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Subject: Re: Is it possible to be shocked but not surprised?

Posted by [Spoony](#) on Fri, 18 Nov 2011 12:41:15 GMT

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everything about stalin's and mao's regimes was religious... the concept of an infallible leader who can't be questioned, the reliance upon faith instead of evidence, the concept of thoughtcrime as something that can be legislated and punished, the concept of everything good that happens being thanks to the supreme being's kindness and wisdom while everything bad that happens is a plot by his enemy...

you often hear it said that stalin was anti-religion. no, he was anti-rival-religion, like religion invariably is when it has the power to be.

as for hitler, it's too simplistic to call him a catholic (it's much closer to the truth than calling him an atheist would be, but that's besides the point). it's true that european fascism literally was the catholic right-wing in the beginning, it's true that the catholic church held cosy relations with every fascist regime in europe until the very end (even after the death of hitler) and it's true that the catholic church was an officially anti-semitic organisation all the way until the 1960's (the thing that made it change its mind on that was the general shift in the zeitgeist rather than the holocaust). but hitler himself was a kind of weird blend of nordic blood myths, leader worship, all that aryan nonsense, and the anti-semitism of fascism's catholic origins.

and hitler didn't just flick a switch and make everyone in germany hate jews all of a sudden - anti-semitism had been bubbling away in europe for centuries thanks to the christian churches, especially the catholic church.

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