

Anti-Semitism." Foote rightly predicted that the Nazis would exile all Jews who could afford to emigrate, and exterminate those who couldn't. "Coming centuries," wrote Foote, "will record this anti-Semitic campaign as on one of the blackest and most discreditable pages of history."¹

Unitarianism is part of the deep, wide stream of dissent and disagreement within Christian thought that for centuries has periodically cost its adherents dearly, most particularly their lives.

The faith emerged in the sixteenth century during the Reformation among theologians who dissented from the doctrine of the Trinity but still believed that Jesus was a divinely inspired moral teacher. Unlike most dissenters of the day, these Unitarians also insisted on religious freedom for all nonconformists, not merely for themselves.

The modern church promotes active, participatory democracy at all levels of political organization, as well as equality, defined as broadly as possible. Unitarians have been active in almost all American social reform movements, including abolition and universal suffrage, as well as the later civil rights, antiwar, and gay rights movements.

Unitarians also are generally united on one other point. They see humans, not God, as the source of most earthly ills, and they therefore believe that humans are responsible for healing these ills.

"Earth shall be fair," said the Reverend Howard Brooks, one of Waitstill's colleagues. "But only if we make it so."

The Munich Pact particularly distressed America's Unitarians for three major reasons. First, many in the AUA greatly admired the Czech government. Modern Czechoslovakia was founded in 1918 on the democratic models of France and the United States. It was led until 1935 by its founding president, Tomas Masaryk, whose American-born wife, the former Charlotte Garrigue, was a Unitarian from Brooklyn.

Second, Prague was home to Unitaria, a 3,500-member Unitarian church founded by Norbert F. Capek, a former Baptist minister who'd converted to Unitarianism in the United States following the First World War.

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