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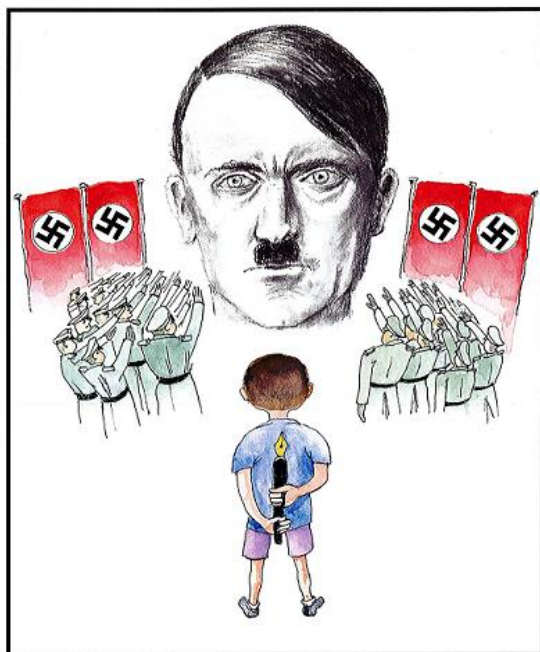
RELEVANT THEN . . .

It takes, perhaps, uncommon brashness to plunge into the **intellectual struggle** at a time . . . of “the breaking of nations.” When **values are everywhere toppling** in the high winds of conflicting dogmas. **No intellectual . . . can be indifferent today** to the social struggle or to the blackout of learning, literature, and the arts which accompanies defeat in that struggle. If the march of fascism has demonstrated nothing else it is that **the scholar is not above society** but is inextricably intertwined in its meshes. The **destruction of democracy** commences with the erosion of the intellectual classes. (1941 Editorial Board)

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Young Man Heinrich Böll



RELEVANT TODAY . . .

Georg Büchner Prize (1967) and Nobel Prize Literature (1972) recipient **Heinrich Theodor Böll**'s translated pieces evoke the metonymic adage “**the pen is mightier than the sword.**” A year before conscription into Germany's WWII army, he penned “NS-Creed (1938)” writing, “I believe in one Fuhrer of Germany, the father almighty, **creator** of the eternal Third Reich, and **of all new vileness, visible and invisible . . .**” Böll's post-POW writings emphasized profound hatred of the dehumanization of war, rejection of bourgeois values, and how to be good in a world that is far from good—**germane topics today . . .**