DID THE CHURCHES COLLABORATE WITH OR RESIST THE NAZI REGIME?

BY ME! MARY LIM~ DA DA DA DAAAAAA. POKEMON! POOKEEEMONNNN! YEAH. I NEED TO DELETE DIS LATAH. AND ADD MORE INFO KAY NOW IMMA FIX THAT HANDOUT. TEEHEE I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN EATING CHOCOLATE AHAAHAHAHAHAH
HOW DID THE NAZI REGIME TREAT THE CHURCHES?
OVERALL APPROACH

CONTROL THEM.

REDUCE THEIR INFLUENCE.

REPEACE THEM WITH NAZI FAITH.
STAGE ONE!

Government tried to make a unified protestant Reich Church

September 1933: 100+ people created a breakaway movement

October 1934: The Confessional Church was created
STILL STAGE ONE!

Concordat agreement with Pope
Catholic Church won’t interfere in politics
Nazi state won’t interfere with Church institutions

Initial Harmony
Later criticism of state infringement of the Concordat
STAGE TWO!!

Make Protestantism more ‘Nazi’ with German Christians

Provoked Reaction from the public
Increase support for the Confessional Church
STILL STAGE TWO!!

Attempt to reduce the influence of the Catholic Church
Young people were encouraged to join Hitler Groups, not Catholic Groups
1936: Hitler group compulsory; Church groups disbanded

Children in Church Schools:
1935: 65%
1975: 5%
Church Schools disappeared in 1939

Public Hostility
FINAL STAGE!!!

Replace Christianity with German Faith Movement

Mid 1930s: 'Church Session Campaign' was launched to encourage Germans to leave the Church

In 1937 over 100,000 Christians left the Church

There were only random infrequent attempts to achieve this Plan postponed till after war due to the provoking opposition
HOW DID THE CHURCHES REACT TO THE NAZI STATE?

- Churches wanted to protect their own institutions and beliefs.
- The Christians often blamed on the radicals around Hitler, but not Hitler himself.
HOW DID THE CHURCHES REACT TO THE NAZI STATE?

1937: Pope issued the encyclical ‘With Burning Grief’.

- Complains about:
  - Government break of the Concordat
  - Harassment of priests
  - Nazi idolatry of the state and race.
- Caused dismay within the government
DURING THE THIRD REICH

- 800-17,000 Protestant pastors were arrested.
- Only 50 got major prison sentences.
- Christians later felt the Churches had failed in their duty during the regime.
- Both the Catholic and Protestant Churches were concerned the demonstrate their patriotism and supported the war effort.
HOW DID THE GERMAN PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE UNEASY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE?

- Slight reduction in religious instructions at schools. Slight.
- Less people teach religious studies
- The more attempts are made to keep watch on the Church, the more people support the priests.
- More people are taking part in church celebrations and events, because the people that disapprove of the measures taken against Catholic organisations want to show to the public that they are loyal to the Catholic Church.
DID THE CHURCHES COLLABORATE OR RESIST THE NAZI REGIME?

From that photo, it's obvious—

Many Christians support Nazism because of its anti-communism and respect for traditional cultural values. The churches could be said to have broadly comprised so they won't go bye bye, and they frequently confirmed their loyalty to Hitler.
I. Hitler publicly acknowledged the role of Christianity but because of its opposing values privately vowed to eliminate it.

II. Many Christians supported Nazism because of its anti-communism and respect for traditional cultural values.

III. The Nazi approach was initially to try to control the Churches, the weaken them and finally replace them.

IV. A Reich Church was created to control Protestantism, but the breakaway Confessional Church rejected government interference.
V. The Catholic Church signed an agreement with Hitler but became increasingly concerned with the government's actions.

VI. Some priests were arrested and some Church organisation were threatened, but the Christian faith remained strong, and increased again during the Second World War.

VII. The Nazis' efforts to introduce the German Faith Movement failed.

VIII. The Churches were more concerned to defend there institutions from NAzi attack than to challenge the government on a broader front.
IX. There was more criticism of and opposition to the regime from individual Christians than from the Churches as institutions.

X. The Churches could be said to have broadly compromised in order to survive.
THANK YOU  
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