Vatican signals of support for rationale of Nuremberg Laws:

During this investigation, dozens of historical works on the period have been examined. None of them cite any statement by Pope Pius XI, Cardinal Pacelli, or any article in *Osservatore Romano* revoking or modifying Vatican-supervised promotion of the Jewish-Communist conspiracy theory in August-September 1935.

Bishop Alois Hudal, put forward by *Osservatore Romano* three times in 1934 as a Vatican-favored spokesman on German Church-State issues, published a new book in fall 1935 entitled *The Vatican and Modern States* (*Der Vatikan und die Modernen Staaten*), based on lectures he gave in Salzburg, Austria in August 1935. The book contains an explicit endorsement of the Jewish-Communist conspiracy theory in these words:

“Wherever revolutions and governmental upheavals come to pass, Moscow has a hand in it. It is the religious and moral dregs of Jewry that today, radiating out from Moscow, keep the Christian peoples of Europe in constant unrest, in order to prepare the way for the world domination of a race which has gifted mankind with valuable cultural goods and outstanding personalities, but which, as soon as it is disengaged from its religious roots, has to destroy all other cultural milieus.” (p.82)

The imprimatur date on the book is September 24, 1935.

The Vatican-supervised *Civiltà Cattolica* had further promoted Bishop Hudal in 1935 as a favored Church spokesman on German Church-State issues, publishing a glowing review of Hudal’s fall 1934 book, *Rome, Christianity and German Volk* that included this passage:

“His Excellency demonstrates eloquently through the history of the Church and the German people that, far from being in conflict, fidelity to Rome is actually in perfect accord, in the conscience and heart of every German Catholic, with national consciousness and with love of the fatherland and the German people.”

*Civiltà Cattolica*, 1935, vol. 1, pp. 303-304. The text of *Rome, Christianity and the German Volk* is even more emphatic about the religious obligation of German Catholics to support their government:

“We Catholics are, in our love for the Fatherland and the Volk, bound not by means of momentary formulas of a governmental constitution, for we serve the authorities not merely out of national motives; rather our love for the Fatherland, as a religious virtue, is anchored in the granite rock of Christian faith.”

*Rome, Christianity and German Volk*, p.9.

Bishop Hudal expressed in the book a longing of the Catholic Church for the pontifical flag to wave over Germany side-by-side with the flag of the Fatherland:

“We therefore desire only that along with the banner of the nation, the flag of the kingdom of Christ might also wave everywhere in German lands, because only under the signs of the Fatherland and of Christ is an auspicious future assured to our Volk.

*Rome, Christianity and German Volk*, p.10.

In June 1936, the impression of Vatican support for the Jewish-Communist conspiracy theory was further reinforced when the highly esteemed Franz von Papen presented Hudal’s new book *The Foundations of National Socialism* (*Die Grundlagen des Nationalsozialismus*) to Hitler and Goebbels in a lengthy meeting, in an effort to gain Hitler’s agreement to the proposals contained in Hudal’s book. The book contained an explicit statement that the Catholic Church would not come to the defense of the Jews, precisely because of their identification with Communism:

“As Christians and Catholics, we have not the slightest reason to defend that Jewry which, after the World War, seized hold of the leadership of the worker masses under the banner of Marxism, and exploited that leadership richly enough for their own selfish ends . . .” (pp. 91-92)

In November 1936, warned by Cardinal Faulhaber that the Vatican should do something before Hudal is “named court theologian of the Nazi Party,” Cardinal Pacelli placed a notice in *Osservatore Romano* disavowing Vatican sponsorship of Hudal’s recent book. Astute observers could note, however, that on the very same page Osservatore Romano affirmed its continuing belief in the Jewish-Communist conspiracy theory by publishing this item:

“anti-Bolshevik placards were carried in the streets [of Budapest], the result of the Communist agitation having Jewish characteristics. . . . Commenting on the situation, the government organ Esti Uysag said it is no wonder that Jews and Communists are inseparably united in Hungary, because in recent months all communist agitation has been done by Jews.”

See entire article and notice with side-by-side English translation

When Pope Pius XI issued his famous encyclical Mit Brennender Sorge four months later, despite the strength of his criticisms of the German government on some points, he openly affirmed the Nazis’ efforts to create a racially-defined German national community, and in terms virtually identical to Hudal’s in 1934, exhorted the German nation to take up and carry out its God-given mission: