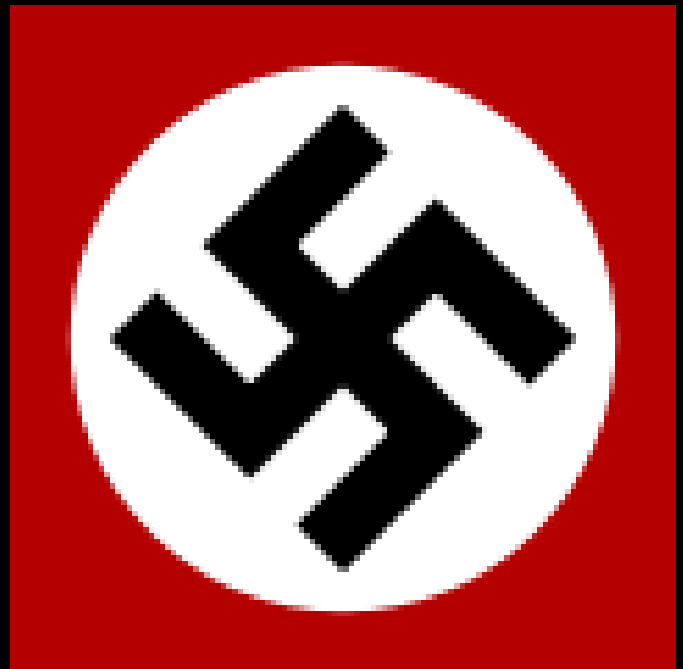
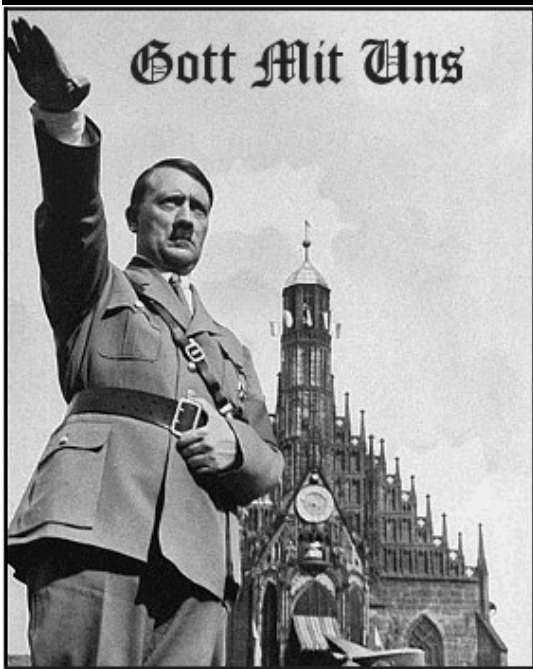


# HITLER A PROUD CHRISTIAN!

By Oleg Dei



Most people view Adolph Hitler as the embodiment of pure evil – the Dark Side. Christian Fundamentalists are quick to point out that because Hitler was an atheist, it was easy for him to be partly responsible for the deaths of over 50 million people in World War II as well as the deaths of 6 million Jews in concentration camps. Most people view Hitler as Satan or the worst person that ever lived on this planet. But was Hitler really an atheist? In this article we will examine the facts and the truths behind these claims.

Hitler was raised in a Catholic family. He went to several Catholic schools and even served as an altar boy in the Catholic Church. Growing up in this environment, he surely learned something of the

centuries of discrimination and persecution the Church had supported against Jews in Europe.

Former Jesuit theologian Peter de Rosa describes the groundwork that the Catholic theology laid down for Hitler and the Nazis: "[Catholicism's] disastrous theology had prepared the way for Hitler and his 'final solution.' The Church published] over a hundred anti-Semitic documents.

Not surprisingly, then, Hitler wrote in his book, *Mein Kampf*: ". . . I am convinced that I am acting as the agent of our Creator. By fighting off the Jews, I am doing the Lord's work." He made essentially the same claim in a speech before the Reichstag in 1938.

Hitler considered himself a Catholic until the day he died. In 1941 he told Gerhard Engel, one of his generals: "I am now as before a Catholic and will always remain so." In fact, Hitler was never excommunicated from the Catholic Church, and *Mein Kampf* was not placed on the Church's Index of Forbidden Books.

As for atheism, Hitler specifically opposed it in a 1933 speech in Berlin: "We were convinced that the people need and require this faith. We have therefore undertaken the fight against the atheistic movement, and that not merely with a few theoretical declarations: we have stamped it out." Hitler considered the atheistic Soviet Union evil and launched a full out war against them.

Hitler's biographer John Toland explains Catholicism's influence on the Holocaust. He says of Hitler: "Still a member in good standing of the Church of Rome despite detestation of its hierarchy, he carried within him its teaching that the Jew was the killer of god. The extermination, therefore, could be done without a twinge of conscience since he was merely acting as the avenging hand of god. . ."

Even after World War II, Catholic assistance to the Nazis continued. The Vatican aided the escape of more Nazis than any other governmental or private entity. Christopher Hitchens adds: "It was the Vatican itself, with its ability to provide passports, documents, money, and contacts, which organized the escape network and also the necessary shelter and succor at the other end."

The Protestant influence on Nazi Germany was no better. Hitler is said to have greatly admired the German founder of Protestantism, Martin Luther. Among Luther's many denunciations of the Jews, there are such religious sentiments as: "The Jews deserve to be hanged on gallows seven times higher than ordinary thieves," and "We ought to take revenge on the Jews and kill them."

When Hitler was asked in 1933 what he planned to do about the Jews, he said he would do what Christians had been preaching for centuries. The Nazis carried out their first large-scale attack on Jews in honor of Luther's birthday.

Christians constituted a wellspring of support for Hitler. Steve Allen notes that Nazi Germany in the 1930s "was the most church-affiliated nation in Europe. The German people were almost entirely Catholic and Lutheran. Despite such factors they launched the Holocaust and World War II." Charles Kimball likewise says the Holocaust "would not have happened without the active participation of, sympathetic support of, and relative indifference exhibited by large numbers of Christians."



**HITLER IN PRAYER**



**HITLER ATTENDING CHURCH**

Also in pre-World War II Germany, corporal punishment was used in the schools and school children were required to start their days with prayer. Today's advocates of spanking and school prayer should consider that these practices, although supported by religion, proved ineffective in promoting high ethical standards and good behavior among the German youth.

Nazi soldiers wore belt buckles inscribed "Gott mit uns" ("God is with us"). Like many tyrants both past and present, Hitler used the mantle of religion to justify and further his selfish, hateful, and destructive philosophy. By

conditioning people to blindly follow the pronouncements of authorities, instead of teaching them to think for themselves, religions often make it easy for such evil dictators to succeed.

In public statements, especially at the beginning of his rule, Hitler frequently spoke positively about the Christian heritage of the German culture and his belief in the "Aryan" Christ. "Hitler knew, through the constant invocation of the *God the Lord* (German: *Herrgott*) or of *providence* (German: *Vorsehung*), to make the impression of a godly way of thought." He used his "ability to simulate, even to potential critical Church leaders, an image of a leader keen to uphold and protect Christianity. According to Ian Kershaw - Hitler by this method succeeded in appeasing possible church resistance to Nazi Party radicals. On March 23, 1933, Hitler addressed the Reichstag: "The National Government regards the two christian confessions as factors essential to the soul of the German people. It will respect the contracts they have made with the various regions. It declares its determination to leave their rights intact. In the schools, the government will protect the rightful influence of the Christian bodies. We hold the spiritual forces of Christianity to be indispensable elements in the moral uplift of most of the German people. We hope to develop friendly relations with the Holy See" At one point he described his religious status: "I am now as before a Catholic and will always remain so." Hitler never formally ended his church membership. There were also negative statements about Christianity as reported by Hitler's companions

Goebbels, Speer, and Bormann. Joseph Goebbels, for example, notes in a diary entry in 1939: "The Führer is deeply religious, but deeply anti-Christian. He regards Christianity as a symptom of decay." Albert Speer reports a similar statement: "You see, it's been our misfortune to have the wrong religion. Why didn't we have the religion of the Japanese, who regard sacrifice for the Fatherland as the highest good? The Mohammedan religion too would have been much more compatible to us than Christianity. Why did it have to be Christianity with its meekness and flabbiness?" In the Hossbach Memorandum Hitler is recorded as saying that "only the disintegrating effect of Christianity, and the symptoms of age" were responsible for the demise of the Roman Empire. Hitler never directed his attacks on Jesus himself but viewed traditional Christianity as a corruption of the original ideas of Jesus, whom Hitler regarded as an Aryan opponent of the Jews. In *Mein Kampf* Hitler writes that Jesus made no secret of his attitude toward the Jewish people, and when necessary he even took the whip to drive them from the temple of the Lord. This was an adversary of all humanity. In return, my feelings as a Christian point me to my Lord and Savior as a fighter. It points me to the man who once in loneliness, surrounded by a few followers, recognized these Jews for what they were and summoned men to fight against them. By God's truth, Jesus was greatest not as a sufferer but as a fighter."

**As Protestantism was more open to interpretations, especially the reading of sacred scripture, Hitler demonstrated a preference for Protestantism over Catholicism. His views were supported by the German Christians.**

**Hitler believed in Arthur de Gobineau's ideas of struggle for survival between the different races, among which the "Aryan race"—guided by "Providence" or God—was supposed to be the torchbearers of civilization. In Hitler's conception Jews were enemies of all civilization. His anti-semitism was clearly guided by the teachings of Christianity at that time. In Hitler's mind it was clear, the Jews killed Christ and they were the enemy.**

**In 1998 documents were released by Cornell University from the Nuremberg Trials that revealed that Hitler planned to end Christianity at the end of WWII.**

**The documents cover the Nuremberg trials of leading Nazis and demonstrate the deliberate genocide of Jews, in which some six million Jews were killed. One senior member of the US prosecution team, General William Donovan as part of his work on documenting Nazi war crimes, compiled large amounts of documentation that the Nazis also planned to systematically destroy Christianity. They also show the different steps that would be involved including the campaign to suppress denominational and youth organizations, denominational schools, and the use of defamation against the clergy. This plan would be supported by the press, Nazi Party meetings and by traveling party speakers. The documents show that the Nazis wanted the churches neutralized because they feared that the church would oppose Nazi plans based on racism and the aggressive wars. The Nazis planned to infiltrate churches and use defamation, arrest and assault or the killing of pastors plus the re-education of church congregations. Why did Hitler suddenly turn against the church, after all he stated on numerous occasions he was a Christian? Aside from the fact that in the future the church might begin to oppose his aggressive wars, Hitler hated the Christian church because he felt they were corrupt. More importantly Hitler thought that the Christian church made a mockery of the teachings of Christ. The church portrayed Christ as a victim, were Hitler saw Christ as a crusader and a fighter. In the beginning Hitler was strongly opposed to state atheism, such as the political system of the Soviet Union, but he nevertheless desired a religiously neutral state especially during the years of his dictatorship. He feared the political power of the church and did not want to antagonize that political base until he had securely control of the country. Once in power Hitler showed his contempt for the church and sought to eliminate it from areas under his rule. From Hitler's promotion of declared atheists within his party and his use of Muslim fighters in his army, it can be concluded that Hitler tolerated different religious opinions, ranging from atheist to Islamic long as the people professing these different creeds would support the Nazi regime. Hitler often used religious symbolism in his propaganda to appease and**

promote Nazism. Hitler did not believe in a "remote, rationalist divinity" but in an "active deity," which he frequently referred to as "Creator" or "Providence". In Hitler's belief God created a world in which different races fought each other for survival as depicted by Arthur de Gobineau. The "Aryan race," supposedly the bearer of civilization, was allocated a special place in his view.

What we must fight for is to safeguard the existence and the reproduction of our race ... so that our people may mature for the fulfillment of the mission allotted to them by the creator of the universe. ... Peoples that bastardize themselves, or let themselves be bastardized, sin against the will of eternal Providence."

The Jews he viewed as enemies of all civilization and as materialistic, unspiritual beings. In his book the *Mein Kampf*: Hitler described his supposedly divine mandate for his anti-Semitism: "Hence today I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of God".



Catholic Bishop Ludwig Müller saluting the Nazis

In his rhetoric Hitler also fed on the old German hatred of Jews. Because of this it has been shown that Christian anti-Semitism influenced Hitler's ideas, especially such works as Martin Luther's essay *On the Jews and Their Lies* and the writings of Paul

De Lagarde. In support of this view, Hitler biographer John Toland states that Hitler "carried within him the teaching that the Jew was the killer of God. The extermination, therefore, could be done without a twinge of conscience since he was merely acting as the avenging hand of god..."

Another reason Hitler later opposed Christianity was because Hitler saw Christianity and Science as diametrically opposed to each other. He concluded science would win, and the Christian church would eventually in due time be destroyed. Hitler even believed science was the creation of the German race. Hitler was trying to use science — especially a twisted form of Darwinism that the Aryan race was created by God to rule the world.



**HITLER PRAYING WITH NUN**



**CLERGY SALUTING HITLER**

After the war Germany would be able to fully implement the "final solution" to the "Christian problem" so that the Nazi party would be in complete control. Hitler thought that all Christians would betray their God when they were forced to choose between the swastika and the Cross: 'Do you really believe the masses will be Christian again? Nonsense! Never again. That tale is finished.

No one will listen to it again. But we can hasten matters. The parsons will dig their own graves. They will betray their God to us. They will betray anything for the sake of their miserable jobs and incomes.



**PRIESTS SALUTING HITLER**



**HITLER & BISHOP NUNCIO ORSENIGO**

*In summary the facts are these, Hitler was brought up a Catholic and he clearly believed in Jesus and a God. It is clear he was not an atheist from the speeches he had given. His view was that the Jews betrayed Jesus and that he would be God's avenger. Obviously an atheist would not act like this, for he would not care if the Jews were or were not responsible for the death of Christ. It would be meaningless to an atheist. It is clear the Christian religion did play a part in shaping Hitler's hatred of the Jews and the church did little or nothing to stop Hitler.*



**NAZIS AND PRIESTS IN CEREMONY**



**PRIESTS SALUTING HITLER**

As Hitler rose to power, his concern over the Christian role in the government increased. His dictatorship demanded that he would control everything; nothing must get in the way. It is clear that in his later years Hitler became less and less religious and planned to betray and destroy the Christian Church. He thought that the church was corrupt and perhaps a future threat to the Nazi Party. There is no evidence that Hitler was ever an atheist but towards the end he began to hate organized religion with a passion. Since he clearly was not an atheist does this mean that he was a Christian? He definitely believed in Jesus Christ, that appears to be without question, his hatred of the Jews was inspired by Christianity, yet in later years he planned to betray and destroy the Christian church. He wanted total control and he alone would be responsible to God.

**The best way to summarize Hitler was that he was a Christian who in the end reasoned that he alone would answer to his God.**

**THIS IS YET ANOTHER WAY THAT CHRISTIANITY WARPED MINDS!**

**My point is simple - any time you have a twisted philosophy whether it is based on religious fundamentalism the results can be disastrous. Perhaps what this world needs now are strong doses of enlightenment based on science education and a good common sense of morality.**



"The National Government will regard it as its first and foremost duty to revive in the nation the spirit of unity and cooperation. It will preserve and defend those basic principles on which our nation has been built. It regards Christianity as the foundation of our national morality, and the family as the basis of national life" ('My New Order', Adolf Hitler, Proclamation to the German Nation at Berlin, February 1, 1933)



**Catholic Hitler with Catholic Cardinal**

**SOURCES: WIKIPEDIA, TRUE ORIGIN ORCHIVE, HUMANISM BY JOE.COM, ALAMOMINISTRIES.COM**