

Nazism – Right or Left?

(excerpted from War Comes to God's House)

I never cease to be amazed (or complain about) how the Left has so successfully exiled Nazism from its end of the political spectrum. The socialist nature of Nazism was forthrightly displayed in “*The Program of the National Socialist German Workers' Party*” announced in Munich, February 24, 1920:

10. The primary duty of every citizen is to work either intellectually or physically. The activities of the individual must not clash with the interests of the community but must be realized within the frame of the whole and to the advantage of all.

We therefore demand:

11. Abolition of incomes unearned by either work or effort.

12. In view of the enormous sacrifices of property and life demanded of a people in every war, personal enrichment through war must be regarded as a crime against the nation. We demand, therefore, ruthless confiscation of all war profits.

13. We demand nationalization of all trusts.

14. We demand profit sharing in large concerns.

15. We demand the extensive development of old age pensions.

16. We demand the creation and maintenance of a healthy middle class, immediate communalization of department stores, and their lease at cheap rates to small merchants and extreme consideration for all small merchants in purchases by the federal government, states and municipalities.

17. We demand land reform adapted to our national needs, the enactment of a law for confiscation without compensation of land for public purposes; abolition of land interest and prevention of all speculation in land.

This program was considerably less radical than the Communists', but the main difference separating the two was German nationalism and racism versus Soviet internationalism.

Almost from the beginning, the “Left”, that is the political, academic, journalistic propaganda apparatus of Soviet Communism branded Nazism as the very embodiment of “right wing” evil (a brand that remains till this day). In reality, however, the Nazi movement (short for National Socialist German Workers Party, or NSDAP) was a creature bred on the left side of the political spectrum.

Hitler’s diabolically clever gamesmanship managed to have the beast adopted and nurtured by the “Right” until it could turn and devour its benefactor. The bloody conflict between the Nazis and the Communists sprang from rivalry for the same pool of public angst rather than major ideological differences.



“DEATH TO LIES” This Nazi campaign poster shows the strong arm of National Socialism crushing the serpent of Marxist, and Capitalist (“High Finance”) lies.

Politics was war in the desperate post WWI years; even as it is becoming now in our time. The political war was not entirely one sided either. This Social Democrat Party poster is quite... pointedly “Against” the candidates of the Centre, Nazi, and Communist parties- Papen, Hitler, and Thalman.



The failure of the Weimar Republic in the 1920's and early 30's seriously undermined confidence in both the democratic process and in democratic socialism, opening the way for more radical politics. But, the Soviet experience also had shaken the faith of many Marxist/Communist supporters.

The Nazis were always ready to welcome ex-Communists into their ranks as fellow socialists. Below is an excerpt from a 1928 propaganda piece by future Propaganda Minister Goebbels published in his party paper inviting true socialists to join them in their racist, nationalist socialism:

Things are becoming clear all over. The smoke of rhetoric is vanishing, and all that remains is a miserable remnant of fantasies that absolutely no one confuses with reality. The German proletariat is one hope poorer, perhaps its last one. Marx's game is over. Nature is in charge once again, and it has made the eternal laws pitilessly and unmistakably clear: the laws of personality, struggle, and race.

...

The International itself is in error. It is thought out, not lived. The Jew preaches it to you because it is his last chance to hold power. It has destroyed nations and peoples.

It sets citizen against citizen, destroys and poisons the community, sows mistrust between the peoples. Above it all is the triumphant mocking laughter of your enemy, of our enemy: The eternal Jew!

You stand over hecatombs of corpses. The scent of blood surrounds you. Children beg, mothers weep, nations perish! What have you gained: Nothing but chaos, hopelessness, hunger, and desperation!

Is that the way you want things to remain?

Stand up and demand a Germany that belongs to you, one that is free of the chains of the oppressor. This is the historic mission of the German working class.

Freedom and prosperity!

This is the war cry against the rotting world of capitalism!

Away with the empty rhetoric! Risk looking cold reality in the face.

Hold out your hand, German working men! The day of freedom is coming, if only you want it!

Adolf Hitler is showing you the way!

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calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive

Both 'isms were anti-democratic totalitarian philosophies. Both would submerge the individual into the mass; in Germany into the *Volk*, in Soviet Russia into the Proletariat. Both would substitute their dogma and personality cults for Christianity. Both were anti-capitalistic. Soviet Communism would own the means of production, though; whereas the Nazi's Fascist system would only control it. That concession bought powerful support in Germany.

Despite all the socialist rhetoric of the Nazis, their willingness to take on the Communist thugs in the street wars was reassuring to those who, like the Christians, would be targets of the Communists.

Let's return yet again to Mr. Hoover's analysis of the rise of Nazism - to National Socialism's economic premises. Hoover recounted how governments in states of total war had to assume control over all aspects of their nations' economies. Thus were ..."*laid the foundations of 'managed economy', and thus the economics of a new ideology - Fascism.*"

Fascism's government managed economic system can be considered a 'moderate' form of socialism; as opposed to Communism's seizing of the means of production (and killing the owners). In fact it has become the norm (only without the name "Fascism") in western democracies, including the US.

As destructive as is any form of socialism, though, it was not the Nazis' economic system that destroyed them but their hate inspired Social Darwinism applied to foreign and domestic policy.