

God or Hitler?



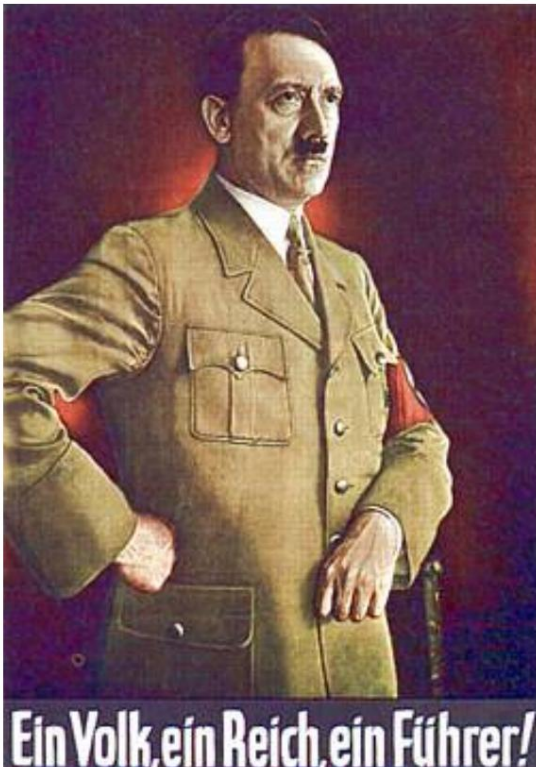
Some time ago I acquired a German field postcard sent in November 1915.

The image side of the card bears the inscription: "*Ein Reich - Ein Volk - Ein Gott.*"

The text is suspiciously reminiscent of a later motto of Hitler's Germany: "*Ein Volk - Ein Reich - Ein Führer.*"

And this similarity made me search for the origin of the text.

The two texts contain a trinity, where the People and the Kingdom are part of both. The only difference is that in the first text God is the final part of the Trinity, while God is scrapped in the later Nazi version and replaced with the Leader, Hitler in the highest.



The motto "*Ein Reich - Ein Volk - Ein Gott*" originates from Wilhelm II's Second German Reich. Germany was first

united in 1871, and there was a constant need to keep the empire together. The motto is almost a kind of incantation on the desire for German unity. A unity which after the defeat in 1918 could no longer be maintained. Large parts of the kingdom were split off into France, Poland and Denmark. The people fought a fierce civil war. And the difference between the Catholic and Protestant parts of the country persisted.

The later rewriting of the motto in the Nazi era was part of the Hitler myth, where Hitler was the unifying figure and absolute center of the Reich. God was no longer the most important thing. Now it was Hitler who effectively replaced God.

Mottoet "*One people - one empire - one leader*" viser hvor absurd Det tredje Riges propaganda kunne drives. On the other hand, Hitler succeeded far better than Kaiser Wilhelm in maintaining the trinity. The German Empire and people followed the Leader in defeat - to the last cartridge and drop of blood. Even in 1945, there were no plans for either rebellion or revolution.

In the clear light of hindsight, we can state that the Nazi motto was closer to the world of reality than the original one, which was more characterized by wishful thinking than reality. Perhaps the German people in 1945 had forgotten God? In any case, the Driver was a tangible reality that took infinite suffering to get rid of.

Christian Hesselberg