

Why Strasser Isn't an Anti-Semite

Well, he's not as bad as Hitler on anti-semitism but he still emphasized a German "national re-birth" and according to wikipedia,

Ugh. Wikipedia is the bane of my existence on this and to be fair, if you take Otto's earlier beliefs, and combine them with his brother Gregor's, then yeah.

It is very clear though, that Otto abandoned those anti-semitic beliefs and the Black Front worked alongside Jews to try to overthrow Hitler. Perhaps, it is because I agree with his latest writings, rather than his earlier writings, but I don't think judging him as an anti-semite is fair.

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.

and

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 seem 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."

also

Following his expulsion, he set up his own party, the Black Front, composed of radical ex-Nazis, in an attempt to split the Nazi Party. Here his lack of anti-Semitism was displayed by his willingness to associate with Jews Otto Strasser claimed he was a dissenting Nazi regarding racial policies. During his later life, he claimed to have actively opposed such policies within the national socialist movement; for example, by organizing the removal of Julius Streicher from the German Völkisch Freedom Party.

So Otto Strasser at least, was not an anti-semite in the end. As to the 'national-rebirth' part. He wanted to maintain and protect German culture without stepping on other cultures. As an American, I have a hard time relating to more homogeneous European nations because our culture is so diverse, but this is why I personally reject any sort of race-based nationalism. For German jews he had three options that he proposed to allow them a free choice on how they wished to govern/be governed.

- 1) move to a Zionist state created within Germany,
- 2) Stay within Germany as an official minority group with representatives in the German government.
- 3) To be culturally assimilated within Germany.

Also Stalin isn't a good representative of Communism

Otto Strasser isn't a good example of 'Nazi-ism'

I doubt Otto Strasser wanted the withering of the state

This is correct. As far as I understand, he was against the imperialistic nature of communism. He wanted socialism in one nation and I can understand the divide between us in this area. I know communists are willing to wage war in other nations to spread their ideology, but I would rather turtle up, become a self-sufficient nation, and worry about my own country.