

Strasser on Anti-Semitism

So first of all I would like to dispel the myth that Strasserism has to include anti-semitism because I know that is probably question number one. The 14 theses that Strasser wrote does in fact include some anti-semitic language. It was published in 1929.

But Strasser published *Germany Tomorrow* in 1940. In *Germany Tomorrow* he makes this claim:

In various parts of my *Deutsche Revolution* and in numerous articles in the international press I have expressed the utmost disapproval of the shameless and inhuman anti-Jewish campaign that has characterized the Hitler System; and I may also mention that as early as 1928 in a party periodical, I protested editorially against antisemitism of the Streicher brand, voicing the war-cry, 'Antisemitism is dead. Long live the idea of the People!'

He also worked alongside Jews in the Black Front (A revolutionary movement that opposed Hitler).

Hence my Black Front men could attend without a passport. At this meeting, and others, most constant in attendance were Fritz Beer, my Munich leader; Will Simon, Bavarian head; Otto Witt, from Kiel; and Richard Schapke, from Berlin. Franzensbad was a favorite spot for our meetings, not only because of its convenience of access, but because a Black Fronter there, a Jewish doctor, had thrown open his sanitarium to us.

More:

It was toward the end of 1936 when I first met Helmut Hirsch, a young, handsome Jewish boy of twenty, who came from Stuttgart. Like so many others, he appeared in my office one day asking to become a member of the Black Front. "I was a member of the Buendische Yugend, in Stuttgart," he told me, anticipating my question. "I thought that would be a good recommendation; I hoped you'd let me join you, give me something really important to do. You know, the Black Front unit at home has sometimes let me help them." I knew that was probably true, though the Black Front took in only grown men, not youths. I knew that the Buendische Yugend, a youth organization with a wide membership, was sympathetic to the aims of the Black Front. "It's not only me," he went on, as though to convince me. "There are a whole group of us - some Jewish, some not. But we've often talked of the way the Jews suffer, of the way they take all the abuse the Nazis give them, and take it in silence. Many of these unfortunates seem to think that it's the Jewish lot to bear hardship and adversity - that if the Nazis didn't mete it out, some other agent would - and they eem

to feel that it is part of their religion to suffer in abject silence. That isn't so! We must fight back! We must become more aggressive! My friends and I have planned a demonstration of militant Jewry. We are going to blow up the Nurnberg building of Der Sturmer. That's why I've come to you - for help in obtaining the dynamite."

So either the 14 theses were going through publishing, and he changed his mind, or he got his dates mixed up. Either way, I consider the accusation that Strasserism is based in anti-semitism to be wrong.

Strasser wanted to have worker control of industry, but include some form of hierarchy to encourage some meritocracy. His solution was to set up a system of controlling stock. The manager would have a 49% share in the company and the workers would have a 51% share. All shared in the profit. This was his way of rewarding managers, but still giving a way for workers to run the company. So if the workers unanimously agreed to change something they could win by vote. Personally, I like the general idea, but I think I would tweak the numbers.

Industry would be divided in a syndicalist style guild system.

He viewed Stalin's tyranny as being similar to Hitler's:

How much justification there was for the ingrained prejudice of the German people against the Communists was shown by the Hitler-Stalin pact, which gave outward expression to the internal kinship between the two systems.

His opposition to internationalism, which was one of his issues with the communists of the time, is about as close to racism as he gets, but I think considering the general thought at the time is somewhat progressive. This is something that having grown up in the USA, I disagree with in the sense that I personally don't think race matters, but I do sometimes think that culture can be a problem that hurts national unity.

It was also due in major part to his anti-imperialist stance.

This advocacy of the idea of the People logically implied the disavowal of any valuation of peoples or nations as good or bad, as better or worse, since they all have equal rights, equal needs, and equal duties, in accordance with the will of the Creator, who gave each of them its own kind, its own nature, and its own tasks. This profound respect for organic life, and the fact that it is necessary for us and incumbent on us to recognize and maintain human dignity, imply that it will be an unconditional part of the social and political organization of New Germany to maintain the equal rights of all human beings. Yet this fundamental principle of equality must not be considered to invalidate the organic law that the peoples and nations are fundamentally different, with the result that they urgently need differences in their social and political institutions a fact which every government is bound to take into account.

He did want a European Union of sorts that would work as a sort of national scale mutual aid. Nations would leave each other alone, except where necessary in trade,

and would join together in a war scenario to repel invaders. Otherwise nations would strive to be as self-reliant as possible.

Strasserism is similar to the socialist system of North Korea. Like Juche, it is based in self-reliant national socialism. Unlike Juche, Strasser wasn't completely isolationist. He wanted to have a good relationship with his "neighbors" and outlined a full policy for apologizing and rectifying the damage done by Hitler.

If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask and I'll answer as best I can. Keep in mind, that I think many Strasserists here go with the wikipedia definition and include anti-semitism in their beliefs and there may be some writings that confirm it, but I have yet to find anything that is concrete.