The Holocaust has been described as one of the worst and most painful forms of inhumanity in the history of the world (Oosterhuis 227). When the Nazi party rose to power, it appeared like a show of democracy. This is majorly because the Nazi party led by Adolf Hitler did not use force. They did not rise to power through such violent methods as a military coup. Instead, they took over power in a manner that the citizens did not understand. However, majority of the Germans and other European leaders knew the malicious ways that Adolf Hitler had used in gaining political power. The moral and political corruption employed by the man, who was later to emerge as the worst dictator in the history of the world, prompted negative reactions from all corners of Germany. The regime was opposed by the communists, socialists, and other social organizations such as the church and the industrial workers. This paper discusses the communist and socialist resistance to the brutal and politically corrupt Nazi rule led by the Adolf Hitler.

The communist and socialist opposition to the idea of National Socialism that was upheld by the Nazi party took the form of passive resistance and active rebellion (Oosterhuis 227). The hostility portrayed by the socialists and the communist was the biggest weapon at the beginning of the resistance movement. However, the socialist movement was later weakened and they resorted to the purely passive ways of resisting the rule. The socialists came out as reformist while the militant communists came out as a revolutionary force. It is for this reason that the leaders of the two movements could not work together effectively. The major reason why the socialists came out as the reformists is that they had earlier supported the Nazi proponents through voting for the First World War.

Among the most powerful weapons employed by the socialists and the communists was the use of anti-Nazism literature (Alter 196). These were writing enlightening people on the social evils and immoral acts committed by the Nazi officials. Such literature as well sensitized the citizens through such social institutions like churches and schools on the need to rise up and resist the Nazi rule. The literature that the socialist leaders such as Walter Schmedemann wrote was distributed in the form of pamphlets and flyers in secrecy. Even so, the papers quickly spread and within a matter of months almost the entire country was developing negative ideas on the form of government that was in place. The Hitler administration termed the literature as illegal publications and any one found distributing or in possession was arrested by the police and either executed brutally or confined in the concentration camps where torturous acts took place.

Another way through which the socialists and the communists waged the resistance was through the organization of underground groups. Such groups formed a serious secret network whose main agenda was to incite people (Gowan 43). Their aim was to get the general public revolt. Such networks were mainly organized by the socialists in 1933 after they were threatened by the government. The socialist feared that their party would be banned. They realized that for their political bargain to remain strong, they had to remain silent. They had to quit their violent rebellions and resort to the passive resistance. The socialists started working closely with such social groups as the students from institutions of higher learning and the working classes of citizens. Perhaps the most notable way through which the socialists made use of the social group is the manner in which they secretly facilitated the
The incitement efforts of one student from a medical department going by the name Hans Scholl (Olson 139). The student, together with his siblings led a group of university students and proponents of the anti-Nazi movement in inciting the elite of the society, as well as other students from the same institution and other higher learning institutions. The factor that motivated the students to go against the Nazi rule is that the Nazi leaders were gradually luring the learned class of the society into the Nazism culture. When the students were caught distributing the pamphlets funded by the socialist democrats, they were arrested and executed a couple of days later. There were no links or evidences relating the students to the socialists.

By 1933, the communist movement had lost one hundred and fifty thousand members to the concentration camps (Oosterhuis 227). These were brutally killed with the aim of instilling fear into the remaining communist activists. Leaders and more communists were arrested and executed as well. This weakened the communist part of the resistance movement. In retaliation to the resistance movement, the Nazis used various techniques to weaken the resisting powers. The Nazi government realized that the most powerful weapon was isolation. This way, the Nazi party started handling the resisting forces individually. The Nazi officers dealt with the communists and the socialists differently. This played a key psychological role in making the socialists and the communists appear like they were in different circumstances. This way, they stated struggling differently and consequently the movement became weaker. Additionally, the Nazis used such techniques as assault on the individual members of the resistance movement. The people were illegally abducted by the police and subjected to serious torture and in some extreme cases murder or execution (Olson 139). This was mainly done to the leaders that were seen as the key threats to the government. As a way of discouraging the formation of resistance groups, the Nazis facilitated the closure of such institutions as schools and churches. The schools that were mainly affected were those sponsored by the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church had joined the communist resistance movement and participated in passive resistance.

The socialist movement as well made use of such groups as the military personnel and the government workers. At first the military were for the Nazis but later turned against their rule when they got information that Adolf Hitler was planning an armed conflict (Gowan 43). The army realized that Hitler was using it to antagonize the civil public of both Germany and other nations. The ill acts of Hitler had touched on the neighbors to Germany which he accused of spreading malicious propaganda against him. Indeed the socialists did make use of media services from the neighboring countries to motivate the anti-Nazi movement. This was dealt with by the Nazis who went to their neighbors threatening them with armed assault. The major reasons why the anti-Nazi movement failed revolved around the isolation strategy employed by Hitler and his supporters (Alter 203). The isolation tactic caused the members of either party to act independently. This was the major cause of poor communication among the resisting members. Poor communication coupled with the lack of resources. The Nazi officers handled the opposers brutally. This caused fear and tension among all the parties that were already resisting or had the intention of resisting. Another reason why the resistance movement failed is because the resisting forces had been repressed too much by the Nazi officials. The Nazis had a strong and well equipped militant wing that combated any activities that resisting forces initiated.

The threats used by the Nazis cause the mass emigration of the anti-Nazism movement. The leaders that moved out of Germany left a disunited movement. This was the major fault in the resistance movement. The lack of unity and resources among the resisting members limited the capacity of the socialist democrats and the communists to revolt against the Nazi
movement (Oosterhuis 227). Persecution and imprisonment of the leaders caused weaknesses in the movement. The Nazis went to the extreme of trying to eliminate religious organizations especially the catholic. This is because the church’s priests taught people to resist the unethical and immoral decisions taken by the Nazi administration. For instance, the Catholic Church taught the people to raise their voices against the killings and executions of people by the Hitler administration. The religious social movement took a purely passive approach to the resistance. They did not encourage their followers to engage on the violent struggles. However, the Nazis found the church as being a key threat. They made attempts to eliminate the Catholic Church through such malicious efforts as the replacement of the crucifix with the swastika which was a symbol of allegiance to the Nazi rule. The catholic movement, which was inclined to the socialist democrats, successfully resisted the Nazi attempts in the year 1936.

Works Cited