

(Library ebook) Twisted Cross: The German Christian Movement in the Third Reich

# Twisted Cross: The German Christian Movement in the Third Reich

*Doris L. Bergen*

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#852154 in Books The University of North Carolina Press 1996-03-04 1996-03-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x .81 x 6.13l, 1.30 #File Name: 0807845604360 pages | File size: 56.Mb

**Doris L. Bergen : Twisted Cross: The German Christian Movement in the Third Reich** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Twisted Cross: The German Christian Movement in the Third Reich:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Untwisting of the Twisted CrossBy Danie van ZylThe Twisted

Cross corrects the misunderstanding that the German Church was Hitler's theological partner and the Confessing Church the great opponent of Nazi ideology. Doris Bergen's research portrays the church scene under Hitler as complicated and often confused. The Nazi's were very uncomfortable with the German Church and often severely curtailed its work. The Confessing Church often found itself in agreement with the German Church and joined it in some projects. While Bonhoeffer and Barth are usually presented as the true representatives of the Confessing Church's attitude to Nazi ideology, Doris Bergen makes it clear that they were the exceptions rather than the norm.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Okay.By exilepstRepetitious, but good. I find that the book could have been about a third shorter and it would have been as good. But that is a minor quibble. I found it interesting that involvement in the German Christian Movement was minimized after the war, and that the Movement was tolerated as an odious necessity by the National Socialists. As covering an overlooked area of history, this book is helpful.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book. The German Christian movement parallels the postmodern ...By Elliott B. NeschExcellent book. The German Christian movement parallels the postmodern church of our present day. Many of the quotes from German Christian pastors resemble what we are hearing from the Emerging Church today. I especially appreciated the chapter on anti-doctrine. This book is thoroughly researched and worth the read.

How did Germany's Christians respond to Nazism? In *Twisted Cross*, Doris Bergen addresses one important element of this response by focusing on the 600,000 self-described 'German Christians,' who sought to expunge all Jewish elements from the Christian church. In a process that became more daring as Nazi plans for genocide unfolded, this group of Protestant lay people and clergy rejected the Old Testament, ousted people defined as non-Aryans from their congregations, denied the Jewish ancestry of Jesus, and removed Hebrew words like 'Hallelujah' from hymns. Bergen refutes the notion that the German Christians were a marginal group and demonstrates that members occupied key positions within the Protestant church even after their agenda was rejected by the Nazi leadership. Extending her analysis into the postwar period, Bergen shows how the German Christians were relatively easily reincorporated into mainstream church life after 1945. Throughout *Twisted Cross*, Bergen reveals the important role played by women and by the ideology of spiritual motherhood amid the German Christians' glorification of a 'manly' church.

"Bergen is to be congratulated for this scholarly, well-balanced account."Theological Studies""An outstanding, stylish, and timely assessment . . . of the German Christian Movement which tried to fuse Christianity with National Socialism."German History""This is a disturbing and an important book, highly relevant for many contemporary discussions concerning theology, religion and modern culture. "Studies in Religion""Bergen is to be congratulated for this scholarly, well-balanced account."Theological Studies"An outstanding, stylish, and timely assessment . . . of the German Christian Movement which tried to fuse Christianity with National Socialism."German History"This is a disturbing and an important book, highly relevant for many contemporary discussions concerning theology, religion and modern culture. "Studies in Religion"A superb book."Choice" Bergen is to be congratulated for this scholarly, well-balanced account of the German Christian movement, which comes as a welcome addition to studies dealing with the Holocaust.--Theological StudiesDoris Bergen has written a fine study of a crucial aspect of Nazi domestic success. Her examination of the German Christian movement is an important corrective to the widespread misunderstandings of the role of the Protestant church that have prevailed among theologians and historians.--Susannah Heschel, Case Western Reserve UniversityDoris Bergen's account stands as a trenchant warning about the dangers which so easily beset any church that forsakes doctrinal orthodoxy in pursuit of popular political favour, or cultivates nationalist ethnicity at the expense of the Gospel. She is to be congratulated on so vividly depicting this dismal story.--German Studies An outstanding, stylish, and timely assessment . . . of the German Christian Movement which tried to fuse Christianity with National Socialism.--German History/This is a disturbing and an important book, highly relevant for many contemporary discussions concerning theology, religion and modern culture. It vividly illustrates the dangers of completely breaking with tradition and the reason why many people, especially Jewish leaders, are often worried about such things as the so-called 'New Age' movements.--Studies in ReligionUsing the primary documents from every major archive in Germany and the available secondary sources, Bergen offers a study that explores how the German Christian Movement tried to synthesize Christianity and National Socialism. . . . A superb book.--ChoiceFrom the Back CoverHow did Germany's Christians respond to Nazism? In *Twisted Cross*, Doris Bergen addresses one important element of this response by focusing on the 600,000 self-described "German Christians", who sought to expunge all Jewish elements from the Christian church. In a process that became more daring as Nazi plans for genocide unfolded, this group of Protestant lay people and clergy rejected the Old Testament, ousted people defined as non-Aryans from their congregations, denied the Jewish ancestry of Jesus, and removed Hebrew words like "Hallelujah" from hymns. Bergen refutes the notion that the German Christians were a marginal group and demonstrates that members occupied key positions within the Protestant church even after their agenda was rejected by the Nazi leadership. Extending her analysis into the postwar period, Bergen shows how the German Christians were relatively easily reincorporated into mainstream church life after 1945. Throughout *Twisted Cross*, Bergen reveals the important role played by women and by the ideology of spiritual motherhood amid the German Christians'

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