

## Hitler on Religion

In public, Hitler made statements about defending Christians from Communism. Although he did not worship or attend church, he claimed to be a Christian in the 1920s and 1930s. Throughout his rule, Hitler sought to create a church under his control to support his politics.

In private, with trusted associates, Hitler made clear his dislike of Christian “weakness” and his preference for Islam.

Comments on Islam were noted by Albert Speer,<sup>1</sup> Reich Minister of Armaments & War Production, 1942-45:

- Hitler considered Islam to be "perfectly suited to the Germanic temperament."
- Hitler: "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? Additionally, the Mohammedan religion would have been much more compatible with us than Christianity. Why did it have to be Christianity with its meekness and flabbiness?"

Another comment of Hitler's on Islam was noted by Hitler's confidants and published after the war in the joint work of Heinrich Heim, Henry Picker, and Martin Bormann:

- "Had Charles Martel not been victorious at Poitiers... then we should in all probability have been converted to Mohammedanism, that cult which glorifies heroism and which opens up the seventh Heaven to the bold warrior alone. Then the Germanic races would have conquered the world. Christianity alone prevented them from doing so."<sup>2</sup>

Note on this quote: The Battle of Poitiers, also known (more commonly) as the Battle of Tours, was a French or Frankish defeat of Muslim forces in the year 732. Charles Martel was the Frankish leader. Historically, the battle represents the furthest penetration of western Europe by Islamic invasions. While opinions on historical events inevitably differ, the battle is traditionally seen as a battle of great historical importance, deciding the religion and culture of Europe (at the least.)

### **Further Observations:**

As reported by Joseph Goebbels (Reich Leader, and Reich Minister of Public Enlightenment & Propaganda, 1933-45): "He hates Christianity, because it has crippled all that is noble in humanity."<sup>3</sup>

Historian Laurence Rees observes: "There is no evidence that Hitler himself, in his personal life, ever expressed any individual belief in the basic tenets of the Christian church."<sup>4</sup>

By 1939:

- Clergy teachers had been removed from virtually all state schools.<sup>5</sup>
- In elite Nazi schools, Christian prayers were replaced with Teutonic rituals and sun-worship.<sup>6</sup>
- All Catholic schools had been closed down or converted to public facilities.<sup>7</sup>

Several hundred German clergymen were imprisoned as enemies of the Reich, of whom ninety-four died in captivity. Most of these were Catholic.

On 22 March 1942, the German Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral letter against Nazi religious policies, entitled "The Struggle against Christianity and the Church".

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1 Speer, Albert; *Inside the Third Reich*. Trans: R Winston, C Winston, & E Davidson. Macmillan; New York, 1971; p. 143  
Alternatively found in another edition: *Inside the Third Reich: Memoirs*, Simon and Schuster; New York, 1997; p. 96

2 *Hitler's Table Talk 1941–1944*. Engima Books; New York, 2003; p. 504

3 Diaries of Goebbels, published as *The Goebbels Diaries 1939–41*; Hamish Hamilton Ltd; London, 1982; pp. 304–305

4 Laurence Rees; *The Dark Charisma of Adolf Hitler*; Ebury Press; 2012; p. 135

5 Richard Overy; *The Third Reich, A Chronicle*; Quercus; 2010; p. 157

6 *Encyclopædia Britannica*, article: *Fascism*, section: *Identification with Christianity*.

7 Evans, Richard J. (2005). *The Third Reich in Power*. Penguin; New York; pp. 245–246