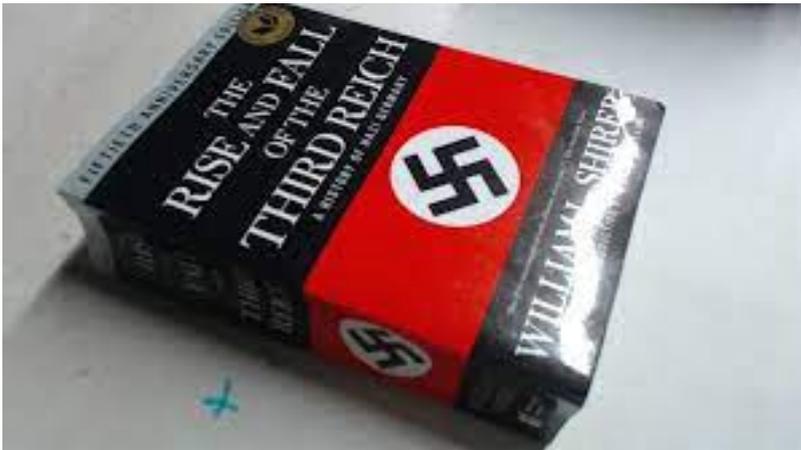


Mark Jacob @MarkJacob16 Fri Sep 02 19:59:33 +0000 2022

With all the arguments over whether MAGA Republicans are fascists, I reread William Shirer's "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" to see how much the rise of Hitler and the rise of MAGA smell similar.

Conclusion: They do. This thread lists 10 ways. Please take a look. <https://t.co/bgTLn4OLgb>

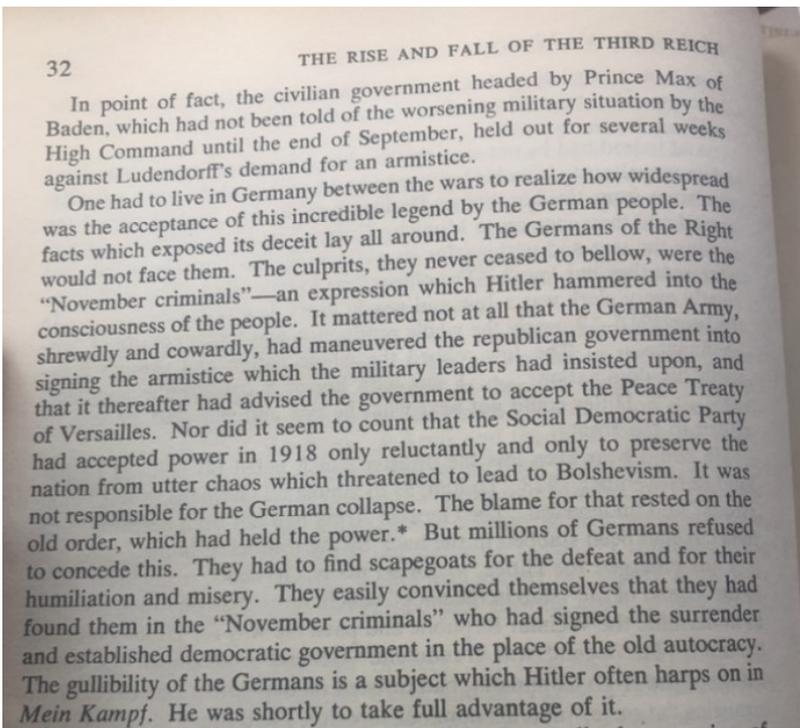


1. A big lie about treachery is used to foment resentment.

Nazis: We didn't really lose World War I. It was a "stab in the back" by Jews and other "November criminals."

MAGA: We didn't really lose the 2020 election. It was a "steal" by politicians and Blacks in big cities.

<https://t.co/fyJKCZbTbB>



2. There's an obsession with purity of the culture.

Nazis: "Racial mixture" was a threat to Aryan culture, Hitler wrote.

MAGA: "Great replacement theory" says immigrants threaten white culture. <https://t.co/JzzO3AzLgy>

But even worse than sharing the master's language was something else.

The Aryan gave up the purity of his blood and, therefore, lost his sojourn in the paradise which he had made for himself. He became submerged in a racial mixture and gradually lost his cultural creativeness.

To the young Nazi leader this was the cardinal error.

Blood mixture and the resultant drop in the racial level is the sole cause of the dying out of old cultures; for men do not perish as a result of lost wars, but by the loss of that force of resistance which is continued only in pure blood. All who are not of good race in this world are chaff.¹⁵

3. Chaos is something to be exploited, not addressed.

Nazis: Economic distress is a great political opportunity.

MAGA: Economic distress is a great political opportunity. <https://t.co/ocVg2P3UtM>

Hitler had predicted the catastrophe, but no more than any other politician did he understand what had brought it about; perhaps he had less understanding than most, since he was both ignorant of and uninterested in economics. But he was not uninterested in or ignorant of the opportunities which the depression suddenly gave him. The misery of the German people, their lives still scarred by disastrous experience of the collapse of the mark less than ten years before, did not arouse his compassion. On the contrary, in the darkest days of that period, when the factories were silent, when the registered unemployed numbered over six million and bread lines stretched for blocks in every city in the land, he could write in the Nazi press: "Never in my life have I been so well disposed and inwardly contented as in these days. For hard reality has opened the eyes of millions of Germans to the unprecedented swindles, lies and betrayals of the Marxist deceivers of the people."¹⁰ The suffering of his fellow

4. The super-rich bankroll the right-wing seizure of power.

Nazis: Thanks to I.G. Farben, Deutsche Bank, Thyssen, Krupp, etc.

MAGA: Thanks to the Mercers, Uihleins, DeVos, Thiel, etc. <https://t.co/ovJ9EIop30>

It is obvious, then, that in his final drive for power Hitler had considerable financial backing from a fairly large chunk of the German business world. How much the bankers and businessmen actually contributed to the Nazi Party in those last three years before January 1933 has never been established. Funk says it probably amounted to no more than "a couple of million marks." Thyssen estimates it at two millions a year; he says he himself personally gave one million marks. But judged by the large sums which the party had at its disposal in those days, though Goebbels complained it was never enough, the total gifts from business were certainly larger than these estimates by many times. What good they eventually did these politically childish men of the business world will be seen later in this narrative. One of the most enthusiastic of them at this time, as he was one of the most big game hunters of the

5. Some people think the fascist threat is overblown.

Nazis: While Hitler posed a major threat, some said he "ceased to be a political danger." (2 weeks later, he was chancellor.)

MAGA: While Trump poses a major threat, many people think it's "just politics," no worries. <https://t.co/sRYCgXkdkl>

Schleicher thought so too, and on January 15 when Kurt von Schuschnigg, then the Austrian Minister of Justice, visited him he assured him that "Herr Hitler was no longer a problem, his movement had ceased to be a political danger, and the whole problem had been solved, it was a thing of the past."¹⁷

6. There's a cult of personality.

Nazis: The German army made a pledge of loyalty to Hitler personally.

MAGA: Trump's supporters bill him as "the most moral president" in U.S. history. <https://t.co/jO0CFjaDDD>

I swear by God this sacred oath, that I will render unconditional obedience to Adolf Hitler, the Fuehrer of the German Reich and people, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and will be ready as a brave soldier to risk my life at any time for this oath.

7. Christianity is used to legitimize the movement.

Nazis: "The party stands for positive Christianity."

MAGA: Trump is described as the "Chosen One" protecting American Christianity. <https://t.co/1C429i53HF>

Though Hitler, nominally a Catholic, had inveighed against political Catholicism in *Mein Kampf* and attacked both of the Christian churches for their failure to recognize the racial problem, he had, as we have seen, warned in his book that "a political party must never . . . lose sight of the fact that in all previous historical experience a purely political party has never succeeded in producing a religious reformation." Article 24 of the party program had demanded "liberty for all religious denominations in the State so far as they are not a danger to . . . the moral feelings of the German race. The party stands for positive Christianity." In his

8. Books are the enemy.

Nazis: Any book that "acts subversively on our future" must be burned.

MAGA: "I think we should throw those books in a fire," says a Virginia school board member. <https://t.co/03052hU58L>

On the evening of May 10, 1933, some four and a half months after Hitler became Chancellor, there occurred in Berlin a scene which had not been witnessed in the Western world since the late Middle Ages. At about midnight a torchlight parade of thousands of students ended at a square on Unter den Linden opposite the University of Berlin. Torches were put to a huge pile of books that had been gathered there, and as the flames enveloped them more books were thrown on the fire until some twenty thousand had been consumed. Similar scenes took place in several other cities. The book burning had begun.

Many of the books tossed into the flames in Berlin that night by the joyous students under the approving eye of Dr. Goebbels had been written by authors of world reputation. They included, among German writers, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Lion Feuchtwanger, Jakob Wassermann, Arnold and Stefan Zweig, Erich Maria Remarque, Walther Rathenau, Albert Einstein, Alfred Kerr and Hugo Preuss, the last named being the scholar who had drafted the Weimar Constitution. But not only the works of dozens of German writers were burned. A good many foreign authors were also included: Jack London, Upton Sinclair, Helen Keller, Margaret Sanger, H. G. Wells, Havelock Ellis, Arthur Schnitzler, Freud, Gide, Zola, Proust. In the words of a student proclamation, any book was condemned to the flames "which acts subversively on our future or strikes at the root of German thought, the German home and the driving forces of our people."

9. An independent news media is the enemy.

Nazis: Any newspaper that "offends the honor and dignity of Germany" must be banned.

MAGA: The press is the "enemy of the people." <https://t.co/60rUHjI0h>

To be an editor in the Third Reich one had to be, in the first place, politically and racially "clean." The Reich Press Law of October 4, 1933, which made journalism a "public vocation," regulated by law, stipulated that all editors must possess German citizenship, be of Aryan descent and not married to a Jew. Section 14 of the Press Law ordered editors "to keep out of the newspapers anything which in any manner is misleading to the public, mixes selfish aims with community aims, tends to weaken the strength of the German Reich, outwardly or inwardly, the common will of the German people, the defense of Germany, its culture and economy . . . or offends the honor and dignity of Germany"—an edict which, if it had been in effect before 1933, would have led to the suppression of every Nazi editor and publication in the country. It now led to the ousting of those journals and journalists who were not Nazi or who declined to become so.

10. Educators are pressured to be politically compliant.

Nazis: Teachers took an oath to "be loyal and obedient to Adolf Hitler."

MAGA: Florida's DeSantis accuses teachers of "indoctrination" and pressures them to avoid references to America's racist history and LGBTQ people. <https://t.co/PgymzxKxTi>

The German schools, from first grade through the universities, were quickly Nazified. Textbooks were hastily rewritten, curricula were changed, *Mein Kampf* was made—in the words of *Der Deutsche Erzieher*, official organ of the educators—“our infallible pedagogical guiding star” and teachers who failed to see the new light were cast out. Most instructors had been more or less Nazi in sentiment when not outright party members. To strengthen their ideology they were dispatched to special schools for intensive training in National Socialist principles, emphasis being put on Hitler’s racial doctrines.

Every person in the teaching profession, from kindergarten through the universities, was compelled to join the National Socialist Teachers’ League which, by law, was held “responsible for the execution of the ideological and political co-ordination of all teachers in accordance with the National Socialist doctrine.” The Civil Service Act of 1937 required teachers to be “the executors of the will of the party-supported State” and to be ready “at any time to defend without reservation the National Socialist State.” An earlier decree had classified them as civil servants and thus subject to the racial laws. Jews, of course, were forbidden to teach. All teachers took an oath to “be loyal and obedient to Adolf Hitler.” Later, no man could teach who had not first served in the S.A., the Labor Service or the Hitler Youth. Candidates for instructorships in the universities had to attend for six weeks an observation camp where their views and character were studied by Nazi experts and reported to the Ministry of Education, which issued licenses to teach based on the candidates’ political “reliability.”

I’m not saying that MAGA will end up as horrifically as Nazism. I am saying that America 2022 feels too much like Germany 1932, and I don’t want to take the risk of watching MAGA cultism play out. We have to stop it now.

Why did Twitter put a “sensitive” warning on this thread? Who knows? My only theory is that it has a “hateful symbol”—a swastika on the cover of Shirer’s book about Nazism. <https://t.co/puZFwTHLRR>



Mark Jacob @MarkJacob16 · 8h

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