

Father Coughlin: “The Popular Front vs. The Christian Front.”

Broadcast on Feb. 21, 1937. Published as *The Popular Front vs. The Christian Front* (Royal Oak, Michigan, 1939).

Charles Edward Coughlin (1891-1979), was a controversial Canadian-American Roman Catholic priest based near Detroit at Royal Oak, Michigan. Commonly known as Father Coughlin, he was one of the first political leaders to use radio to reach a mass audience, as up to thirty million listeners tuned to his weekly broadcasts during the 1930s. He was forced off the air in 1939. (From *Wikipedia*)



The audio of the original broadcast is in *The Good Fight*, 50:47-51:26)

Refresh your memories on the events which have transpired the past three years in Spain. You and your kind had a Popular Front. First, you deceived the millions of the laboring class by fanciful names of freedom, by high-sounding phrases of democracy. At length, you resorted to force—forcing your ideologies upon a Christian nation; forcing your political experimentations upon a peaceful people. At length when nothing else was left but to meet fire with fire and force with force, there arose a Franco. You in America collected funds from the C.I.O. and from a thousand other agencies to aid and abet the enemies of Franco. You congregated the American Abraham Lincoln Brigade to fight for the cause of the Hammer and Sickle. Your comrades from France, from Germany, from Russia, from England—from every nation in the world—assembled in the Foreign Legion to help tear down the cross and massacre Christians in the name of democracy. But when the crisis came, there came a Franco. And when Franco came there came the dissolution of your lost, diabolical cause.

And who composed Franco's forces? I will tell you. It was the Christian Front.

Do you want history to repeat itself in America, or are you ready to retreat and admit that you and your snarling breed have no place beneath the Stars and Stripes—you, the panderers of Communism, the protagonists of anti-Semitism, the defamers of Americanism and the cringing, cowardly advocates of press-muzzling!