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October 31, 1995

The period of 1937–1940, the years just before the Second World War, juxtaposed two opposing theories of knowledge and truth. One was the scientific search for beauty and order in the universe, as the physicists of the era were doing; the other, proferred by the politicians and tyrants, was one of hatred and evil.

Bohr and Rutherford were living examples of the physicists' viewpoint. Bohr helped out his fellow scientists when they were feeling pressure from governments by inviting them to live in his castle until a time that they felt comfortable to leave. This was a generous offer in a time when the Russian and German governments were sequestering their scientists, or driving away the ones the disliked because of race or idealogical reasons. Rutherford further loved good science, regardless of the nationality of those who were practicing it; he was truly a citizen of the world. A striking example of this occured after Kapitza was kept in Russia. Rutherford felt so sorry for the loss of Kapitza, and even more so, Kapitza's loss of his precious new laboratory, that Rutherford arranged to have the whole very expensive lab sent to Kapitza!

Political pressures were forcing many of the excellent physicists of the time from Göttingen, regardless of their scientific value, just for issues such as their origin or original nationality. Bohr, on the other hand, indiscriminately collected physicists from all over the world at his Institute.

The actions of the new political regimes remind one of an unthinking child who just wants the answer given to him by the latest trick of science. He disregards ideas from those he doesn't like, but if they happen to come up with the right answer, he grabs it without giving recognition to the originator, and without any support. This was exactly what Otto Hahn did with the results Madame Joliot-Curie found. He had no care for her ideas and gave her no support, but when she finally had the right answer, he took it.

The political engines acted as vampires, sucking the success of science and using it for their own designs, giving nothing in return. They treated the physicists like natural resources, as in the case of Kapitza, as expressed by the British Prime Minister, Baldwin: "Kapitza was commandeered as the Soviet authorities thought he was able to give important help to the electrical industry." Further evidence that they thought of scientists like natural resources was given by the Russian government: "Of course England would like to have Kapitza. We, for our part, would equally like to have Rutherford in the Soviet Union."

It is ironic, and rightly so, that the German political regimes were ultimately destroyed by their stupidity in driving away the physicists in those years. The ultimate consequence was the destruction of Germany after the war, and America's prominence in the years following.