

EDUCATION IN NAZI GERMANY

The rights of the family, which include the right of religious instruction and training, have been known for ages, and no organization may deprive the family of these rights, because they were conferred on the family by God, and not by any human power. It is the duty of the State to protect these rights as much as possible, and not to harm them in any way. In spite of these facts, totalitarian Germany, by taking complete control of education, has deprived the family of this extremely important right. Catholic schools were turned into German community schools, that is, into Nazi schools, in which Nazi ideas were taught through every subject in the curriculum. The Catholic schools in Germany taught the child that the State must remain within certain bounds, that he must love and serve God, and that he must love his neighbour and consider him as his brother; Nazism taught the child that man lives to serve the State, and that the German race is the master-race. Thus we see that the Nazi creed is contrary to Catholic teaching.

The Nazis were out to destroy their enemies, and, especially, to destroy the Catholic Church. Without doubt, one of the best means they could employ to ruin the Church was to attack the Catholic schools. This is exactly what they did. They aimed at silencing the voice of the Church, and at gaining the whole youth of the country by turning Catholic schools, both secondary and elementary, into institutions for the training of youth in the Nazi creed. In order to insure enrolment into these Nazi institutions, they started a huge propaganda drive against the Church, by spreading lies to the people that in Catholic schools the child was being educated for the benefit of the Church, and not for the State. To satisfy themselves that this drive would bring results, they forbade the clergy and the Catholic press to reply to the charges.

Thus, Christ's truths were being destroyed, and Hitler's pseudo-doctrines were being implanted into the minds of the youth in their place. Hitler was being considered a God, and the crucifix, which, formerly, was honored in the secondary schools, was now torn down and replaced by a picture of Adolf Hitler. Naturally, numerous protestations against these pagan practices arose, but the party had begun its campaign and considered it too late to turn back. Teachers who

were members of religious orders were dismissed by the hundreds and their properties seized; they were left to fend for themselves as best they could. The Nazis forced children to join different organizations, such as the German Maidens' League and the Hitler Youth, whose works parents dared not oppose.

After the spread of the Nazi propaganda, against which the protestations of the Church could scarcely be heard, the destruction of the elementary school, followed even by that of the kindergarten, soon took place. The enrolment of the elementary schools diminished gradually and was completed by the conversion of the schools into centres for different Nazi organizations.

What type of education do the Nazis give their children? It is a barbarous education. First, the child becomes a Nazi, by being filled by his teachers with the fanatical notion that the German race is superior to all others. Everything the child learns is Nazi, and anything which might in any way oppose Nazi teaching is cleverly concealed from him. He learns history and arithmetic, but not true history and arithmetic; it is history which teaches that everything outside Germany must have begun to exist in some way through the action of German blood, and it is arithmetic which discusses problems about the injustice done to Germany, and the necessity for revenge. All education is completely Nazi-fied and all German children are to be pure Nazis. Nazi doctrines are so strongly implanted in them that, as a result, they know only Nazi philosophy and Nazi paganism. Education has become a school of barbarism; the children have become barbarians, who are ignorant of all pure culture, and live only to serve Adolf Hitler.

Fortunately, the Nazi aim to drive the Church and everything else which is anti-Nazi from education finally must defeat its own purpose, because it is impossible for Hitler or his followers to destroy Christianity completely in Germany without destroying German unity. Let us hope and pray that Christianity will soon be restored completely to Germany, and that Nazism will be utterly destroyed. Until the pagan doctrines of Nazism are driven from the minds of Germany's children, we cannot have a lasting peace.

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