

# Jehovahs Witnesses Under Communist Regimes

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## JADA SLADE

### Mein Kampf / My Struggle Followed by the Testament of Adolf Hitler ABC-CLIO

The Jehovah's Witnesses endured intense persecution under the Nazi regime, from 1933 to 1945. Unlike the Jews and others persecuted and killed by virtue of their birth, Jehovah's Witnesses had the opportunity to escape persecution and personal harm by renouncing their religious beliefs. The vast majority refused and throughout their struggle, continued to meet, preach, and distribute literature. In the face of torture, maltreatment in concentration camps, and sometimes execution, this unique group won the respect of many contemporaries. Up until now, little has been known of their particular persecution.

### International Bibliography of Sociology Routledge

Describes more than thirty new and alternative religions practiced in America, covering their history, philosophy, leaders, religious practices, and the controversies that arise around them.

### Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion, Volume 17 Taylor & Francis

Religious repression--the non-violent suppression of civil and political rights--is a growing and global phenomenon. Though most often practiced in authoritarian countries, levels of religious repression nevertheless vary across a range of non-democratic regimes, including illiberal democracies and competitive authoritarian states. In *The Varieties of Religious Repression*, Ani Sarkissian argues that seemingly benign regulations and restrictions on religion are tools that non-democratic leaders use to repress independent civic activity, effectively maintaining their hold on power. Sarkissian examines the interaction of political competition and the structure of religious divisions in society, presenting a theory of why religious repression varies across non-democratic regimes. She also offers a new way of understanding the commonalities and differences of non-democratic regimes by focusing on the targets of religious repression. Drawing on quantitative data from more than one hundred authoritarian states, as well as case studies of sixteen countries from around the world, Sarkissian explores the varieties of repression that states impose on religious expression, association, and political activities, describing the obstacles these actions present for democratization, pluralism, and the development of an independent civil society.

### Religious Freedom Routledge

This report, the first of its kind yet to be published, provides a detailed and impartial account of how the individual's right to hold beliefs is understood, protected or denied throughout the world. Consisting of accessible, short edited entries based on drafts commissioned from experts living in the countries surveyed, it exposes persecution and discrimination in virtually all world regions. The book: \* provides an analysis of United Nations standards of freedom of religion and belief \* covers over fifty countries, divided into regions and introduced by a regional overview \* covers themes including: the relationships between belief groups and the state; freedom to manifest belief in law and practice; religion and schools; religious minorities; new religious movements; the impact of beliefs on the status of women; and the extent to which conscientious objection to military service is recognised by governments \* draws on examples of accommodation and co-operation between different religions and beliefs and identifies the main challenges to be overcome if the diversity of human conviction is to be established.

### European Politics Duke University Press

The religious association of Jehovah's Witnesses has existed for about 150 years in Europe. How Jehovah's Witnesses found their way in these countries has depended upon the way this missionary association was treated by the majority of the non-Witness population, the government and established churches. In this respect, the history of Jehovah's Witnesses in Europe is also a history of the social constitution of these countries and their willingness to accept and integrate religious minorities. Jehovah's Witnesses faced suppression and persecution not only in dictatorships, but also in some democratic states. In other countries, however, they developed in relative freedom. How the different situations in the various national societies affected the religious association and what challenges Jehovah's Witnesses had to overcome - and still do in part even until our day - is the theme of this history volume.

### Grounded in Grace Dorrance Publishing

This book examines the historic tensions between Jehovah's Witnesses and government authorities, civic organisations, established churches and the broader public. Witnesses originated in the 1870s as small, loose-knit groups calling themselves Bible Students. Today, there are some eight million Witnesses worldwide, all actively engaged in evangelism under the direction of the Watch Tower Society. The author analyses issues that have brought them global visibility and even notoriety, including political neutrality, public ministry, blood transfusion, and anti-ecumenism. It also explores anti-Witness discourse, from media portrayals of the community as marginal and exotic to the anti-cult movement. Focusing on varied historical, ideological and national contexts, the book argues that Witnesses have had a defining influence on conceptions of religious tolerance in the modern world.

### State and Minorities in Communist East Germany Univ of Wisconsin Press

This book provides a comparative analysis of oppositionist trends in the Soviet satellite states of contemporary Eastern Europe. It evaluates the extent and objectives of independent social activism in these countries, and explores both the causes and effects of public dissent.

### Communism's Prophet Berghahn Books

Debates about the place of mission work in English Language Teaching continue to rage, and yet full-length studies of what really happens at the intersection of ELT and evangelical Christianity are rare. In this book, Johnston conducts a detailed ethnography of an evangelical language school in Poland, looking at its Bible-based curriculum, and analyzing interaction in classes for adults. He also explores the idea of 'relationship' in the context of the school and its mission activity, and more broadly the cultural encounter between North American evangelicalism and Polish Catholicism. The book comprises an in-depth examination of a key issue facing TEFL in the 21st century, and will be of interest to all practitioners and scholars in the field, whatever their position on this topic.

### Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion Berghahn Books

"This collection reveals the presence and power of religious belief and practice in public life after the demise of Soviet socialism. Based on recent research and interdisciplinary methodologies, Religion, Morality, and Community in Post-Soviet Societies examines how religious organizations and individuals engage the changing and troubled environment in which they live, which presents

expanded civil freedom but much everyday uncertainty, unhappiness, injustice, and suffering"--Page [4] of cover.

### CSCE Digest Cooper Square Press

The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. The Congressional Record began publication in 1873. Debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in *The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States (1789-1824)*, the *Register of Debates in Congress (1824-1837)*, and the *Congressional Globe (1833-1873)*

### Judicial Integrity Springer

Based on interviews and the voluminous materials in the archives of the SED, the Stasi and central and regional authorities, this volume focuses on several contrasting minorities (Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, 'guest' workers from Vietnam and Mozambique, football fans, punks, and skinheads) and their interaction with state and party bodies during Erich Honecker's rule over the communist system. It explores how they were able to resist persecution and surveillance by instruments of the state, thus illustrating the limits on the power of the East German dictatorship and shedding light on the notion of authority as social practice.

### Religion and Prison: An Overview of Contemporary Europe Greenwood Publishing Group

Rather than considering contemporary culture in light of secularization, much of the Western Church operates with a degree of nostalgia. This book constitutes a decisive missiological intervention calling for renewed appraisal of contemporary Christian proclamation.

### Freedom of Religion and Belief: A World Report Bloomsbury Publishing

IBSS is the essential tool for librarians, university departments, research institutions and any public or private institution whose work requires access to up-to-date and comprehensive knowledge of the social sciences.

### Religion, Rights and Secular Society Edward Elgar Publishing

First published in 1952, the *International Bibliography of the Social Sciences* (anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology) is well established as a major bibliographic reference for students, researchers and librarians in the social sciences worldwide. Key features \* Authority: Rigorous standards are applied to make the IBSS the most authoritative selective bibliography ever produced. Articles and books are selected on merit by some of the world's most expert librarians and academics. \*Breadth: today the IBSS covers over 2000 journals - more than any other comparable resource. The latest monograph publications are also included. \*International Coverage: the IBSS reviews scholarship published in over 30 languages, including publications from Eastern Europe and the developing world. \*User friendly organization: all non-English titles are word sections. Extensive author, subject and place name indexes are provided in both English and French. Place your standing order now for the 2002 volumes of the the IBSS Anthropology: 2002 Vol.48 December 2003: 234x156: Hb: 0-415-32634-6: £195.00 Economics: 2002 Vol.51 December 2003: 234x156: Hb: 0-415-32635-4: £195.00 Political Science: 2002 Vol.51 December 2003: 234x156: Hb: 0-415-32636-2: £195.00 Sociology: 2002 Vol.52 December 2003: 234x156: Hb: 0-415-32637-0: £195.00

### World History in Real Light Greenwood Publishing Group

Using materials from Witness archives, the U.S. State Department, Nazi files, and other sources, M. James Penton demonstrates that while many ordinary German Witnesses were brave in their opposition to Nazism, their leaders were quite prepared to support the Hitler government. --from publisher description

### Digest Routledge

This volume offers a European overview of the management of religious diversity in prisons and provides readers with rich empirical material and a comparative perspective. The chapters combine both legal and sociological approaches. Coverage for each country includes historical background, current penitentiary organization, and recent changes or trends. In their exploration of legal aspects, the contributors look at such factors as the status of prison chaplains and regulations concerning religious practice and religious freedom. These include meals, prayers, and visits. The sociological analysis examines religious discrimination in prison, church-prison relations, conversion and proselytism, and more. The European coverage includes countries for which such information is seldom available. The book offers readers a better understanding of governance of religion in prisons. This text appeals to students, researchers and professionals in the field.

### State and Salvation Emerald Group Publishing

Coming at a time of enormous transformations in the one-time Communist bloc, this volume provides a much-needed perspective on the significance of church-state relations in the renaissance of civil society in the region. The essays collected here accentuate the peculiarly political character of Protestantism within Communist systems. With few identifiable leaders, a multiplicity of denominations, and a tendency away from hierarchical structures, the Protestant churches presents a remarkably diverse pattern of church-state relations. Consequently, the longtime coexistence of Protestantism and Communism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union affords numerous examples of political accommodation and theological adaption that both reflect and foreshadow the dramatic changes of the 1990s. Based on extensive field research, including interviews with notable figures in the Protestant churches in the region, the essays in this volume address broad topics such as the church's involvement in environmentalism, pacifism, and other dissident movements, as well as issues particular to Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, (1949-1989), Hungary, Yugoslavia (1945-1991), Bulgaria, and Romania. The final volume in the three-volume work "Christianity Under Stress," Protestantism and Politics in Eastern Europe and Russia will prove invaluable to anyone hoping to understand not only the workings of religion under Communism, but the historical and contemporary interactions of church and state in general. Contributors. Paul Bock, Lawrence Klippenstein, Paul Mojzes, Earl A. Pope, Joseph Pungur, Sabrina Petra Ramet, Walter Sawatsky, N. Gerald Shenk, Gerd Stricker, Sape A. Zylstra

### The Secret Police and the Religious Underground in Communist and Post-Communist Eastern Europe Oxford University Press

Restrictions with respect to religious freedom have been in place in authoritarian states for a number of years. We can observe a new period of co-operation between authoritarian states and "state" churches. Some churches have assumed a clearly political position, even in belligerent conflicts, by justifying wars, criminalizing their religious competitors and, thereby, exploiting the Christian Gospel for non-Christian purposes. In this volume, scholars from Europe and North America

discuss the core objective of religious freedom in the West and East seeking measures to encourage religions to act and interact, independent of deliberate political stances - to maintain their distance from territorial governments and to strengthen the principle of religious freedom and, thereby, their own denomination as well.

**The Varieties of Religious Repression** Wipf and Stock Publishers

This book addresses the complex intersection of secret police operations and the formation of the religious underground in communist-era Eastern Europe. It discusses how religious groups were perceived as dangerous to the totalitarian state whilst also being extremely vulnerable and yet at the same time very resourceful. It explores how this particular dynamic created the concept of the "religious underground" and produced an extremely rich secret police archival record. In a series of studies from across the region, the book explores the historical and legal context of secret police entanglement with religious groups, presents case studies on particular anti-religious operations and groups, offers methodological approaches to the secret police materials for the study of religions, and engages in contemporary ethical and political debates on the legacy and meaning of the

archives in post-communism.

**The Jehovah's Witnesses and the Nazis** BRILL

In this study of the mechanisms of transitional justice in Poland, Frances Millard asks: How does society come to terms with its past? How should it punish the perpetrators of oppression and acknowledge its victims? In the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe the task of answering these questions came down to the need to eliminate the communist parties' hold over the state, the economy and society in order to move towards democracy. Millard argues that the key step in achieving this was uncovering the truth about the previous regime's past, prosecuting the perpetrators of past crimes and providing compensation and restitution for its victims. Through the specific case of Poland, Millard provides a comprehensive assessment of the mechanisms and institutions used to achieve this, such as lustration, law enforcement through a Constitutional Tribunal and institutions dedicated to dealing with the past such as the Institute of National Remembrance. Crucially, these processes have assumed new significance in recent years after the Law and Justice Party came to power in 2015, using transitional justice as a tool of political control which has enabled the restructuring of Polish democracy.