

Notes on the History of Christian Reconstruction
No. 1 (Nov. 1992)

CLARIFYING THE SO-CALLED "HITLER CONNECTION"

by Gary North

The recent republication of two of the late David L. Hoggan's books by the anti-Zionist Institute for Historical Review persuaded me to go public about a skeleton in Christian Reconstruction's closet. Some energetic critic is eventually going to come across this skeleton and then misinterpret its significance. —

Hoggan [pronounced HOEgun] was the oddest scholar I have ever known, and I have known my share. I met him in 1963 when Rushdoony hired me as a summer intern at the Center for American Studies in Burlingame, California.

The Center for American Studies

In 1962, Rushdoony resigned his Santa Cruz, California, pastorate in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in order to join the staff of the William Volker Fund, a previously libertarian educational foundation. H. W. Luhnnow, the Fund's chairman and nephew of the late William Volker, had recently fired the anarcho-capitalist economist F. A. Harper. Harper in 1962 then set up the Institute for Humane Studies in nearby Menlo Park. Luhnnow proceeded to re-staff the Volker Fund — now re-named the Center for American Studies — with people who professed faith in Christianity: economist Ivan Bierly, the director; Rushdoony; Rev. C. John Miller (later to become a faculty member of Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia); former *Colliers Encyclopedia* editor W. T. Couch; and the maverick historian, Hoggan.

When I arrived, Rushdoony and Hoggan were very close. They were the two research scholars on the staff. (Miller wrote a large manuscript on public education that was never published.) Hoggan wrote the bibliography for Rushdoony's *Messianic Character of American Education*, which was being typeset that summer. The book appeared in November, 1963. Hoggan later dedicated his own book, *The Myth of the 'New History'* (1965) to Rushdoony, who had persuaded his publishing house, Craig Press, to publish it. This is a matter of public record. This is why I need to discuss "the Hoggan connection": it leads straight to Hitler.

Hoggan and Hitler

Hoggan told me that summer that he had served time in prison during World War II for having refused to fight against Germany and "for the English." He had not claimed conscientious objector status; he claimed instead his right not to fight in Britain's war against Hitler. The individual's right to select which wars he will fight in does not exist in U.S. law. He preferred jail to fighting Germany.

Hoggan was both an Anglophobe and a Germanophile — undoubtedly the only Harvard University-trained, Ph.D.-holding historian to hold such views in public after

World War II. He read numerous European languages, had a photographic memory, and had an astounding bibliographical knowledge in history. He could also be very moody. Years later, he was arrested for throwing a television set at his wife.

Hoggan was a defender of Adolph Hitler's foreign policies, making him unique, then and now. In public, he always said he was not a supporter of Hitler's domestic policies. He insisted in the 1963 introduction to *The Enforced War: When Peaceful Revision Failed* (Institute for Historical Review, 1989) that his published defense of Hitler's foreign policies "does not, however, imply in any sense that I have sought to produce an apology for Hitler and National Socialism in the domestic realm" (p. 7). This was semantically correct: he did not seek to produce such an apology, that is, not in public. In private, especially when drunk, he was a 'warm sympathizer of Hitler, as his publisher, Hays Craig, discovered in 1969. In 1972, Craig told me that Hoggan, apparently drunk, had called him in 1969 on the eightieth anniversary of Hitler's birth. Hoggan had bewailed the premature demise of "the Führer." Craig decided not to reprint *The Myth of the 'New History'*. The book is now published by the Institute for Historical Review.

A rare example of a criticism by Hoggan of the Nazis' domestic policies relates to economics: these policies were not sufficiently Keynesian, he insisted (*Myth*, p. 6). (They were, in fact, entirely Keynesian, as wartime spending always is: huge deficits, monetary inflation, high employment, and "fiscal stimulus.") He wrote: "The German National Socialist government made many cardinal errors during World War II, but undoubtedly the most important one was in the field of the economics" (*Ibid.*, p. 2). Germany's slave labor camps were, in Hoggan's view, a far less important error.

He was in 1963 the author of an unpublished manuscript on *The Myth of the Six Million*, an early attack on the story of the Jewish holocaust, which he showed to me and Rushdoony. Like everything else I ever saw of his, it needed a lot more footnotes to prove his case, and a lot less rambling on peripheral issues. It was published anonymously without his permission in 1969 by something called The New Christian Crusade Church, located in Hollywood.

In *The Enforced War*, Hoggan defended Hitler as a peace-seeker. He wrote of Hitler's land-grabs of Czechoslovakia and Austria in 1938: "Hitler proved something which the League of Nations claimed that it would prove but never did. Peaceful territorial revision in Europe was possible. No one could have said this with any assurance before 1938, because empirical evidence was lacking. The threat of force was used by Hitler to achieve these results, but the shedding of blood in senseless wars was avoided (p. 86).

Then who was to blame for World War II? Lord Halifax: