

# Strasserism

Gregor Strasser joined the NSDAP in 1921, with his younger brother, Otto, joining in 1925. Both brothers, along with party comrades like Joseph Goebbels, devised an ideological current within the NSDAP which differed from the more moderate policies favored by Hitler and the monetarist theories promoted by Gottfried Feder.

The national socialism of the Strasser brothers contains the following characteristics:

\*European Collaboration: In contrast to the pan-Germanic imperialism and Nordicism endorsed by Hitler, Strasserism promoted pan-Europeanism. This pan-Europeanism would entail an economic cooperation between all European partners, so as to avoid the counterproductive aspects of economic competition between European states.

Otto Strasser believed that all Europeans were of similar racial descent and therefore fundamentally rejected any theory of superiority between European nationalities or subraces. However, Strasser also believed in the preservation of unique cultures and ethnicities.

\*Federalism: Otto Strasser promoted the decentralization of Germany, turning the nation into several distinct cultural regions which would be self-governing autonomous communities, though all regions would practice the same socialist economic model.

\*Socialization: The Strasser brothers (and many other members of the NSDAP) promoted the outright collectivization of the means of production. Workers' councils were to govern their workplaces, with state oversight to ensure such businesses were acting in accordance with national interests. The bourgeoisie were to be abolished and assimilated into the new socialist mode of production. Finance capital was also to be nationalized by the state.

\*Agrarian Reform: The Strasser faction of the NSDAP promoted the expropriation of the large landed estates in Germany, with the land to be redistributed to peasant families. All land would be owned by the state, but family farmers would be granted hereditary title to the plots of land. The farms would remain in the possession of each family until such time as the family no longer had a descendant willing to farm the land.

After the fall of the Third Reich, several national socialist parties emerged in Germany, and throughout the world, most notably Otto-Ernst Remer's Socialist Reich Party and Otto Strasser's German Social Union Party.

The Socialist Reich Party, funded in-part by the Soviet government, quickly drew significant support from among the West German populace but was banned under the denazification laws established by the new German government.

Otto Strasser, who was finally allowed to return to Germany in the mid 1950s, was almost imprisoned due to antisemitic statements he made in public while promoting his new political party. The German Social Union Party ultimately attracted few followers.