

Inmates in the Prison Church (1837)

Abstract

During the *Vormärz* period, the restored monarchies used the repressive [Carlsbad Decrees](#) of 1819 as the basis for a merciless campaign against all democratic and nationalist movements. State oppression in the German territories increased in response to the July Revolution in France and to home-grown revolutionary demonstrations such as the [Hambach Festival](#) of 1832. For many intellectuals, as well as rebellious craftsmen, laborers, and students, the “persecution of demagogues” campaign [*Demagogenverfolgung*] meant imprisonment and, in some cases, even execution. The scene reproduced below shows closely guarded inmates as they attend a prison church service. Their clothing identifies them as bourgeois victims of the *Demagogenverfolgung*. Painting by Wilhelm Joseph Heine (1813–1839).

Source



Source: Original: Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig

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