

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



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- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
 - *Modern Empire-Building*
 - *Post-War Religion (part 4)*



The Modern Age

- Economic changes change everything...
 - 1929 Stock markets crashed
 - Yes, that's a *plural* there—the London Stock Exchange crashed in September, and Wall Street crashed the next month, sending most of the Western world into an economic tailspin

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BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE

And Complete Long Island News

★ NEW YORK CITY, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1929. ★

32 PAGES

LATE NEWS
 WALL STREET
 1-13 PAGES
 ★ ★ ★

THE CITY

WALL ST. IN PANIC AS STOCKS CRASH

Attempt Made to Kill Italy's Crown Prince

ASSASSIN CAUGHT IN BRUSSELS MOB: PRINCE UNHURT

Royal Sutor Was About to Lay Wire to Italian Soldiers' Tomb.

Prisoner, Deeply Hated, Falls Into Fiancé's Arms and Kisses Him

Hollywood Fire Destroys Films Worth Millions

ATTEMPT MADE ON LIFE

Portrait of the assassin.

Consolidated Studios Are Saved by Flame Fall to One-Minute Pictures

Banned Include Many New Title Productions

BRUSSELS, Oct. 24 (AP)—An attempt was made today to assassinate the crown prince of Italy, but the prince escaped unhurt. The assassin was caught in a mob in Brussels.

Portrait of the assassin.

FEAR 82 PERISHED IN LAKE MICHIGAN: FERRY IS MISSING

Wreckage Picked Up In Great Craft Wasn't Found Until After Noon

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Oct. 24 (AP)—A search for the wreckage of a ferry boat that was reported missing in Lake Michigan today.

Portrait of the ferry boat.

PIECE OF PLANE LIKE DITTMAN'S IS FOUND AT SEA

Black and Orange Wreckage Indicates Daring Flight With Death

AN ALBANY, N. Y., Oct. 24 (AP)—A piece of a plane, believed to be the wreckage of a plane that crashed in the ocean, was found today.

Portrait of the wreckage.

High Duty Group Gave \$700,000 to Coolidge Drive

Grundy Agrees Rate Will Rise Due to His Antagonism as Propagandist

Focus More Lying to 'Cory' Out 'Victory' With

FOR MORE LOBBYISTS

Portrait of the lobbyist.

STOCKS CRASH

IN RUSH TO SELL: BILLIONS LOST

Morgan, Maxwell Bros. Stocks in Effort to Cope with Sale of Cash and Bonds

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 (AP)—The stock market today was in a panic, with billions of dollars lost. The market was in a rush to sell.

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Portrait of the stock market.

CARNEGIE CHARGE PAID TO ATHLETES

HALTED BY AUTO POLICE

HOWER'S TRAIN

HALTED BY AUTO POLICE

WARDER SOUGHT TO KEEP SEAT TRIP

SOMERS NAMED AS HEAD OF NEW

The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Most Western economies were based on speculation and the health of the stock markets
 - So it's almost impossible to grasp how huge this was
 - Thousands lost whole fortunes overnight when the “speculation bubble” popped

(Economics 101: You can't reasonably expect the costs that you wish to expend producing your goods to stay steady while the costs that you wish other people to expend on purchasing your goods to rise—at some point, consumers simply aren't willing or able to spend that much any more, and your goods become worthless)



The Modern Age

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 - Thousands lost whole fortunes overnight when the “speculation bubble” popped
 - Suicide and homelessness rates sky-rocketed, runs on banks and savings and loans were common, as people were terrified that the banks would close and their money would be lost forever
 - Why would doing that cause *more* problems?



■ Fu



- In America, much of the blame was placed (mostly wrongly) on newly-elected U.S. President Herbert Hoover and his basic policies of government non-intervention
(For instance, ramshackle shanty-towns rose up across the nation and were usually referred to as "Hoovervilles")



The Modern Age

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 - So it's almost impossible to grasp how huge this was
 - In 1932, tens of thousands of American veterans of World War I (known as the “Bonus Army”) marched on Washington, demanding cash payment of their military pensions
 - Hoover called the police in to break up the crowds (including families), and violence erupted, ending with the death of two protesters
 - So Hoover called in the U.S. Army to fight against its own unpaid veterans
 - Army Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur led troops (which also included officers Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton) to put down the Bonus Army protests with cavalry, tanks, and tear gas
 - Public morale around the world was at an all-time low...



The Modern Age

- Economic changes change everything...

1929 Stock markets crashed

1933 The Catholic Worker movement was founded

- Begun by activists Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day, the group emphasized the mission of the total equality under Christ of *all* human beings, regardless of race or gender

- Finding kinship with both anarchists and communists, the Catholic Worker movement applauded the demise of the Papal states and the decrease of Papal political power around the world decrying “big church” hierarchies... while still actively supporting Catholic doctrinal orthodoxy

- That sympathy led Day to openly laud Lenin, Mao Zedong, and Che Guevara (all violently atheistic communists) as being glowing examples of the love and brotherhood of Christ because they focused their work on the poor (Day affirmed them even while admitting that, unfortunately, “their ends meant the seizure of power, and the building of mighty armies, the compulsion of concentration camps, the forced labor and torture and killing of tens of thousands, even millions”)



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- In the spirit of Christian communism, they set up farming communes and Houses of Hospitality (communal shelters), emphasizing the need to live out a genuine Christian love on a daily basis to all which was an *incredibly* helpful ministry for people during the Great Depression, when whole families scrambled daily to figure out where to even find scraps of bread to eat



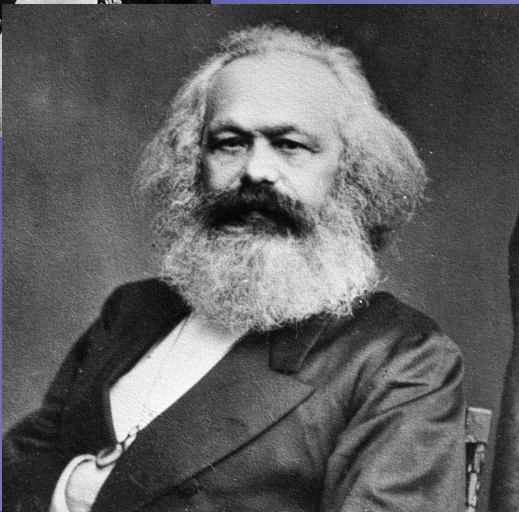
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- **By the 1960s, Day had become saddened that so much of her communal vision had been co-opted by the “hippie” movement, and that instead of a community based on Christian love and equality, a great deal of it had devolved into free love and drug use**
 - She was proposed for canonization after her death though her movement has remained committed to consciously living out the Marxist tenet of “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs” that Day set as their core foundation but there are *all sorts* of versions of Socialism out there that were growing in popularity...



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Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany

- With Western economies in shambles due to the crashes and the Great Depression—and with German economy in particular all but destroyed thanks to the Treaty of Versailles—the German people were desperate for someone to save them
 - A *nationalistic* form of socialism—where a strong government makes sure that everyone owns and controls all of the state's capital—made sense
 - And it *also* made sense to a broken and shamed Germany that all of their problems were actually the fault of someone *other* than themselves...



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Hitler had come out of the Great War feeling betrayed
 - The German-Austrian alliance *should* have worked but since it didn't—since they lost the war—then clearly, someone else was to blame for it
 - An “urban myth” arose in Germany that the German military was “stabbed in the back”
(it became known as the “*Dolchstoßlegende*”—the “dagger-thrust legend”)



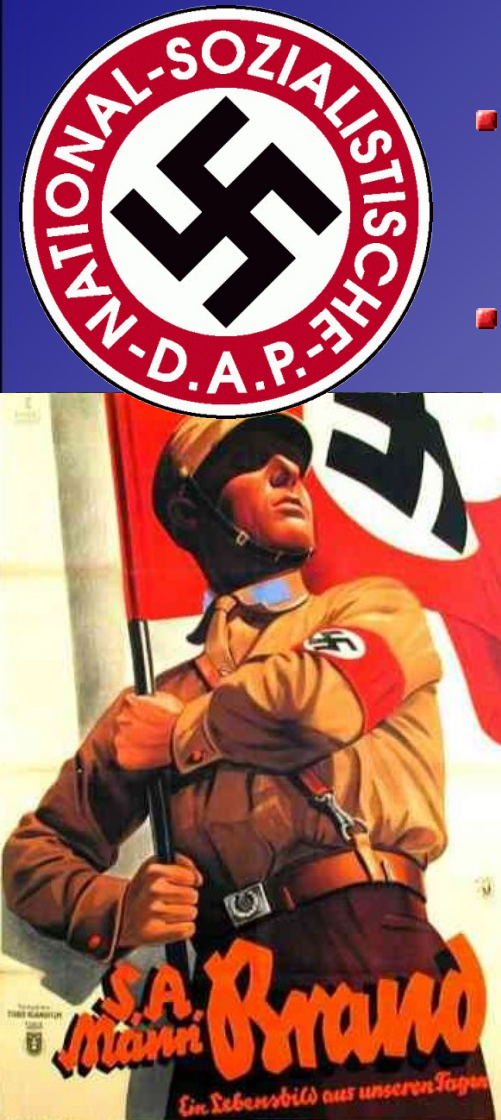
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 - When he was assigned to infiltrate the socialist German Worker's Party after the war, Hitler found himself drawn to its militant rhetoric
 - Hitler designed a more striking symbol for the group, and encouraged a name-change to the National-Socialist German Workers' Party
- (NOTE: There had already been a Socialist-Democratic Party in Germany for fifty years, and the popular German nickname for a party member—a “Sozialdemokrat” was a “Sozi”—so the English-speaking world adopted a similar nickname for the *National-Socialists*—a “Nazi”)



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 - Under Hitler's nearly hypnotically potent public speaking prowess, the Nazis grew in number and power, and began getting violent
 - They formed *Sturmabteilung* units —“stormtroopers” (paramilitary units who enforced the party's edicts)
(NOTE: Actually, pretty much every political party in Germany had these sorts of units, and fighting between them was common)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - The image of the Nazi stormtrooper still makes a wonderful propaganda icon for demonizing your political opponents, even in America today...



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment²—

- The image of the Nazi stormtrooper still makes a wonderful propaganda icon for demonizing your political opponents, even in America today...
- For instance, let's say that in 2008, presidential candidate Barack Obama campaigned by saying, "We cannot continue to rely only on our *military* in order to achieve the national security objectives that we've set. We've got to have a *civilian* national security force that's just as powerful, just as strong, just as well-funded."

Let's further say that Obama issued executive orders that in times of emergency, FEMA could take over under martial law, suspending the U.S. Constitution and that FEMA ordered armored personnel vehicles as the DHS began stockpiling millions of rounds of ammo and that they started graduating the first classes of the new "FEMA Corps" members in 2012 as a "dedicated response unit"

- All of that is true—so how comfortable are you with knowing that the Executive branch of our government has its own armed forces?



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment²—

- The image of the Nazi stormtrooper still makes a wonderful propaganda icon for demonizing your political opponents, even in America today...

- For instance...

- Of course, we could also remind ourselves that FEMA has been around since 1971, that the DHS was created by the Republican President Bush, and its ammunition is for Secret Service, TSA, and U.S. Customs agents, and that the FEMA Corps members are a “dedicated response unit” designed to respond to stuff like floods, tornadoes, etc., and that their “armored vehicles” are just designed to protect rescue workers from hazardous rescue conditions

- Whether the FEMA Corps makes you uncomfortably scared or happily secure is largely a matter of effective propaganda... so how important is critical thinking?



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 - Under Hitler's nearly hypnotically potent public speaking prowess, the Nazis grew in number and power, and began getting violent
 - They formed *Sturmabteilung* units—“stormtroopers”—and began systematically targeting German Jews (arguing that the Jews were ultimately behind all of Germany's problems—which began to resonate in the public mindset)
 - Once the Great Depression hit (and German official responses did little to alleviate the failing economy), Hitler began targeting farmers, the homeless, war veterans, and—most importantly—the middle class and by 1933, though he had lost a bid at being President, he was still voted in as Chancellor (basically, a weak parliament chairman) under President Hindenburg



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The Catholic Worker movement was founded

Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany

- **Within a month, the Reichstag building was all but destroyed by arson**

- Hitler called for martial law under emergency circumstances, suspending the Constitution and then later asked the parliament to give his cabinet the right—just for the next four years—to enact laws without the consent of the Reichstag, just for expedience's sake



There are no morals in politics; there is only expedience. A scoundrel may be of use to us just because he is a scoundrel.

(Vladimir Lenin)



No man is justified in doing evil on the ground of expedience.

(Theodore Roosevelt)

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- Now essentially in charge of everything, Hitler began removing all opposition to the Nazis, imprisoning and/or executing all of his opponents

- And once Hindenburg died a year later, the Presidency and the Chancellorship were merged into the new, single office of *Führer und Reichskanzler* (leader and chancellor of the Reich)—Hitler became absolute and unquestionable ruler of Germany a little over a year after having been democratically voted into a weak political office...



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Hitler ultimately stood against the Church and held to a very warped, mystical version of religion (kind of like a Germanic version of *Santería*, blending Teutonic myths with Christianity)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Hitler ultimately stood against the Church and held to a very warped, mystical version of religion—but in many, many speeches (especially his early ones) he expressed himself as being *devoutly* Christian
 - What can we learn from this for our time and context?



"I fell down on my knees and thanked Heaven from an overflowing heart for granting me the good fortune of being permitted to live at this time."

"I am now as before a Catholic and will always remain so"

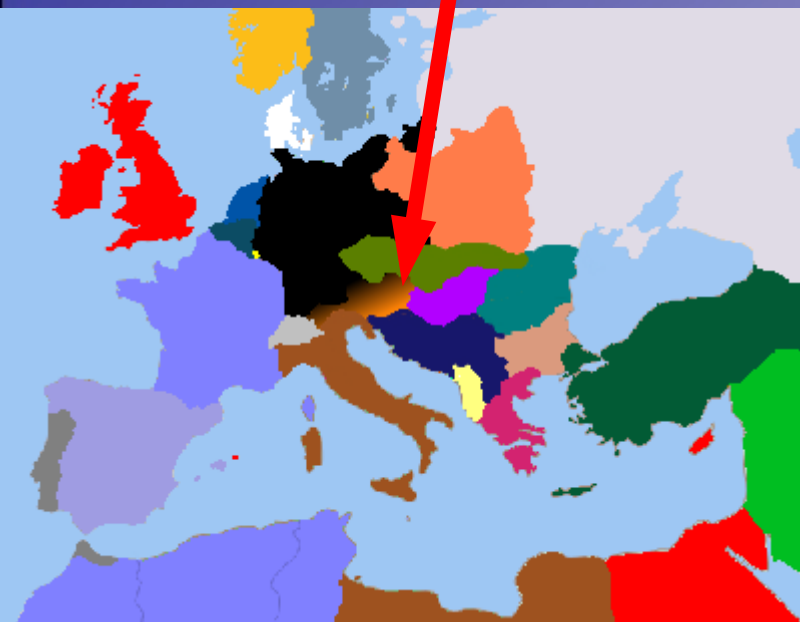
"And the founder of Christianity made no secret indeed of his estimation of the Jewish people. When He found it necessary, He drove those enemies of the human race out of the Temple of God."

"My feeling as a Christian points 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..."



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Hitler ultimately stood against the Church and held to a very warped, mystical version of religion—but in many, many speeches (especially his early ones) he expressed himself as being *devoutly* Christian
 - All of that made it complicated for leaders to know what to do with Hitler
 - In 1938, he announced the “*Anschluss*” by formally “reunifying” the Germanic peoples of Germany and Austria (i.e.; annexing Austria)
 - World leaders were uncomfortable, but Austria felt compelled to bow to the Nazis’ intimidations
 - But part of Hitler’s strategy was to appeal to Roman Catholicism for help (remember that Austria had been for centuries the only really Catholic kingdom that actively stood against Rome’s domination of the religion—ever since that whole “Holy Roman Empire” thing)



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- Pope Pius XII decided to emulate Benedict XV during World War I, and officially declared the Church to be neutral where the Nazis were concerned, and refused to condemn Hitler’s actions

- But he did help, at least indirectly, with sheltering Jews against them so he’s remembered by some Jews as an active hero, and by others as a passive monster



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- Pius *did* take the opportunity, however, to condemn what he saw as the *true* evils of his age—Communism, lay ministers, rationalistic science, the Freemasons, and immodest women’s swimwear...



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- Hitler then expressed his intentions to “liberate” the German-speaking population of Czechoslovakia (i.e.; annexing Czechoslovakia’s Sudetenland)

- Again, world leaders became uncomfortable

- Great Britain’s Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain met with Hitler to get him to agree to treat the Czechs with restraint, as well as to agree never to go to war again with England—and Chamberlain in turn agreed to convince the Czechs to give up without a fight

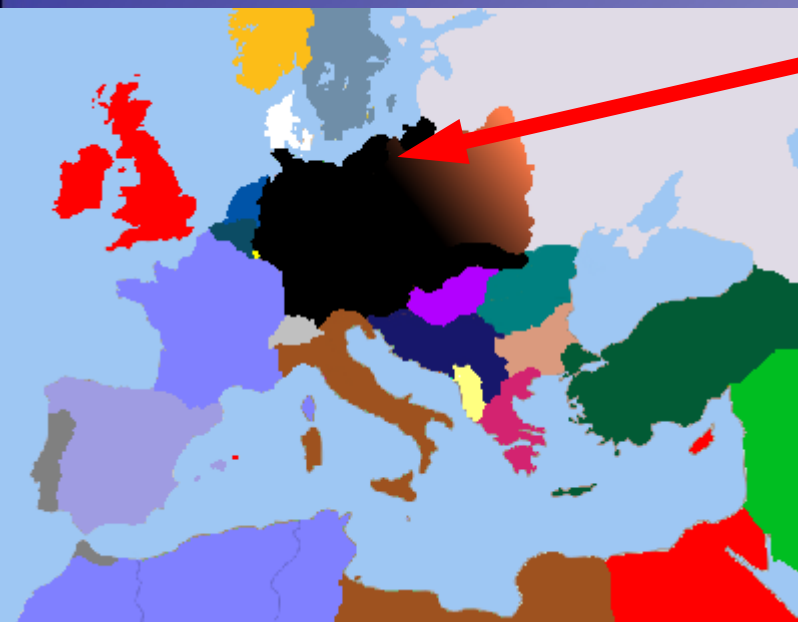
- Hitler agreed to it all enthusiastically and then laughed with his friends that Chamberlain had *believed* him

- Chamberlain went home to parades and honors, having saved Europe from more war...



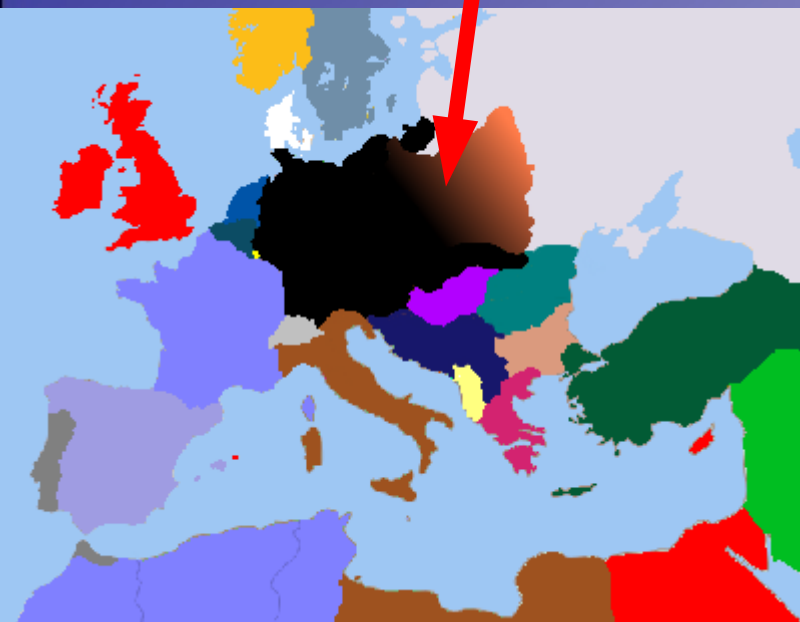
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 - Again, leaders started complaining but Hitler had just signed a non-aggression pact with Stalin in Russia so the Soviets decided that it would be better to *divide* Poland than to just *lose* it—and Hitler *knew* that *Chamberlain* would *never* support Britain's ally, Poland
 - How would you summarize Hitler's basic take on how to expand his territory and power?



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 - **But amazingly—and very slowly and reluctantly—Chamberlain and Britain *did* declare war against Nazi Germany which brought their ally, France, into the European war as well... and World War II had begun...**

