How Hitler inadvertently helped Stalin

The "First National Russian Division" was now given the task of organizing a partisan movement behind the Russian Front and, together with an anti-Soviet armed forces to kindle national rebellion in Russia. In fact, it was already too late for such plans. Hitler's suspicions and delusions had destroyed all chances of success, although there is evidence that the Russian population would have liked to get rid of Stalin's regime. To start with, the people had received their fellow countrymen with open arms, German troops had, even been blessed when they entered the country. But then it became evident that the Germans had not come as liberators, but as conquerors. To Stalin's delight joy turned to disappointment and hatred. He now had the people on his side, not as Party Chief, but as fellow countryman. For the Russian volunteers this development was deeply tragic. That which Stalin's terror had smashed within the country, that which the Germans could have harvested and which the National Russians had planned to utilize, in the first instance as the administrators of a re-born Russia, had now been patched up, with the psychological inability of misled party fanatics. Now, all those Russians who had joined forces in order to fight the Red Army saw their hopes shattered and realized - without considering their own fate - that Stalin and his party would emerge stronger and more powerful than ever from a victory achieved by Soviet Russia. They came to realize how gravely they had been deceived and ill-treated, even betrayed. They found too little understanding, not to mention support for their patriotic objectives.