

The Holocaust: A New History by Laurence Rees Quotes

...As for Jesus, he tells the Jews that they are children of the 'devil'. Harmful ideas about the Jews were thus built into the most holy Christian text; and generations of priests branded the Jews a 'perfidious' people who had 'wanted to have Lord Jesus Christ killed'. So it's not hard to understand why Jewish persecution was commonplace in a medieval Europe dominated by Christian culture.¹

Revealingly, two years later as he wrote *Mein Kampf*, Hitler did not say he was a Christian. Instead he made the ambiguous statement that he was acting in accordance with the 'Almighty Creator' and fighting for the 'work of the Lord'. The Christians who read this would have assumed that 'the Lord' in question was Jesus, but Hitler's words could also mean that he believed in a non-Christian creator God who left human beings to work out their own problems on earth, and that there was no afterlife except the life of the nation. His subsequent statements about Christianity make this interpretation persuasive. For instance, he later criticized the 'meekness and flabbiness' of Christianity.²

In fact the German Jews were one of the most assimilated Jewish groups in Europe.³

Prisoners in concentration camps did not serve a specific sentence – how could they when they had not necessarily committed any offence? Therefore no prisoner knew the date when they would be released. Maybe they would be released tomorrow – or maybe they would never be released. As one concentration camp commandant later said, 'the uncertainty of the duration of their confinement was something with which they could never come to terms. It was this that wore them down and broke the strongest wills.'⁴

Buy the book (Kindle and Audible available): <https://www.amazon.com/Holocaust-New-History-Laurence-Rees/dp/1610398440>

¹ 20 (Kindle Ed)

² 54

³ 55

⁴ 93