

Hitler was anti Christian . He truly wanted to create his own church which he could control

THE GERMAN FAITH MOVEMENT was a Nazi church based on PAGAN beliefs. They worshipped the sun and had lots of nazi symbols.

WAS IT SUCCESSFUL?

Hitler hoped the German Faith movement would replace Christianity.

IN REALITY the movement was not well supported and did not challenge the dominance of Christianity



The church was one area Hitler was determined to control. He didn't like areas which were a challenge to his control

1/3rd of Germans were Catholic
2/3rds were Protestant

Hitler set about controlling the churches in different ways.

Any question on this will require you to know about 1) Catholic Church
2) Protestant church 3) German Faith Movement 4) successes / weaknesses in controlling the churches



The Catholic Church was a worry to Hitler as it had a wide following in Germany and was centred outside Germany in Rome.

HOWEVER, Hitler set about trying to control and make agreements with the Catholic Church in 1933

HITLER AGREED A CONCORDAT WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHEN HE GOT INTO POWER

This agreement with the POPE agreed that:

- 1) The CATHOLIC CHURCH WOULD KEEP OUT OF POLITICS IN GERMANY in return for ..
- 2) The Nazi party promised not to interfere in church youth groups, schools or appointments

DID THE NAZIS COMPLETELY CONTROL THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

The Catholic Church was controlled to a large extent by the Nazi party. The concordat silenced Catholic criticism. Hitler however broke his concordat promises. He soon began to control church schools and youth groups.

THERE WAS ALSO SOME SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION:

- 1) The POPE issued a message condemning the Nazis
- 2) The archbishop of Munster was successful in campaigning against euthanasia against the disabled.



GERMAN FAITH MOVEMENT

1) BACKGROUND

2) CATHOLIC CHURCH



HOW DID HITLER CONTROL THE CHURCHES?

3) PROTESTANT CHURCHES

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me. ~ Pastor Martin Niemöller



WERE THE NAZIS SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING THE CHURCHES?



YES

The Nazis were successful in controlling the churches.

- a) The Reich church controlled many Protestants and helped to indoctrinate them
- b) The Catholic Church was also successfully controlled with the concordat with the Catholic Church. Although there was later criticism of Hitler and his real intentions, by this later stage many Germans were already controlled
- c) Although there was the confessional church, this was controlled
- d) The terror regime in Germany kept many in line. Up to 800 pastors were jailed. Many Catholic priests were accused of false crimes and imprisoned
- e) The churches were too divided to provide coordinated opposition



NO, not entirely

There was coordinated and successful opposition in some areas

- a) The POPE realised the real intentions of the Nazis and sent a message to all Catholic churches condemning the Nazis
- b) THE BISHOP OF MUNSTER campaigned against EUTHANASIA of the disabled. He managed to get it stopped
- c) The CONFESSIONAL church showed that not all Protestants supported Hitler



WAS IT SUCCESSFUL?

Hitler did manage to control the Protestant church to a large extent. Even the opposition of the confessional church was mostly silenced by imprisonment and fear. Up to 800 pastors were arrested

However, the Reich church still didn't win over the majority of Protestants

