

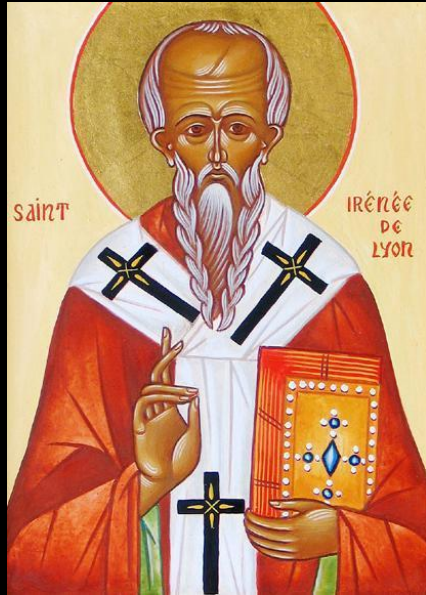
Myth #4
Luther Didn't Lead to Hitler



In fact, Luther Led
Straight to Hitler

How Luther Led to Hitler

First, take a look at some quotes of earlier “church fathers”:



“[The Jews] indeed, had they been cognizant of our future existence, and that we should use these proofs from the Scriptures, would themselves never have hesitated to burn their own Scriptures, which do declare that all other nations partake of [eternal] life, and show that they who boast themselves as being the house of Jacob and the people of Israel, are **disinherited from the grace of God.**”

Iranaeus, Bishop of Lyons

Against Heresies, Book III, Chapter 21. Translated by Alexander Roberts and William Rambaut. From *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 1. Edited by Alexander Roberts, James Donaldson, and A. Cleveland Coxe. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1885.) Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight.

How Luther Led to Hitler

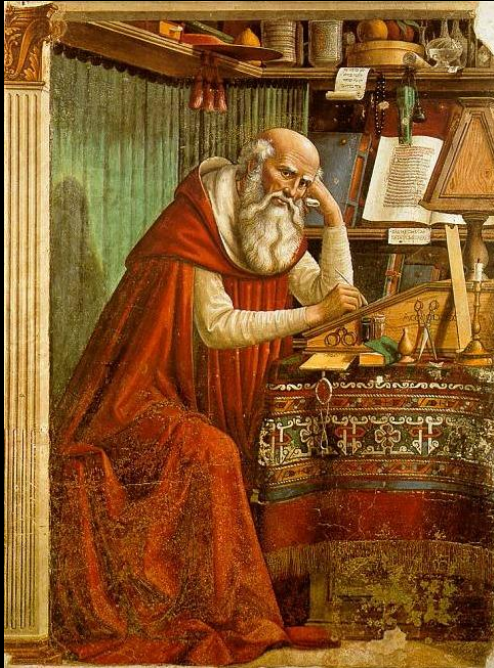
Let us then have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd; for we have received from our Saviour a different way. A course at once legitimate and honorable lies open to our most holy religion. Beloved brethren, let us with one consent adopt this course, and withdraw ourselves from all participation in their baseness. For their boast is absurd indeed, that it is not in our power without instruction from them to observe these things. For how should they be capable of forming a sound judgment, who, since their parricidal guilt in slaying their Lord, have been subject to the direction, not of reason, but of ungoverned passion, and are swayed by every impulse of the mad spirit that is in them?

Emperor Constantine, as recorded by Eusebius



Life of Constantine, Book II, Chapter 18. Translated by Ernest Cushing Richardson. From *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, Vol. 1*. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1890.) Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight.

How Luther Led to Hitler



I, on the contrary, shall maintain, and, though the world were to protest against my view, I may boldly declare that **the Jewish ceremonies are to Christians both hurtful and fatal; and that whoever observes them, whether he be Jew or Gentile originally, is cast into the pit of perdition.**

Jerome, in a letter to Augustine

From Jerome to Augustine, Chapter 4. Translated by J.G. Cunningham. From *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, First Series, Vol. 1*. Edited by Philip Schaff. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1887.)

Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight.

How Luther Led to Hitler



Julius Streicher, convicted and executed Nazi war criminal, felt justified by what Luther wrote.

The church's hatred of Jews led directly to Nazi Germany, as expressed by this Nuremberg defendant, Julius Streicher, at his trial:

DR. MARX: Apart from your weekly journal, and particularly after the Party came into power, were there any other publications in Germany which treated the Jewish question in an anti-Semitic way?

STREICHER: Anti-Semitic publications have existed in Germany for centuries. A book I had, written by Dr. Martin Luther, was, for instance, confiscated. Dr. Martin Luther would very probably sit in my place in the defendants' dock today, if this book had been taken into consideration by the Prosecution. In the book *The Jews and Their Lies*, Dr. Martin Luther writes that the Jews are a serpent's brood and one should burn down their synagogues and destroy them...

Julius Streicher, editor of *Der Sturm*, Nazi propaganda paper

Nuremberg Trial Proceedings, Vol. 12, One Hundred and Sixteenth Day, Monday, 29 April 1946, Morning Session, Yale Law School's Avalon Project

How Luther Led to Hitler



For centuries Catholics had been instructed that the Jews had killed Christ and the first Protestant, Martin Luther, had charged that the Jew had not only transformed God into the devil, but was a “plague, pestilence, pure misfortune,”—a blight on Christianity and the world which had to be dealt with peremptorily.

[Hitler] carried within him [the church’s] teaching that the Jew was the killer of God. The extermination, therefore, could be done without a twinge of conscience since he was merely acting as the avenging hand of God—so long as it was done impersonally, without cruelty.



Adolf Hitler; The Definitive Biography, by John Toland,
Volume 1, pp. 103 and 703,
Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 1976

The following slides compare quotes from Luther's book, *The Jews and Their Lies*, to photographs from Hitler's Germany.

You decide: Did Luther lead to Hitler?

How Luther Led to Hitler



“First to **set fire to their synagogues** or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them. This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians, and do not condone or knowingly tolerate such public lying, cursing, and blaspheming of his Son and of his Christians.

These seven quotes are by Martin Luther,
from his book *The Jews and Their Lies*

How Luther Led to Hitler

“Second, I advise that **their houses also be razed and destroyed**. For they pursue in them the same aims as in their synagogues. Instead they might be lodged under a roof or in a barn, like the gypsies. This will bring home to them that they are not masters in our country as they boast, but that they are living in exile and in captivity, as they incessantly wail and lament about us before God.



How Luther Led to Hitler

“Third, I advise that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings, in which such idolatry, lies, cursing and blasphemy are taught, be taken from them.



How Luther Led to Hitler



“Fourth, I advise that **their rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life and limb.** For they have justly forfeited the right to such an office by holding the poor Jews captive with the saying of Moses (Deuteronomy 17 [:10 ff.]) in which he commands them to obey their teachers on penalty of death, although Moses clearly adds: ‘what they teach you in accord with the law of the Lord.’ Those villains ignore that. They wantonly employ the poor people’s obedience contrary to the law of the Lord and infuse them with this poison, cursing, and blasphemy.

How Luther Led to Hitler

“Fifth, I advise that **safe conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the Jews**. For they have no business in the countryside, since they are not lords, officials, tradesmen, or the like. Let them stay at home.



How Luther Led to Hitler



“Sixth, I advise that **usury be prohibited to them, and that all cash and treasure of silver and gold be taken from them and put aside for safekeeping.** The reason for such a measure is that, as said above, they have no other means of earning a livelihood than usury, and by it they have stolen and robbed from us all they possess.

How Luther Led to Hitler

“Seventh, I commend putting a flail, an ax, a hoe, a spade, a distaff, or a spindle into the hands of young, strong Jews and Jewesses and letting them earn their bread in the sweat of their brow, as was imposed on the children of Adam (Gen 3[:19]). For it is not fitting that they should let us accursed Goyim toil in the sweat of our faces while they, the holy people, idle away their time behind the stove, feasting and farting, and on top of all, boasting blasphemously of their lordship over the Christians by means of our sweat. No, one should toss out these lazy rogues by the seat of their pants.



How Luther Led to Hitler

“If this does not help we must **drive them out like mad dogs**, so that we do not become partakers of their abominable blasphemy and all their other vices and thus merit God's wrath and be damned with them.

“I have done my duty. Now let everyone see to his. I am exonerated.”

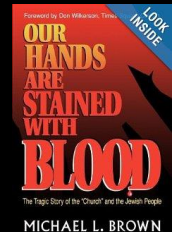
How Luther Led to Hitler

There is a saying, “The only church history which Jews know is from those pages which the church has ripped out of the history books.”

While Jews may know about the church’s advocacy for the killing or marginalization of Jews, most Christians have no idea of this history.

Today, anti-Semitism usually represents itself as anti-Israel, slandering Israel as an apartheid, illegal state, when the facts are just the opposite. For example, Israel is the only country in the Mideast with full religious freedom. It is also the country with the most freedom for Palestinians, who work as teachers, officers, doctors, judges, and even members of Knesset, while Palestinians are treated as unwanted refugees by their own relatives in the surrounding Arab countries.

For more information, see *Our Hands are Stained with Blood*, by Michael Brown.



Note: Many Lutherans have spoken out against the anti-Semitism presented by Martin Luther. Below are some of these Lutherans as listed in a Wikipedia [article](#):

The Lutheran World Federation

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church

European Lutheran Commission on the Church and the Jewish People

Myth #4
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BUSTED!