

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1939)

Abstract

The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was one of the best-known representatives of the so-called Confessing Church [*Bekennende Kirche* or BK]. With a membership base of some 3,000 pastors, the Confessing Church was the Protestant churches' most significant attempt at institutional resistance to the Nazi dictatorship. The Confessing Church declared racial ideology incompatible with Christianity, and protested state control of ecclesiastical politics. Bonhoeffer also worked with resistance groups in the Wehrmacht's Office of Military Intelligence. On April 5, 1943, he was arrested and charged with undermining the strength of the military. Two years later, he was hanged in the Flossenbürg concentration camp on April 9, 1945. Today he is known chiefly for the memorandum "Who Can Resist Temptation?" (December 1942), in which he called on the German people to show courage and take responsibility before themselves and God.

Source



Source: Dietrich Bonhoeffer 1939 in London. German Protestant theologian, member of the Confessing Church, involved in the resistance against National Socialism, executed in 1945. Photo: Rotraut Forberg. bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30013695. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries). / Rotraut Forberg

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Recommended Citation: Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1939), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/nazi-germany-1933-1945/ghdi:image-1932>> [May 19, 2024].