

Chapter 4

The Aryan Paragraph

Soon after the passing of the Malicious Practices and Enabling acts came the Aryan Paragraph, which took effect on April 7 1933.¹ The Bonhoeffers always had access to privileged information, but as the spectre of the Third Reich encroached more and more into German life, most of it came from Christine's husband and lawyer Hans von Dohnányi at the German Supreme Court. The Aryan Paragraph was, for Dietrich, of grave concern, and with advanced notice, he started to write his essay, *The Church and the Jewish Question* in March; he delivered it in early April to a group of pastors who met regularly at the home of Gerhard Jacobi, pastor of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church.

The Aryan Paragraph would result in a set of disturbing new laws, by which all government employees had to be of Aryan stock. Cynically packaged as the "Restoration of the Civil Service," all Jewish employees would, among other "racially impure" ethnicities, have their employment terminated. In the case of the German Church, which was essentially a state church, compliance with this directive would mean that all pastors of Jewish blood, including Dietrich's dear friend Franz Hildebrandt, would be excluded from the ministry. It was under this intense pressure on institutions all over the country to fall in line with the tsunami of National Socialist dogma that Dietrich wrote his essay.²

For the members of the German Christian Movement, the implications of the Aryan Paragraph in general, but in particular for the church, were endorsed with rapturous enthusiasm. However, what Dietrich found even more disturbing was the willingness of more mainstream Protestant leaders to consider adopting the Aryan Paragraph.³ While not necessarily harbouring any ill will to Jews in general, they could see no real problem with Christians of Jewish heritage being compelled to form their own Christian church, as was the case for example with negroes in the American South. This pragmatic appeasement of Hitler, before the coming of future horrors, seemed on the surface rather benign, and they reasoned that appeasement of the Nazi state would bear the fruits of restoring the church to its glory before the Treaty of Versailles and the chaos and humiliation of the last twenty years. After all, was not the moral degeneration of Weimar Germany self-evident?⁴

Dietrich, however, had seen first-hand the negative consequences of such thinking during his visit to America, especially in the South. At the time, in his letters back home to Germany, he had written that he saw no analogous situation in Germany. However, with the passing of the Aryan Paragraph, this was now becoming a stark reality. For Dietrich, the Aryan Paragraph would have been an unequivocal violation of the book of *Galations*, Chapter 3, verse 28: "there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."⁵

As such, a church that excluded Jews was not a church of Christ, but a heresy. However, in his address, he went further by stating that the church still had an obligation to act, even when victims of institutionalised injustice were not Christian. Naturally, everyone knew he was talking about the Jews, and with the church's existence thus threatened, it was not enough for the church to "bandage the victims under the wheel, but to put a spoke in the wheel itself."⁶

At the German Christians' conference, Göring declared that everything in German society was compelled to fall in line with Nazi doctrine.⁷ This included books and ideas, and on the night of Thursday May 11 1933 at 11pm, thousands of students gathered in every university town across Germany to perform a chillingly symbolic implementation of this objective. From Heidelberg to Tübingen to Freiburg to Göttingen, where the Leibholzes lived, mobs of student "intellectuals" marched in torchlight parades to huge bonfires, into which they hurled thousands of books declared "degenerate" in the infamous literary *Säuberung* (cleansing). In Berlin, at the stroke of midnight, addressing the mob of thirty thousand, Joseph Goebbels, of club foot and short stature, ranted into the darkness with characteristic Aryan "super-race" zeal: "

German men and women! The age of arrogant Jewish intellectualism is now at an end!... You are doing the right thing at this midnight hour — to consign to the flames the unclean spirit of the past. This is a great, powerful, and symbolic act... Out of these ashes the phoenix of a new age will arise... O Century! O Science! It is a joy to be alive!"⁸

Goebbels, the ultimate propagandist, saw the staging of a torchlight parade, followed by a bonfire at the stroke of midnight in the nation's capital, as something ancient, tribal and pagan, evoking the pagan gods of the German Volk of antiquity, melded with the memory of the great victory of the Germanic tribes in 9 AD

over the Romans, symbols of strength, ruthlessness, blood and soil. While certainly the antithesis of Christianity, this was never explicitly declared, due to the major support base of the German Christians. However, the ominous summoning of forces, counter to the perceived “weak virtues”⁹ of traditional Christianity, was palpable. Works of famous writers and scholars such as Albert Einstein, the author of *Relativity* — one of the two great pillars of modern physics, Helen Keller, Jack London, H. G. Wells, Erich Maria Remarque, and Thomas Mann, to name just a handful, were consigned to the National Socialist heap of degenerate works.

Three days later on July 20, Hitler had achieved a major diplomatic coup involving the other main religion of Germany. Hitler announced that a Concordat had been forged with the Vatican in Rome, guaranteeing the freedom of profession and public practice of the Catholic faith, and ensuing friendly relations between the German Reich and the Holy See.¹⁰ Of course in time, these assurances of Hitler would prove to be cynical, but for the time being they portrayed a benign face to the outside world. This came in the midst of a rigged election process of the state church. Three days later, the German Christians won in a predictable landslide, receiving about 70% of the votes.¹¹ One disturbing consequence of this result was the election of Ludwig Müller, widely regarded as a half-educated buffoon, as Reichsbischof (National Bishop). Back in early April at the German Christians’ conference, Göring had mentioned Hitler’s proposal of Müller for that very office, and now in the wake of the rigged July elections, this became a reality.

[The following I cross-reference in Chapter 29 at

http://barwinski.net/documents/pastor_and_the_matriarch/chapter_29_pastor_and_matriarch_of_the_german_underground.pdf]

In a disturbing recent parallel to the 1933 Vatican-National Socialist Concordat, in September 2018, the Vatican signed a provisional agreement in Beijing with the Communist government of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The Vatican had hailed the agreement as a major diplomatic breakthrough;¹² however, as part of the deal, Pope Francis recognised seven Chinese bishops who were appointed by Beijing without the Vatican’s approval, and had been excommunicated as illegitimate.¹³ The accord reportedly gave the Vatican a say in the naming of bishops and supposedly granted the pope veto power over candidates, but the appointment of the seven bishops puts this assertion into serious question. China’s Catholics are split between an underground church swearing loyalty to the Vatican, and the state-supervised Catholic “Patriotic” Association (CPA).¹⁴

For critics of the deal, it is a sell-out to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), given its litany of human rights abuses. Cardinal Joseph Zen, born in Shanghai, the former archbishop of Hong Kong and participant in the Hong Kong Democracy protests,¹⁵ has led the opposition to the deal. He observes:

“The consequences will be tragic and long lasting, not only for the church in China but for the whole church because it damages credibility”¹⁶ And “The deal ‘sends the flock into the mouths of the wolves’ and is a ‘betrayal’.”¹⁷

In 1933, Dietrich was commencing his fight against the National Socialist bastardisation of his faith. Eight to nine decades later, Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced a programme to “Sinicise” all religious practice, insisting that it must be “Chinese in orientation.” The government must “provide active ‘guidance’ to religions so that they can ‘adapt’ themselves to socialist society,” he said.¹⁸

Beijing’s increasingly horrific pogrom against ethnic Muslim Uyghurs in the north-west province of Xinjiang, as much Central Asia as it is China, casts a huge human rights and religious persecution shadow over the deal. Surveillance techniques used in Xinjiang have already emerged elsewhere; the government has installed closed-circuit TV cameras in some Catholic and Protestant churches. Uyghurs, since 2009, have been subjected to extreme repression that has seen the banning of many traditional Islamic practices, mass disappearances, thousands jailed, and hundreds sentenced to death in stadium trials. In the eighteen months preceding September 2018, the pogrom culminated in concentration camps that human rights agencies estimate hold up to a million Uyghurs.¹⁹ As Drew Pavlou, the young University of Queensland (UQ)ⁱⁱ philosophy student, suspended in mid-2020 for daring to lead protests against the CCP on campus, commented: “This is the largest internment of a people based on their ethnicity since the Holocaust.”²⁰

i The Catholic “Patriotic” Association (CPA) seems to be a modern-day Chinese Communist Party (CCP) parallel of the pro-Hitler German Christians.

ii The University of Queensland is located in Queensland’s state capital of Brisbane, approximately 750 kilometres north of Sydney.

According to Drew Pavlou's pro bono Queen's Counsel (QC), Tony Morris, UQ students who organise protests against the democratic state of Israel are always left unhindered on campus to exercise their democratic rights.²¹ Israel however, is not so critical to the financial bottom line for UQ.²² According to the final report released on March 1, 2020 by the UK based China Tribunal, chaired by UK Queen's Counsel (QC) Sir Geoffrey Nice: "Hospitals in the PRC have had access to a population of donors whose organs could be extracted according to demand for them."²³

Prime targets for this heinous practice, are members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement.²⁴ For the Uyghurs, the CCP are implementing programmes of forced sterilisation and abortion to curb China's Muslim population, while at the same time, encouraging some of the country's ethnic Han majority to have more children.²⁵ The Vatican's provisional agreement, openly "blessed" by Pope Francis, who refuses to meet with the legitimate Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama,²⁶ is due to expire in September 2020. In June 2020, according to the pro-Beijing Italian Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, it will be renewed.²⁷ However, in late July 2020, it was revealed by the U.S. cybersecurity firm Recorded Future that hackers linked to the Chinese government had infiltrated Vatican computer networks. The attacks began in May. A Chinese delegation had been due to visit the Vatican as part of continuing talks, but there was no indication if or when they would travel because of the coronavirus outbreak, as reported by a senior Vatican source.²⁸

In these early stages of the Third Reich, one could have been forgiven for having no idea of the horrors to come. The feeling of the humiliation of Versailles included Germans who were by no means pro-Nazi, with even the upper echelons of the Weimar regime of the very early 1930s pushing hard for a revision of their eastern frontier with Poland. Moreover, France, which Poland held a formal alliance with, was sympathetic to such revisions in the name of "preserving peace in Europe."²⁹ Hitler, all too well aware of this at the time, saw future political opportunities under the pretext of "the restoration of German pride," to garner crucial support from the more moderate sectors of the German political spectrum. Challenging the League of Nations in October 1933 was one such opportunity, and Martin Niemöller, a staunch opponent of Hitler at the National Synod in Wittenberg just two to three weeks earlier on September 27, was a perfect example of how brilliantly Hitler exploited the very broad national resonance of "the restoration of German pride."

Given these alarming developments, it appears that Dietrich and Franz became lone voices even among their "allies" in the Pastors' Emergency League. What at first seemed to be some sort of coherent opposition to Hitler became a weak opposition divided by the wedge of national pride. Hildebrandt's legitimate grievance of a church not granting all of its people equal status was engulfed in the tsunami of newly discovered patriotic zeal. Years later, some would come to regret this embrace of the Verführer, and Martin Niemöller would be among them. As a concentration camp inmate from 1938-1945, he wrote: "

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. And then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me."³⁰ [I cross-reference this quote in Chapter 29 at http://barwinski.net/documents/pastor_and_the_matriarch/chapter_29_pastor_and_matriarch_of_the_german_underground.pdf]

Originally incarcerated at the Sachsenhausen camp near Berlin, Niemöller would be transferred to Dachau in 1941, where he would stay until almost war's end, before being liberated in Niederdorf in the German speaking South Tyrol region of northern Italy in late April 1945.³¹ Born in 1892, he would live out his life post-war in West Germany, becoming, for some time, the vice-chairman of War Resisters International,³² before passing away in 1984.

- 1 Position 358.0 of Metaxas. Postition 341.0 of Schlingensiepen states that it was passed in the Reichstag on April 1933, but Metaxas states that it came into effect days later on April 7.
- 2 Error: Reference source not found Page 273 of Bethge and position 359.1 of Metaxas.
- 3 Position 361.5 of Metaxas.
- 4 Position 360.5 of Metaxas.
- 5 Position 369.0 of Metaxas. See also the Bible Gateway website at <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+3%3A28&version=NLT>. Accessed on Saturday July 25, 2020.
- 6 Position 366.8 of Metaxas and page 275 of Bethge.
- 7 Positions 375.5 and 385.9 of Metaxas.
- 8 Error: Reference source not found Position 389.5 of Metaxas. See also the article on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website at <https://www.ushmm.org/exhibition/book-burning/burning.php> in regard to the book burning in general. Accessed on Saturday July 25, 2020.
- 9 Page 21 of *Preaching in Hitler's Shadow: Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich* by Dean G. Stroud
- 10 Position 428.4 of Metaxas, page 291 of Bethge and position 370.6 of Schlingensiepen.
- 11 Position 430.3 of Metaxas, position 372.9 of Schlingensiepen and page 297 of Bethge.
- 12 Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Article in the UK Guardian by Harriet Sherwood, dated Saturday September 22, 2018 at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/22/vatican-pope-francis-agreement-with-china-nominating-bishops>. Accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 13 Article by Michael Sainsbury, dated September 24, 2018, on the website of the *National Catholic Reporter* at <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/vaticans-deal-china> and article in the UK Guardian by Harriet Sherwood, dated Saturday September 22, 2018 at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/22/vatican-pope-francis-agreement-with-china-nominating-bishops>. Both accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 14 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/22/vatican-pope-francis-agreement-with-china-nominating-bishops> and <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/vaticans-deal-china>. Both accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 15 <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/vaticans-deal-china>. Accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 16 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/22/vatican-pope-francis-agreement-with-china-nominating-bishops>. Accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 17 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/22/vatican-pope-francis-agreement-with-china-nominating-bishops>. Accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 18 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/22/vatican-pope-francis-agreement-with-china-nominating-bishops> and the article in the Chinese Communist Party's English language mouthpiece the *Global Times*, dated November 28, 2017, by Liu Caiyu at <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1077696.shtml>. Both links accessed Tuesday August 4, 2020.
- 19 Error: Reference source not found <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/vaticans-deal-china>.
- 20 Interview of Drew Pavlou conducted by the YouTube channel *China Unscripted* at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o1sZefER0E, from 27 minutes in. It was uploaded on May 18, 2020.
- 21 The Sixty Minutes story aired on Channel 9 in Brisbane Queensland Australia on Sunday night July 19, 2020 from 18 minutes in. It can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyLO9-riyKU>.
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Page 150 of *The China Tribunal Judgment* released on March 1, 2020, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC. It can downloaded from *The China Tribunal* website at https://chinatribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ChinaTribunal_JUDGMENT_1stMarch_2020.pdf. Accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 24 Ibid. This is discussed repeatedly in this document.
- 25 Error: Reference source not found Article on the *Australian Broadcasting Commission* website titled *China imposes forced abortion, sterilisation on Uyghurs, investigation shows*, posted Tuesday June 30, 2020 at 1:42p.m at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-30/china-forces-birth-control-on-uyghurs-to-suppress-population/12404912>. Accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 26 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/22/vatican-pope-francis-agreement-with-china-nominating-bishops>. Accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 27 Article by Elise Ann Allen on the *Crux Now Catholic* website at <https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2020/06/vatican-agreement-with-china-likely-to-be-renewed-archbishop-says/> dated June 8, 2020. Accessed Monday August 3, 2020.
- 28 Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found The Reuter's News Agency article dated July 29, 2020 at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-vatican-cyber/u-s-cybersecurity-firm-says-beijing-linked-hackers-target-vatican-ahead-of-talks-idUSKCN24U0PC> and the article on the British Columbia Catholic website, dated July 30, 2020 at <https://bccatholic.ca/news/world/the-holy-see-and-beijing-vatican-s-computers-reportedly-hacked>. Both links accessed on Wednesday August 5, 2020.
- 29 Error: Reference source not found Pages 305-306 of the book *Pilsudski: A Life For Poland* by Waclaw Jędrzejewicz, published by Hippocrene Books, New York, 1982, ISBN 9780870527470.
- 30 Error: Reference source not found Position 454.4 of Metaxas. See also the article on Martin Niemöller on the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007392>. Accessed on Saturday July 25, 2020.

31 Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found Positions 626.7 onwards and position 746.8 of the ebook *The Venlo Incident* by Sigismund Payne Best, published by Frontline Books, an imprint of Pen & Sword Books Limited, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire, S70 2AS, ISBN 9781848325586. See also a comprehensive list of the prisoners by nationality, and an account of their odyssey, albeit in German, online at <http://www.mythoselser.de/niederdorf.htm#liste>, the website of the *Georg-Elser-Arbeitskreis*, edited by Peter Koblanck since 2005 with the largest online archive worldwide for a resistance fighter against the Third Reich. Accessed on Saturday July 25, 2020.

32 Error: Reference source not found See the official website of War Resisters' International at <https://www.wri-irg.org/en/story/2007/wri-and-nonviolent-intervention>. Accessed on Saturday July 25, 2020.