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Norwegian Clergy's Fight Against Nazis, Quislings Brings Results

The Fight of the Norwegian Church against Nazism, by Bjarne Høye and Trygve M. Ager, just published by MacMillan Co., throws new light upon reports from London indicating a certain yielding by Quisling authorities to the church.

Five churchmen of the Oslo diocese have had their robes returned and will be permitted to preach again. The men freed include the secretary to Bishop Eivand Berggrav of Oslo, the Norwegian Primate, who has been a strong fighter against the Nazi-dominated Norwegian authorities.

A Quisling representative is said to have referred to the latest development as part of a new appeasement policy, intended to make the opposition more pliable.

The significance of the German retreat is indicated by Høye and Ager who assert that in Norway the fight of the Lutheran church is peculiarly the people's fight.

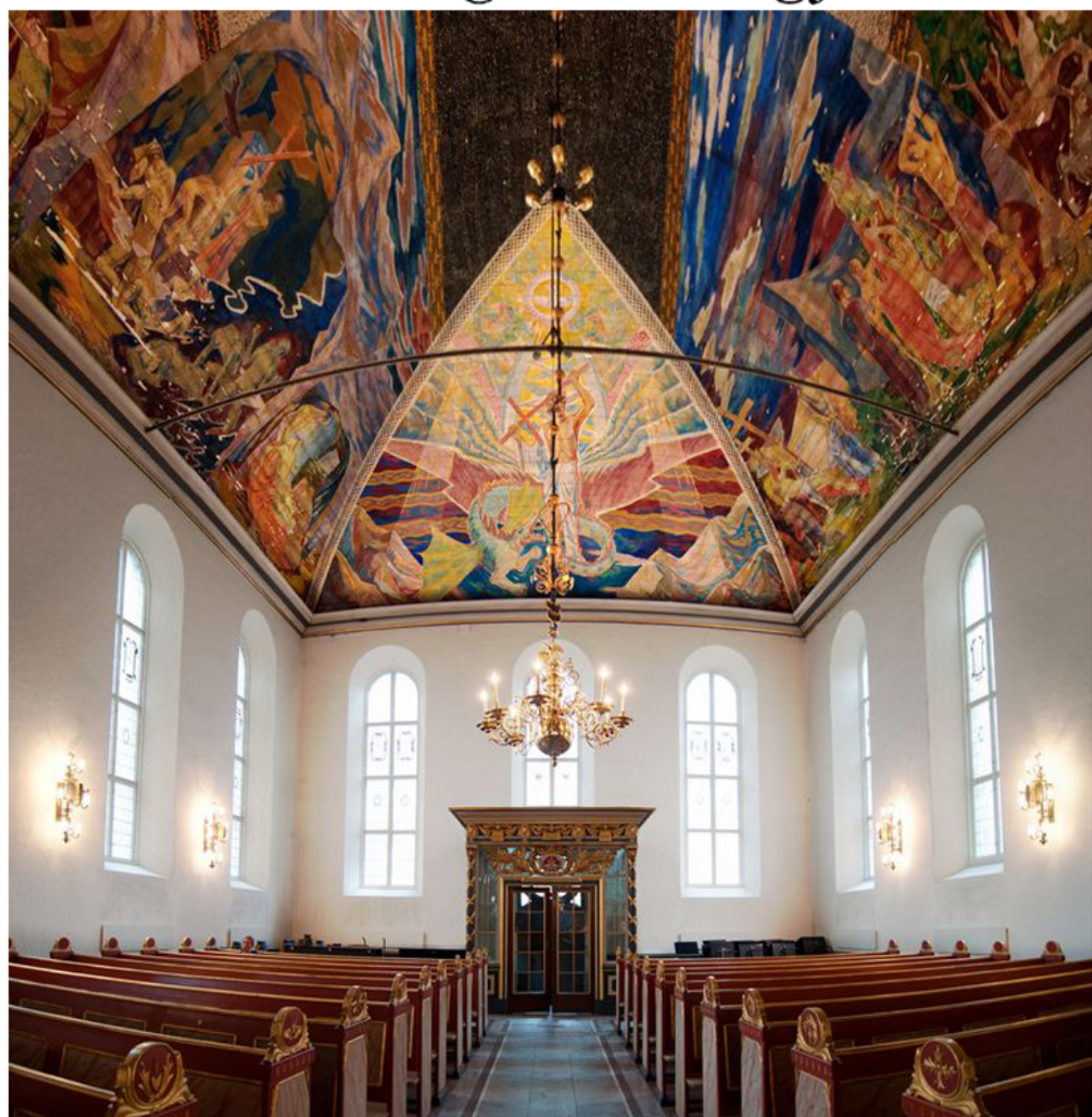
The book reveals that the earliest attempts at Nazification of Norway were met by a "general mobilization" of the people under the leadership of the church. The Christian Council for Joint Deliberation was formed and "welded Norwegian Christians together in a single firm block of resistance."

Led Fight on Samling

In its war against the Nazis, the book points out, the church specifically attacked the *Nasjonal Samling* (*National Union*) the Fascist organization which attempted to enroll the Norwegians to fight for the *New Order*. The success of the church the authors say, is illustrated by the fact that only one per cent of the population—30,000 out of a total of 3,000,000 joined the party.

Similarly the church attacked the Hird, a terrorist band of young Quisling troopers, operating in the same way as the Hitler S. A. gangs.

2 *Norwegian Clergy*



It instituted a boycott of Nazi radio propaganda which the authorities never succeeded in breaking. Eventually the Germans had to confiscate all radio sets in Norway because listeners were tuning in to shortwave Allied broadcasts.

It attacked the Nazi persecution of the Jews. The book quotes a sharp protest lodged with Minister President Quisling:

“For 91 years Jews have had a legal right to reside and earn a livelihood in our country. Now they are being deprived of their property without warning and thereafter the men are arrested and thus prevented from providing for their propertyless wives and children. This conflicts not only with the Christian commandment “love thy neighbor” but with the most elemental, legal rights.

‘Victory Shall Be Ours’

The authors suggest what the people of Norway feel about the German occupation by quoting a letter written by a young girl to her brother fighting with the Norwegian forces in Great Britain:

“Give my thanks to the voices in London which bring us the news. We will hang on here. But it is sad that so many must die. What a people the Norwegians are! And what a country! Let the money and property disappear. We shall be able to build it all again. The victory shall be ours.”