

# **IN ANOTHER STATE OF EMERGENCY**

In 1934 Adolf Hitler assumed the title of Fuhrer (Leader) and Germany went into a state of emergency which lasted until 1945 when Nazism was blasted out of existence.

Bertolt Brecht, the great German writer, captured that state of emergency in a play called "Fear and Misery of the Third Reich". We reproduce below snatches of his poems depicting facets of that state of emergency.

## **THE STORM TROOPERS**

Here come the brown storm troopers  
That keen-eyed squad of snoopers  
To check where each man stands  
Their job's to put the boot in  
Then hang around saluting  
With bloodstained empty hands

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## **ARMY CHARITY**

Their hands, more used to beatings  
Now offer gifts and greetings.  
They conjure up a smile.  
Their charity soon crashes  
Their food all turns to ashes  
And chokes the uttered 'Heil!'

## **JUDICIAL PROCESS**

The judges follow limply.  
They were told that justice is simply  
What serves our People best.  
They objected: how are we to know that?  
But they'll soon be interpreting it so that  
The whole people is under arrest.

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## **THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

The Church's Ten Commandments  
Are subject to amendments  
By order of the police.  
Her broken head is bleeding  
For new gods are succeeding  
Her Jewish god of peace.

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## **A CASE OF BETRAYAL**

The next to appear are the traitors  
Who've given away their neighbours.  
They know that people know.  
If only the street would forget them!  
They could sleep if their conscience would let them  
But there's so far still to go.