This talk examines a remarkably peculiar chapter in the history of the Nazi regime’s foreign policy, namely, its pre-1938 relations with the international peace movement. While the persecution, imprisonment and public humiliation of pacifists was prevalent in Nazi Germany, Hitler’s government did tolerate and, in some cases, encourage particular antiwar initiatives in the early years of the Third Reich. The talk will analyze the involvement of high-ranked Nazi officials in the activities of international peace organizations and situate it within two historical contexts: the debates—and confusion—within the Nazi leadership regarding the objectives of the regime’s foreign policy; and the debates—and confusion—within the peace movement following the international conflicts of the early 1930s.

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