



A Conservative View

Position Paper VI: Austria and the Nazis

Brad Fregger

This is a very different format for a Position Paper but I believe that the content of this story is extremely relevant to our situation in the United States today.

At 10 years old, Kitty Werthmann experienced the Nazi occupation of Austria personally, this is her story.

The Occupation of Austria by the Nazis Just Prior to World War II

Kitty Werthmann

The media still claims that Hitler rode into Austria with tanks and guns and took us over. Not true at all. The fact is that the Austrian people elected Hitler by 98 percent of the vote.

The year was 1938 Austria was in a very, very deep depression, we had 30 percent unemployment, we had 25 percent inflation, if you borrowed money from the bank you paid 25 percent interest.

It was not unusual in my home that 30 people a day would knock on the door for a bowl of soup and a slice of bread. They could keep themselves alive by going door to door; there were no jobs.

The media told us that in Germany, where Hitler ruled since 1933, they had full employment, they had a high living standard. We did not hear a whisper that anybody was being persecuted or arrested, we only heard good things. And, we said, "Why not? We would like to have the same high living standard what Germany had." And, of all the things jobs, people wanted to work.

So, the Austrian people petitioned the government for an election. And hence, the Austrian people elected Hitler by 98 percent of the vote.

So, the first thing that happened, we had to carry national ID cards. You could not board a bus, you could not board a train, without showing your national ID card.

Before Hitler, of course the moms stayed home, they were good wives and they raised their families. But under socialism, if you are not in the workforce you are called a parasite. So the moms were being put out into the workforce, so what happened to the children? Childcare centers. It was all free for everybody. You could bring your 4-month old baby, leave it there 24 hours ... Seven day a week, as longer you left your child there the better the government liked it.

The staff of the childcare centers, they were not the grandmotherly type of women who took care of the children. They were young women, highly skilled in child psychology to mold the little babies from 4 weeks on up, how the government wanted them. The government raised our children.

That morning, after the election, I walked into my classroom and the crucifix was gone! And the teacher said, "This morning we greet each other, Heil Hitler!" And she said, "We don't pray anymore, we sing 'Deutschland, Deutschland, Uber Alles.'" Germany above

everybody. And she also said, we would not have twice a week religious education anymore either, we would have physical education instead. So the rest of the day we had sports and fun.

So when we returned home at night we told our parents how much fun we had and how much better it was and all the sports equipment we got free.

Well, my parents were very concerned, especially my mother. So when my next school term came about, in October, she announced that she would enroll me in a private school with an excellent curriculum but not much fun.

Off we went to the new school, high wall around and a locked iron gate. And, as bid my mother at the gate, I almost hated her. I thought she was going to put me into a prison. But she was a wise woman, she said, "Today you do not understand why I am doing this for you, but when you grow up a bit, you will understand."

On holidays I could go back home for a visit, of course I was curious. I would go back to my former classmates and find out what was going on. I was shocked, 16-year-old girls were having babies for Hitler, and that was glorified!

Next thing, what happened, he nationalized our healthcare system. We had a reasonably good healthcare system. This all changed very fast.

My brother-in-law who was a family physician, he told me that when he arrived at his office at 8 o'clock in the morning, 40 patients would be lined up waiting for him. He said, "It was like practicing medicine on a conveyer belt."

The government salaried all the doctors. So, a lot of doctors left the country. A lot of doctors left, including my own husband.

Abortions were highly illegal, Hitler wanted a lot of babies, blond hair and blue eyes, the master race. But, when a couple was not a hundred percent Aryan, and the woman was pregnant, she was forced to have an abortion. Hitler did not want any foreign blood, only the Aryan pure German blood.

So, in my last year in college I was sent to a small village in the mountains and I was told that, because in the winter time the passes would be closed up because of the masses of snow. So, people in that village, they intermarried, family into family. And we know by genetics, that sometimes the offspring, the babies, is a bit mentally handicapped. So when I arrived in that village, I was told they had about 15 of mentally handicapped people.

One man I know very well. He was the janitor in our school, Vincent. He could not read or write, he could not talk very well, but he kept our school clean.

So, one morning I looked out of my classroom window and there was a van out there from the health department. I thought, "Well ..." and all these people were being ushered into the van ... so I asked my principal, "Where are they going to take Vincent and all the rest of the people? I thought maybe they take them for an outing, for a picnic?"

The principal said, "Oh no, the health department came around and asked the parents if they want to institutionalize their son or daughter, to learn how to read and write."

Gladly the parents signed the papers and off they went. Six months later, the letters came to the parents that their son or daughter died a natural by merciful death. They all left in excellent health, in good health. And, why should they all die within six months? It dawned on the villagers that they were being euthanized. So that was euthanasia.

We also had a federal police force, secret police, commonly known as the Gestapo. And, they were everywhere, in civilian clothes. You didn't know who they were. People disappeared all the time and nobody know where people were being taken; nobody know, but people disappeared.

And the Gestapo, they watched everybody, everybody's coming and going. Of course, we had national ID cards and, of course, you could not board a bus or a train without showing your national ID card. They keep track on us and we were being so scared. The most scared of everything, we were, of the Gestapo; the secret police.

They created a network of informers. We could not trust our neighbors, we could not trust our friends, we couldn't trust anybody, we couldn't trust the mailman, nobody. We were afraid to talk to anybody, anything political, because we did not know who was informing on everybody, a network of informers, they created.

We also had gun control. The government said that children were playing with guns and we had hunting accidents, people accidentally shooting each other, and we had criminals again, murderers.

The only way that they could track the murderer was by the serial number of the gun. So, bring your gun to the police station and we can register the serial number and we can track the criminals; and we thought that was a good idea, gladly we did that.

Afterwards they said, "No it did not help, we could not track all the criminals, the best way to have no more crimes and no more people getting hurt, bring your guns to the police station." And, they already know who had guns because we registered our guns.

Dictatorship did not happen overnight, it took five years, from 1938 until 1943 we had a full-blown dictatorship.

Those of us who sailed past the Statue of Liberty, we came to a country of unbelievable freedom and opportunity. America is the greatest country in the world, if we can keep it.

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Thank you Kitty for sharing your story with us. Hopefully, we will take it to heart and make sure that America doesn't suffer the same fate; not only for our sake, but for the sake of the entire world.

This battle is not only national, it's also local. Fairfield is the only place we can fight this drift into an unacceptable progressive style of socialism. It's critical that we have a conservative voice on the council.

Thank you.