

The “Sacrificial Spirit” of the Youth on Film: *Hitlerjunge Quex* (1933)

Abstract

This movie was based on a novel from 1932, which was first serialized in the Nazi party newspaper *Völkischer Beobachter*. The novel was published at time when the NSDAP was the biggest party in Germany, whose supporters were fighting its political enemies, especially communists, in the streets and at the ballot box. The film, which opened in theaters in 1933, contrasted the crude demeanor of the boorish workers’ parties to the proud, orderly, and clean Nazis. The story was based on the life of Herbert Norkus, a 15-year-old member of the Hitler Youth (HJ) whom communists murdered in 1932 while he was handing out HJ flyers. In this scene, Herbert, renamed Heini, witnesses the difference between his own undisciplined upbringing and the orderly and patriotic Nazis to whom he is drawn. He eventually joins the Hitler Youth against his father’s wishes, shows his courage and devotion to the cause, and then is “martyred” at the hands of a communist.

The film is indexed as a "Vorbehaltsfilm" (banned Nazi film) in Germany, which is why we cannot feature a clip but only a film still.

Source



Source: Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Stiftung

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