

National Socialist Movement, Netherlands

(*Nationaal Socialistische Beweging*, NSB), Nazi movement in the Netherlands. The NSB was established in 1931 by the Dutch nationalist Anton Adriaan Mussert. Its platform borrowed full paragraphs from that of the German Nazi Party, but left out all paragraphs referring to Jews.

In 1934 the NSB had 21,000 members; by 1936 it claimed 52,000. In the 1935 Dutch provincial elections, the NSB received eight percent of the country's vote. This stunned the traditional Dutch political parties, who could not believe that the Nazi Party would gain so much support, and the Catholic church, who could not believe that so much of that support came from the Catholic sector. During the next elections, all other parties vocally opposed the NSB, as did the Catholic church.

Despite Mussert's original refusal to associate himself with antisemitism, extremist elements in his party forced him to change his views. In 1938 Jews were no longer allowed to be NSB members.

When Germany occupied the Netherlands in 1940, Mussert hoped to be made prime minister, but he was ignored. Additionally, many of his party members began supporting the idea of annexing the Netherlands to the Reich. After the war, the NSB's leaders were tried and imprisoned; Mussert was sentenced to death and executed.