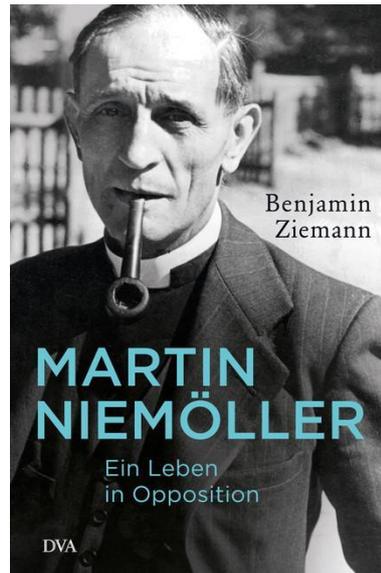


The first comprehensive biography of one of the major figures in the last century



Professor Dr. Benjamin Ziemann

Martin Niemöller

[Martin Niemöller. Ein Leben in Opposition]

A life in opposition

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Benjamin Ziemann, born in 1964, is professor for modern German history at the University of Sheffield and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He has authored, edited and co-edited numerous books about German and European history in the 19th and 20th centuries. His book on *Violence and the German Soldier in the Great War* was awarded the prize by Geisteswissenschaften International. He co-edited the manuscript *Thoughts on the Path of the Christian Church* written by Martin Niemöller in 1939. Benjamin Ziemann counts as one of the internationally leading experts on German history during the period of 1914 – 1933..

Pastor Martin Niemöller (1892 – 1984) is known as one of the initiators of the Confessing Church and for his speeches after 1945 about German guilt. Yet as a student he was active in various völkisch and anti-Semitic parties and associations and in 1933 welcomed the Nazi accession to power. Even after 1945 his animosity towards Jews was repeatedly apparent.

Benjamin Ziemann has closely assessed all available source material and reconstructed the biograph of a very vocal Church politician and nationalist who rejected the Weimar Republic and Adenauer's policy of integration with the West as much as the party state of the Federal Republic. In 1945, Niemöller turned to pacifism – and yet his attitudes remained very much those of the imperial naval officer he once was.

This life, packed as it was with dramatic moments, contradictions and personal crises, is a vivid reflection of the upheavals and continuities of 20th century German history.