — LUXEMBOURG.**

**NETHERLANDS.** Hollanders awoke to the fact that their country was being invaded on the same day that Luxembourg was overrun and Belgium was attacked. The assault came without warning, May 10th, 1940, only a few months after Germany had signed

a Pact guaranteeing to respect Holland's neutrality. In spite of stout resistance, the country was completely overrun and subdued in four days. The most appalling destruction and loss of life took place at Rotterdam. The city was practically wiped out by air bombardment, and more than 30,000 civilians were killed.

Queen Wilhelmina and her Government escaped to England; Princess Juliana and her family moved to Canada.

**AREA — 12,704 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 8,728,569.**  
**CAPITAL — GRAVENHAGE.**

**BELGIUM.** Was invaded May 10th and capitulated May 28th when King Leopold surrendered and permitted the Germans to take him prisoner. He has since been held at one of his own residences at Laeken. His sudden withdrawal from the conflict so soon after the Hollanders had been subdued, left the British in dire peril, and some 300,000 leaving all of their heavy equipment behind, were compelled to effect the Dunquerque evacuation.

Premier Pierlot and other members of the Cabinet escaped, first to Paris, later to London. From the former city they denounced the King's act in surrendering, as illegal. The Cabinet, and both Presidents of the two Chambers, were unanimous in disassociating themselves with the King. A Government in Exile is now functioning from London.

Belgium is the most densely populated country in Europe, with 710 persons to the square mile.

**AREA — 11,775 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 8,386,000.**  
**CAPITAL — BRUSSELS.**

**FRANCE.** With its Maginot Line, was considered by her Military leaders to be practically impregnable against another invasion from Germany. This great line of fortifications, however, was of little avail once Belgium had capitulated and the British, defending France's western border, were driven back to England. And so France fell to the conqueror as had Poland and the Low Countries.

This greatest of all the Nations to suffer German domination was partially occupied after the Armistice of June 22, 1940. The Germans had entered Paris on June 14th, when the French Government moved to Bordeaux. After the Armistice, on July 2nd, the seat of Government was moved to Vichy, and on July 11th, Marshall Henri Petain was proclaimed Head of State. France was wholly occupied immediately following the invasion of North Africa by the Allies, in November, 1942.

General Charles de Gaulle established a Government of sorts in London, known as the "Free French", which cooperated with the British in maintaining resistance to the Germans during that terrible year when the British were pretty much alone, and all England was suffering heavy aerial bombardment.

**AREA — 212,659 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 41,907,000.**  
**CAPITAL — PARIS.**

**GREECE.** It was Italy that decided to take over Greece in 1940, and launched its attack on October 20th, through Albania. But the Greeks resisted fiercely; the Italians were thrown back far into Albania, and, for a time, it looked as though they might even be cleared out of that country. But, on April 6th, 1941, Germany launched a strong attack, with powerful mechanized forces, from Bulgaria, and the whole of Greece was soon overrun, despite the heroic efforts of the Greeks themselves, aided to the best of their ability, by such British forces as it had been possible to land.

The German-Italian forces entered Athens on April 27th. King George with some of the members of his Government, escaped to Crete. Driven from there, when the Germans took that island, he crossed to Egypt in a British warship, and later went on to England, where a Government in Exile was set up under Premier Tsouderos. The German-Italian forces entered Athens on April 27.

**AREA — 50,257 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 7,108,814.**  
**CAPITAL — ATHENS.**

**YUGOSLAVIA.** Although largely "occupied" this country has, perhaps, kept up a more incessant resistance to the invader than any other. To-day it is one of Hitler's worst headaches (Oct. 1943). It took

the Germans almost the entire year, 1941, to gain anything like control. Two factions, the Chetniks, under the Minister of War, General Draja Mihailovitch, and the Partisans, under General Josip Broz (Tito), although inimical to each other, have kept up active warfare under extremely difficult conditions, immobilizing many Nazi divisions.

King Peter escaped to England with his Prime Minister, Dusan Simovitch, where they set up a Government in Exile.

**AREA — 95,558 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 16,200,000.**  
**CAPITAL — BELGRADE.**

**ALBANIA.** With very little possibility of resistance, Mussolini seized this small Kingdom April 7th, 1939. Strangely enough, Albania's independence had been procured, from the Turks, by Italy 27 years previously — November 28, 1912. In the interval, it had seen many turbulent years. During the first World War it fell into a state of complete anarchy. In June, 1917, Italian forces under General Ferrero restored order. Albania's independence was formally assured by a Treaty of August 2nd, 1920. It adopted the republican form of Government in December, 1924, but the system didn't work. So, in September, 1928 a Constitutional Monarchy was established and King Zog became Ruler.

When the Italians moved in on April 7th, 1939, King Zog and his suite fled. The Albanian Assembly offered the crown to King Victor Emanuel on April 12th, 1939, and it was accepted with due ceremony.

**AREA — 10,629 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 1,003,000.**  
**CAPITAL — TIRANA.**

**AUSTRIA.** Hitler entered Austria at the head of a strong force of troops, tanks, etc., on March 12th, 1938. With the assent and full cooperation of Austrian Nazis, union with the Third Reich was proclaimed on March 15th, 1938. Austrian Nazi leader, Arthur Seyss Inquart, was appointed "Statthalter" (Governor). German troops were despatched to many sections of the country to enforce compliance with the new order. Little resistance was ever offered.

At the Moscow Conference between the representatives of United States, Great Britain and Russia, the question of Austria's status now and after the War received special consideration. Among the decisions documented on November 1st, was this: Austria, the first free country to fall a victim to Hitlerite aggression, shall be liberated from German domination. The annexation was declared null and void. Austria was reminded that in the final settlement, account will be taken of her own contribution to her liberation.

**AREA — 32,360 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 6,748,000.**  
**CAPITAL — VIENNA.**

**DENMARK.** In May, 1939, Germany signed a Pact with Denmark, pledging non-aggression. None-the-less, on April 9th, 1940, troops moved into the country, and took over complete control, using it as a base for its attendant attack on Norway. King Christian and his government remained at their posts and, until recently have been allowed to administer a certain amount of civil Government in spheres not conflicting with German War activities. To-day (Late 1943) the country is under complete subjugation.

**AREA — 16,571 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 3,805,000.**  
**CAPITAL — COPENHAGEN.**

## THE OCCUPIED NATIONS

### TOTAL

**AREA — 772,782 SQUARE MILES.**  
**POPULATION — 147,145,000 PEOPLE**

## THE AXIS IN EUROPE

### GERMANY

**AREA — 181,683 SQUARE MILES.**  
**POPULATION — 66,020,000.**  
**CAPITAL — BERLIN.**

### ITALY

**AREA — 119,703 SQUARE MILES.**  
**POPULATION — 41,177,000.**  
**CAPITAL — ROME.**

### TOTAL

**AREA — 301,383 SQUARE MILES.**  
**POPULATION — 107,197,000 PEOPLE**



# OCCUPIED NATIONS SERIES

1943



**POLAND**  
*Issued June 22*



**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**  
*Issued July 12*



**NORWAY**  
*Issued July 27*



**LUXEMBOURG**  
*Issued August 10*



**NETHERLANDS**  
*Issued August 24*



**BELGIUM**  
*Issued September 14*



**FRANCE**  
*Issued September 28*



**GREECE**  
*Issued October 12*



**YUGOSLAVIA**  
*Issued October 26*



**ALBANIA**  
*Issued November 9*



**AUSTRIA**  
*Issued November 23*



**DENMARK**  
*Issued December 7*



# TRIBUTE

## TO THE PEOPLE OF THESE LANDS



FROM the North Cape of Norway to the Spanish frontier, German invading armies are holding down with brute force and terrorism the Nations of Western Europe. Norway, Denmark, the Low Countries, France — are all under Hitler's grip, and all seething with the spirit of revolt. Nazi firing parties are busy. Every day innocent hostages, or prominent citizens are arrested haphazard, taken out and shot in cold blood.

In Poland, Yugoslavia and Greece, thousands have been brutally murdered. For every one execution which Hitler has ordered in the West, he has carried out at least 200 in Eastern and Central Europe.

I join my voice in honouring to-day the brave peoples of these occupied nations. Let us pay tribute to the valour and sacrifice of those who have fallen, and to the courage and endurance of those who fight to-day. Let us remember, man, woman and child, who in the oppressed and tortured countries, works for the day of liberation coming.

WINSTON CHURCHILL, *October, 1942.*



AS we are met here to-night, men and women in all parts of the world are dying for the sake of the cause we uphold. The Chetnik, in the mountains of Yugoslavia, Poland, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Brave citizens of these countries are murdered daily by the agents of the Gestapo. All of these are offering up their lives because of their belief in what you and I believe.

The Nazis might have learned from the last war the impossibility of breaking men's spirit by terrorism. Man, born to freedom, in the image of God, will not forever suffer the oppressor's sword. The peoples of the United Nations are taking the sword from the oppressor's hands.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, *June, 1942.*



*The seeds of Liberty may be suppressed,  
But not extinguished,  
By spilling human blood.  
And oftentimes, from blood,  
They spring again,  
With fresh luxuriance.*

ALFIERI

Not by an honourable foe,  
In equal combat, blow for blow,  
Under a decent sky,  
Beneath the impartial sun  
Were you undone and left to die.  
Ah, no! But by each slippery ruse  
The wolf and buzzard use:  
Stalked by that obscene pack  
In stealthy and abominable attack.  
Struck down at last when,  
Faint with hunger,  
You could no longer  
Stand and strike back.

And when you fell,  
You fell like some great star,  
Not broken by defeat or pale surrender,  
But falling in dreadful splendor.  
And earth and heaven, and the towers  
Of time, both near and far,  
Were shaken with shouts of terror calling;  
And the blood-red wheels of war,  
Bright and brawling,  
Across the firmament streaked a livid scar.

So you went down; yet, in your dying,  
Cast a shadow across the craters of the  
    moon as vast, as bright,  
As the Archangel's trumpet blast of light,  
A shadow upon the hearts of men as well,  
To stretch our souls from heaven down to hell.

This we declare:  
By all men in extremity everywhere,  
By earth and water, by fire and air,  
We solemnly swear:  
Homer is not dead;  
The loins that bred Ulysses  
Will again beget such men.  
And this is our creed:  
The sun that sees Fascist and Hun  
Cleansed from the land of Demosthenes,  
Will once more in amazement stare upon  
The Parthenon.  
From "An open letter to the Unconquerable Greeks"

By JOSEPH AUSLANDER,  
*September, 1943*



# OCCUPIED NATIONS SERIES

## November 2, 1944

On this date, nearly a year after the original twelve stamps of this series had been issued, this one, honouring Korea, appeared.

Its issue was probably inspired by the joint declaration of Messrs. Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-Shek, from Cairo, November 1943, asserting the intent of the United Nations that "Korea shall, in due course, become free and independent."

A delegation of prominent Koreans, attending the First Day Ceremony at Washington, included Dr. Henry Chung, Dr. J. K. Dunn, Y. Kim, D. Chung, S. Ahn, Dr. James Shinn, the Misses Marian and Lillian Lee, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Mary Lim, Mrs. Inez Pai, and other patriots who had led the long, bitter struggle for Korean independence.

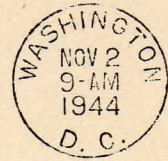


THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN, SEOUL

## KOREA

YEARS OF OPPRESSION HAVE NEVER  
EXTINGUISHED THE SPIRIT OR HOPE FOR  
COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE

朝鮮  
半島



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



**KOREA.** Of all the "Occupied Nations" Korea has longest endured occupation — for more than 35 years. After the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95, it was guaranteed "complete independence". But, during the next decade, Russia exercised an increasing degree of control and influence. This was the immediate cause of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05. Under the Peace Treaty signed by these two nations, at the conclusion of hostilities, Russia recognized Japan's paramount interest in Korea. Accordingly, Japan remained in military occupation, and, without leave of the people of Korea, or anyone else, annexed the whole country outright, August 22nd, 1910.

Korea — listed on some maps as "Chosen" — is one of the World's most ancient Kingdoms, its history dating back as far as the 12th Century, B.C. It occupies the mountainous peninsula in North-eastern Asia which separates the Yellow Sea from the Sea of Japan and has a coast line of more than

6,000 miles. In the North, it barely touches Siberia, near to Vladivostok, and has a 500 mile frontier along Southern Manchuria.

The Country is rich in timber and minerals, including important gold and silver areas. The climate is dry and bracing, ideal for the Mulberry Tree which is essential to silkworm culture. More than three million people are now engaged in this industry. Rice, Barley, Wheat and Beans are the leading agricultural products.

There is a small, but devoted group of Koreans, with Headquarters in the United States, who have worked consistently, for more than a quarter of a century, to gain recognition by the Great Powers to the nation's right to freedom and independence. They were represented at the San Francisco Conference. Perhaps the day is not far distant when their goal will have been reached.

**AREA — 85,228 SQUARE MILES. POPULATION — 24,300,000.  
CAPITAL — SEOUL (KEIJO)**



A  
**DIZER**  
COLLECTION

M.C.D. 235 E. 49, N.Y.

*PBM*