

Adolf Hitler 1889-1945

Chronology

Born on April 20, 1889, in Braunau am Inn, Upper Austria, the fourth (and first surviving) child of customs official Alois Hitler and his third wife Klara Pölzl; baptized as a Roman Catholic on April 22; 1876 Alois adopted the name Hitler in order to meet the inheritance requirements of an uncle's will, until that year using the name Alois Schicklgruber; the name, probably of Czech origin and spelled in over a dozen ways, dates back to the year 1430 in Lower Austria; 1892 family moves to Passau, Germany; 1894 a brother, Edmund, is born (dies of measles in 1900); 1895 family returns to Austria, living on a nine-acre homestead at Hafeld near Lambach; enters school and is considered an excellent pupil; Alois retires after forty years of state service; 1896 a sister, Paula, is born; enters the Benedictine School of the Lambach monastery, becoming top pupil and singing in the choir; 1899 family moves to Leonding near Linz, Austria; 1900 enters Linz Realschule (secondary school) and excels in drawing, history, and geography but fails in mathematics, French, and German; 1903 Alois Hitler dies; 1904 confirmed as a Roman Catholic; transfers to senior school in Steyr, presumably for disciplinary reasons; 1905 attends performance of Wagner's "Rienzi" at Linz Opera and is profoundly impressed by the idea of a heroic tribune of the people liberating his people from bondage; Klara sells their house in Leonding, moves to an apartment in Linz; after becoming intoxicated at a school party, vows never to become drunk again; strongly influenced by his Linz history teacher, Dr. Leopold Pötsch, who appeals to his "budding sense of nationalistic fanaticism"; makes no attempt to prepare for the examination which would have allowed him to go on to higher education, thus ending his formal schooling despite promises to his mother to get a higher education; 1906 falls platonically in love with a girl named Stephanie but never dares to approach her; visits Vienna for first time, staying four weeks; visits museums and deepens his passion for Wagner's music dramas; takes piano lessons and attempts to write music; 1907 Klara undergoes operation for breast cancer; moves family to smaller apartment in the Linz suburb of Urfahr; although one of the finalists, Hitler fails to gain admission to the Academy of Fine Arts; application to enter School of Architecture turned down because of his incomplete secondary school education; Klara dies; Hitler tells her physician, Dr. Eduard Bloch, a Jew, "I shall be grateful to you forever"; 1908 returns to Vienna; rather than finding a job lives on his inheritance; attends opera and with his friend August Kubizek attempts to compose an opera in the Wagnerian style; once more rejected by Academy of Fine Arts; 1909 changes place of residence several times, possibly homeless for some months; refuses to do manual labor, this being beneath the dignity of a "painter" and a "writer"; meets Reinhold Hanisch in a night shelter for homeless men, who helps sell his watercolors of Viennese landmarks to tourists; fails to register for military service; 1910-1912 lives at men's hostel at Meldemannstrasse 27 in a working-class neighborhood, reading voraciously and eking out a living by selling his watercolors; develops strong political views including hatred of parliamentary democracy and the Habsburg dynasty; exposed to virulently anti-Semitic propaganda but also has Jewish acquaintances and business partners in selling his watercolors; attends the funeral of popular anti-Semitic lord mayor of Vienna, Karl Lueger; 1913 moves to Munich, ostensibly for political reasons but more likely because of concern over being arrested as a military deserter; continues to support himself by sale of watercolors; 1914 arrested by Munich police as a result of a search initiated by Linz police; reports to Austrian military draft office in Salzburg, but declared unfit for military service; greets assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand in Sarajevo as a just reward for a traitor to the cause of Austro-German interests in the Habsburg monarchy; participates in massive pro-war rally in Munich's Odeonplatz; personally petitions King Ludwig III for permission to enlist in the Bavarian Army; request granted, enlists in 16th Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment; promoted to corporal after unit is decimated in its first battle on Flanders coast near Ypres; serves as despatch runner; awarded the Iron Cross, Second Class, for bravery under fire; 1915 during military stalemate spends time in the trench reading and painting; his only close friend is a dog; several escapes from death convince him that his life has been spared in order to one day carry out a providential mission; writes patriotic poems; 1916 wounded; during convalescence visits Berlin, finds civilian privations and demoralization, with a few profiteers enriching themselves; transferred to Munich where he finds (according to his recollections in *Mein Kampf*) offices filled with Jews; 1917 returns to his regiment in France

and takes part in several battles; 1918 participates in several major battles including the last German offensive on the Marne; receives Iron Cross, First Class, which is awarded to him by his Jewish battalion commander, Hugh Gutmann; blinded in a gas attack, sent to a hospital in Pasewalk near Stettin; regains sight after three weeks only to lose it again temporarily; upon hearing of armistice and loss of war, writes several deeply melancholy poems; discharged from hospital, transferred to Munich where he finds a city controlled by "repellent" People's Councils; 1919 Soviet Republic crushed in Munich; chosen by army to be involved in anti-Communist indoctrination work among troops; becomes increasingly anti-Semitic and anti-Marxist; agitates returning leftist prisoners-of-war, changing their viewpoint through his persuasive, emotional oratory; attends meetings of insignificant German Workers' party; joins this "absurd little organization" because it offers him an opportunity to make a mark on political life; gives first public speech and raises three hundred marks; invited to join inner circle of GWP; 1920 presents lectures to the army's advanced courses on Versailles Treaty and threat of Marxism; party name changed to National Socialist German Workers' party (NSDAP); presents twenty-five point program of party at large public meeting in Hofbräuhaus; flies to Berlin to join the Kapp Putsch (insurrection) against the republic, but arrives after plot collapses; views conspirators as incompetent; resigns from army but continues to receive salary from secret military funds; gives numerous speeches in Bavaria and Austria attacking Jews and other allegedly treasonous elements; meets Baltic refugee Alfred Rosenberg, a fanatic believer that the Bolshevik Revolution was part of a diabolical Jewish conspiracy to control the world; NSDAP purchases newspaper *Völkischer Beobachter* (VB) with secret army funds; 1921 publishes articles in VB attacking Versailles treaty, demanding Jews be interned in concentration camps, and calls for acquisition of Russian territory to provide Germany with *Lebensraum*; presents NSDAP leadership with ultimatum that he be given dictatorial power within the party (*Führerprinzip*); confirmed as party chairman and effectively becomes Nazi Führer; establishes Storm Troopers (SA) to "protect meetings" and terrorize political opponents; bans Jews from attending Nazi meetings after Munich Rabbi Dr. Baerwald embarrasses him with effective responses in public debate; 1922 in a Berlin speech to influential reactionaries, demands "terror be opposed by terror"; claims he is only a "drummer for the national freedom movement" and has absolutely no personal political ambitions; imprisoned for one month; in "March on Coburg," a Socialist stronghold, Nazis violently take over the city, with Hitler leading his marching followers waving his rhinoceros whip; first mentioned in *London Times* and *New York Times*; 1923 French and Belgian occupation of industrial Rhineland creates intense nationalistic anger; Nazi party grows rapidly, holds first national rally; swastika flags consecrated at ceremony; denies receiving money from Henry Ford; impressed by Mussolini's successful March on Rome, he opens contacts with the Italian Fascist leader; receives funds from industrialists including steel magnate Fritz Thyssen; November 8-9 Nazi Putsch fails when majority of army units fail to join the uprising; fourteen killed or severely injured; Hitler and co-conspirator General Erich Ludendorff are not seriously harmed; November 11 arrested while hiding at home of wealthy supporter Ernst Hanfstaengl; taken to pleasant rooms at Landsberg fortress prison; 1924 continues to run party from prison; turns trial into propaganda spectacle, proclaiming himself to be "not a traitor but the best of Germans who wanted the best for his people"; court shows incredible leniency, acquitting Ludendorff and sentencing Hitler to minimum term of five years imprisonment; although not a German citizen, court rules against extradition to Austria because of wartime service; excellent conditions at Landsberg prison permit writing of his memoirs, *Mein Kampf*; December 20 released from prison; 1925 Nazi party refounded; Hitler remains in absolute control of the party program, which emphasizes war against Marxism and Jews; first volume of *Mein Kampf* published, to poor sales and few reviews; Chemnitz speech ends in violence; hundreds are injured and two killed; party membership down to twenty-seven thousand from fifty-five thousand in 1923; spends summer writing second volume of *Mein Kampf*; visits Bayreuth for Wagner festival; stays with Bechstein family; meets Cosima and Siegfried Wagner, widow and son of the composer; 1926 struggles to retain absolute control of Nazi party as an anti-capitalist wing under Gregor and Otto Strasser; demands a more radically socialistic program; appoints brilliant, ambitious Joseph Goebbels *Gauleiter* (district leader) of Berlin; addresses leading Ruhr industrialists in Essen; compulsory Fascist-style "Heil Hitler" introduced for all party members; 1927 ban on his speaking in public in Bavaria is lifted; in Munich declares all science and culture to be the work of Aryans; condemns tango, shimmy, and jazz bands as threats to German culture; third NSDAP national rally draws twenty thousand members to Nuremberg; 1928 Nazis do poorly in Reichstag elections, receiving only 2.6% of the popular vote; reminds editors of Nazi newspapers that the movement must follow

legal path to power; completes manuscript of second book (not published until 1961); Prussia lifts ban on his speaking; addresses ten thousand on threat to German people from Negro music and other alien forces; 1929 appoints Heinrich Himmler national leader of the SS (elite Storm Troopers); Nazis win thirteen of twenty-five seats in Coburg city council, the first German city with an absolute Nazi majority; joins other reactionary political leaders in opposing German acceptance of Young Plan for reparations payments; meets Eva Braun, a seventeen-year-old employee of his photographer Heinrich Hoffmann; plebiscite against Young Plan fails to receive sufficient votes; moves to nine-room flat on stylish Prinzregentenstrasse; Nazis win six out of fifty-three seats in provincial assembly of Thuringia; receive ministerial portfolio for interior and education; Nazi party membership grows to 178,000; 1930 predicts Nazi control of Germany in two and a half to three years; Otto Strasser purged from Nazi party for leftist deviations; crushes Storm Trooper revolt by expelling radical leaders from the Nazi party; major election victory makes the NSDAP second largest party in the Reichstag with 18.3% of the popular vote; conservative British press praises Nazism as a bulwark against Bolshevism; before a Catholic audience, asserts that Christ would assist unfortunate German people by joining Nazi ranks; many of the registered unemployed, numbering 4,400,000, flock to the Nazi party and double the membership to 389,000; 1931 new party headquarters, Brown House, inaugurated in Munich; Ernest Röhm becomes SA chief, with the SS subordinated to his command; trade union organization created to win converts in working class; Otto Strasser's dissident Nazi group "Black Front" recruits disgruntled Storm Troopers; Hermann Goering sent to Italy to establish contacts with Mussolini and the Vatican; Nazis become strongest party in the province of Oldenburg; meets Reich President Paul von Hindenburg for the first time, but makes a poor impression; article in American Hearst press describes Nazism as a "movement of hope"; forty-six Nazis killed and over forty-eight hundred wounded in political violence; 1932 hired as "extraordinary professor" by state of Brunswick; becomes naturalized German citizen; runs twice for office of president; defeated both times, but goes from 30.5% to 36.8% of vote in second election; flies throughout Germany campaigning for Nazi candidates for state legislature seats; in Reichstag elections Nazis lose two million votes as Communists gain; many Nazis despair they will never come to power; crisis in party worsens as Gregor Strasser resigns; almost six million unemployed; 1,415,000 Nazi party members; 1933 meets secretly with former Chancellor Franz von Papen at the home of Cologne financier Kurt von Schröder; agree that Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher must be replaced; Nazis achieve badly needed electoral success in state of Lippe-Deimold with 39.6% of votes; January 30 appointed chancellor; most of his cabinet ministers are ultra-conservative nationalists; only two (Wilhelm Frick, minister of the interior, and Hermann Goering as minister without portfolio in charge of the Prussian Ministry of the Interior) are Nazis; prepares for elections scheduled for March 5; flies throughout the nation delivering speeches; outlines his future plans for senior military officers, including expansion in the East and extirpation of all traces of Marxism in Germany; destruction of Reichstag building by fire; police roundup of Communists who are alleged to be preparing an uprising; "temporary" ban on Social Democratic and Communist press; violence and terror reign throughout Germany with thousands of Communists, Social Democrats, and other known anti-Nazis taken to improvised concentration camps where they are harassed, tortured, or murdered; in the first and last free elections in the Third Reich, the Nazis fail to gain absolute majority (43.9%) but are able to achieve a bare Reichstag majority with help of two other reactionary parties; toppling of Bavarian and other state governments by Nazi forces and general *Gleichschaltung* (coordination) of national political institutions; appeals to SA and SS to cease "revolution from below"; Himmler rapidly institutionalizes terror by creating Dachau and other concentration camps; Nazi dictatorship receives "legal" justification in Enabling Act passed by the Reichstag, in which Communists have been excluded and only ninety-four Social Democrats vote against (441 in favor, including the Catholic Center party); Enabling Act destroys democratic guarantees of the Weimar constitution, allowing Hitler to argue that his revolution is a "legal" one; first national boycott of Jewish businesses; start of the *Autobahn* highway construction project to create jobs and combat unemployment; public works projects bring about rapid drop in joblessness; in a national referendum, 95.1% of electorate approves his policies; Germany quits League of Nations; Law to Secure the Unity of Party and Reich transforms Germany into a one-party state; 1934 in New Year's message declares victory of National Socialist revolution and destruction of Marxism; abolition of state parliaments and the upper house of parliament; Nazi swastika emblem adopted for military uniforms; signs ten-year nonaggression pact with Poland; orders increase of Army from a hundred thousand to three hundred thousand men, breaking terms of Versailles treaty; approves secret plans for

submarine construction; first meeting with Mussolini; "blood purge" of SA leadership and others deemed superfluous to the new Third Reich results in the deaths of at least four hundred people, including former Chancellor von Schleicher and wife; justifies purge before *Reichstag*, saying "in this hour I was responsible for the fate of German people and thereby I became the Supreme Judge of the German people"; Austrian Nazi *Putsch* attempt in Vienna fails, but results in the death of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss; Mussolini mobilizes forces on Austro-Italian frontier; Germany warned not to intervene in Austrian internal affairs; upon the death of President von Hindenburg, Hitler assumes title of Führer and Reich chancellor, merging state and party powers and becoming commander in chief of armed forces; military personnel henceforth required to swear oath of allegiance to Hitler personally; declares that under his leadership, the German state will now rest on two pillars, the party and the army; triumphal Nazi party rally at Nuremberg results in propaganda film *Triumph of the Will*; 1935 major foreign policy triumph as 91 percent of the people in the Saar territory vote to return to German control; makes eloquent plea for peace in *Daily Mail* interview; announces plans for an inexpensive automobile, the Volkswagen; announces reintroduction of military conscription and the existence of an air force (Luftwaffe), both banned by the Versailles treaty; Anglo-German Naval Agreement permits Germany to build a navy up to 35 percent of Royal Navy's strength; at Nuremberg party rally, announces that the new national flag of Germany is the swastika banner of the Nazi party; also promulgates Reich Citizenship Act and Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor, which forbid marriages and sexual relations between Jews and non-Jews—in effect, Germany's Jews are stripped of their citizenship and basic civil rights; traditional student fraternities are banned; a new law legalizes enforced sterilization; 1936 Winter Olympic Games give regime much international prestige; military occupation of the Rhineland marks a major break with Versailles treaty; Allied powers issue protests but do nothing concrete; Summer Olympic Games succeed as a superbly organized propaganda show; SS state emerges as Himmler is appointed chief of German police; major foreign policy success as Austro-German Agreement guarantees Austrian sovereignty, but also makes possible significant growth of Nazi influence in Austria; provides military assistance to Spanish rebel forces led by Francisco Franco; visited by former British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, who describes "Herr Hitler a man . . . of supreme quality"; creates Four Year Plan to make Germany economically self-sufficient and prepares for war; signs Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan to combat international communism; 1937 renews dictatorial powers "legally"; on seventeenth anniversary of founding of the Nazi party proclaims that Germany is once again a world power; as a reprisal for "Red attack" on battleship *Deutschland*, orders German warships to bombard Spanish coast, resulting in twenty-one dead civilians; opens House of German Art in Munich; calls for vigorous struggle against degenerate and "un-German" art; at Nuremberg rally declares the Versailles treaty "dead"; Mussolini visits Germany and is deeply impressed by Nazi power and efficiency; duke and duchess of Windsor visit "Berghof"; in secret meeting with military commanders (documented in "Hossbach memorandum") outlines long-term plans for German territorial conquest, including "elimination of the Czechs" and war with France; Italy joins Anti-Comintern Pact (origins of wartime Axis); announces grandiose plans for rebuilding Berlin as capital of a great Reich; 1938 demotes and humiliates generals von Blomberg and von Fritsch on trumped-up charges; creates Armed Forces High Command with himself in command; annexes Austria; nominates Hermann Goering his successor and leaves pensions to mistress Eva Braun and others, to be paid for by royalties from *Mein Kampf*, now one of the world's best-selling books; lays foundation stone of Volkswagen plant at Fallersleben (later Wolfsburg); increases psychological pressure against Czechoslovakia with a constant barrage of propaganda; tries to convince hesitant generals that Czech defenses can be easily breached; orchestrates Sudeten German revolt to use as a pretext for attacking Czechoslovakia; meets several times with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain of England; delivers violent anti-Czech speech at Berlin Sports Palace; with Czechoslovakia excluded, Four Power Conference (Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy) in Munich gives in to Nazi demands, dismembering the Czech state and providing the Third Reich with new territories containing great industrial and strategic resources; violent *Kristallnacht* pogrom destroys synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses; German Jews increasingly reduced to ghetto status; 1939 in violent Reichstag speech, prophesies that if a world war should come, the result will be "not the bolshevization of the planet . . . but the annihilation of the Jewish race throughout Europe"; launches battleship *Bismarck*; destroys remaining Czech republic; creates puppet Protectorate of Bohemia in Moravia; seizes Memel territory from Lithuania; issues directive, Operation "White," to Wehrmacht for destruction of Poland and annexation of Danzig/Gdansk; signs

German-Italian "Pact of Steel," but Mussolini warns that Italy will not be ready for war until 1942; receives personal letter from Mahatma Gandhi asking him not to plunge Europe into war; ignores several messages from the pope and Mussolini not to start war; German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact seals fate of Poland; pretext for war created by incident in which SS men in Polish uniforms attack Gleiwitz radio station, leave behind murdered concentration camp inmates as "dead Poles"; attacks Poland, Great Britain and France declare war on Germany; SS units in occupied Poland liquidate Jews and Polish elite; ghettos created for Jewish population; issues secret order authorizing euthanasia program to kill incurable invalids and the mentally ill (one hundred thousand Germans will die as a result in the next two years); orders establishment of "Government General," a virtual German colony of occupied Polish territories; orders arrest of nineteen hundred students in Prague, nine selected at random to be shot to impress Czechs of Nazi resolve; escapes death when bomb goes off in a Munich beer hall where he has just completed delivering speech commemorating the 1923 *Putsch*; delivers speech to senior Wehrmacht officers, noting that despite recent pact with Stalin, a clash with the Soviet Union is inevitable because of conflicting interests in the Balkans and the Persian Gulf; sends 60th birthday telegram to Stalin; 1940 tries to entice Mussolini into war against France, offering delivery of large amounts of coal; invades Denmark and Norway; attacks and quickly conquers France; schedules invasion of England for September 15, prepared by massive aerial bombardment; postpones invasion of Soviet Union to spring 1941; postpones invasion of England (Operation Sea Lion) indefinitely because of heavy Luftwaffe losses; meets Spanish dictator Francisco Franco, who fails to commit himself to the German side of the war; makes plans for capture of Gibraltar; after Italians suffer military disaster in Greece, decides to help his Fascist ally; blitzkrieg launched against Yugoslavia and Greece; attacks Soviet Union with 152 divisions; Commissar Order authorizes segregation and liquidation of captured Soviet political commissars; more than three million Soviet prisoners of war will die of ill-treatment in German captivity; mobile SS killing units begin liquidating Jews and partisans on occupied Soviet territory; concedes to generals that Soviet campaigning cannot be completed in 1941; orders troops not to capture Leningrad, but to besiege the city and eliminate its people through starvation; end of blitzkrieg on eastern front as the German Army is halted outside Moscow; appeals to German population to contribute winter clothing for freezing soldiers in the East; orders troops on Soviet front not to retreat, refuses request of field commanders for strategic withdrawal to save men; 1942 Wannsee Conference approves liquidation of the Jews; in last Reichstag session ever held, a special act invests Hitler with unlimited powers justified by the German people's "life-and-death struggle," last shreds of legality removed from German political system; assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, deputy protector of Bohemia and Moravia, results in Hitler's order to impose harsh reprisals on Czech population, including execution of over thirteen hundred hostages as well as leveling of the village of Lidice and shooting all of its adult male population; Royal Air Force attacks Cologne with a one thousand plane bomber raid; as Sixth Army is encircled by Soviets at Stalingrad, refuses request of General Paulus to break out of the trap; Himmler reports that between August and November over 663,000 Jews were executed in the East; 1943 approves special measures for total mobilization of German population including increased labor role for women; shattering defeat suffered with surrender of Sixth Army at Stalingrad; bomb plot fails when he cuts short his speech at Heroes' Memorial Day; remaining Axis forces in North Africa surrender; massive air raid against Hamburg, creating firestorm resulting in more than forty thousand deaths; Goebbels complains in his diary that Hitler has yet to visit a single bombed German city; "Kreisau Circle" group of anti-Hitler conspirators draft constitution for post-Nazi Germany; 1944 Allies liberate Rome and land in Normandy; orders attack on London with V-1 rockets; Colonel Stauffenberg's bomb explodes at Wolfsschanze headquarters but Hitler is only slightly injured; anti-Nazi coup fails, and over five thousand conspirators and their families are executed; crushes Warsaw uprising and orders Polish capital razed; authorizes Ardennes offensive (Battle of the Bulge) which fails after an initial success; refuses generals's requests for more troops to counter anticipated Soviet offensive; 1945 New Year's message blames German misfortunes on treacherous allies; denounces staff for incompetence, treachery, and cowardice; with Bormann and Goebbels as witnesses, marries Eva Braun; dictates his will, leaving Nazi party paintings for a picture gallery to be built in Linz; expels Goering and Himmler from the Nazi party for treachery and appoints Admiral Dönitz his successor as Reich president and supreme commander; receives word of the execution of Mussolini and his mistress; he and Eva Braun both swallow poison but he also shoots himself through the mouth; 1946 many reports circulate of Hitler having escaped from the Berlin bunker; Soviet troops blow up his Berlin bomb shelter; 1955 former

valet and pilot both testify that Hitler and Eva Braun committed suicide on April 29, 1945; 1956 judge issues death certificate, ruling that the cause was suicide.

Activities of Historical Significance

The name of Adolf Hitler will forever be linked with some of the bloodiest and most destructive events of the twentieth century. Rising from personal obscurity in the unstable, hate-filled years after the defeat of Germany and Austria-Hungary in 1918, his oratorical genius and political ambition enabled him to use the opportunities provided by a democratic society to conquer and destroy it. A demagogue of extraordinary skill, he took advantage of the moral restraints inhibiting his opponents, constantly probing for their weak spots and striking at precisely the most opportune moment. His bohemian years in Vienna and Munich before World War I engendered a permanent grudge against respectable bourgeois society, but he showed superb skill in convincing the elite classes that they needed him and that he could be trusted not to monopolize power. Unlike Mussolini, whose war record was mediocre, Hitler served in the trenches with considerable distinction, exhibiting bravery on many occasions. But the class system of imperial Germany, combined with his own social awkwardness, prevented him from being commissioned an officer. Facing a bleak future in a defeated Germany, after chancing upon an obscure organization called the German Workers' party in Munich, he almost immediately revealed such superb political skills that in the space of only a few years he was able not only to seize control of a tiny, unpromising radical-right-wing sect but to transform it into an aggressive totalitarian political instrument. In 1919 he had finally found a calling as an agitator and demagogue. Few would deny that Hitler was one of the most powerful orators of the twentieth century. Despite his seemingly comical, Charlie Chaplin-like appearance, he was capable of drawing from his audiences the entire range of human emotions, masterfully appealing to their deepest fears and resentments. More than any other political figure of post-1918 world, Hitler recognized the depth and intensity of despair his nation perceived itself to be in. To a middle class ruined by war and history's worst inflation, he offered a vision of a world in which Germany would once more be prosperous, strong, and internationally respected. To a society terrified of the possibility of bolshevism, he offered a powerful antidote in himself as leader of a ruthless mass movement determined to crush the specter of social revolution in the heart of Europe. Hitler took cunning advantage of many of the new technologies of the twentieth century in advancing his political goals. He was the first politician in Europe to travel extensively throughout his nation by air, thus being able to visit many more towns while creating a public image of courage, boldness, and vigor. As the first public figure to fully exploit the possibilities of the modern media, Hitler brilliantly used the radio and newsreel as vehicles for his party's basic message, namely that democracy had utterly failed and that German rebirth could only take place if dictatorial power was placed in his hands. In the late 1920s, to enhance his already impressive power to sway crowds, he received professional actor's training in the use of his eyes and hands. As the charismatic leader of a deeply anguished nation, Hitler promised his people a new era of peace and prosperity based on national unity centering around his own personal exercise of near-total power. Growing up in the closing decade of the nineteenth century, Hitler was profoundly influenced by the Social Darwinist concepts that helped to justify the aggressive racism and imperialism that strongly dominated that period of European history. To his last days Hitler was convinced that human history could be explained in terms of relentless biological struggles between superior and inferior races. As a young man in a crisis-ridden Habsburg monarchy, he developed an intense fear and hatred of the two "races" he believed responsible for the decay of German power and cultural influence in central Europe: the Slavs and the Jews. Growing up in a culture convulsed by intense nationality conflicts, Hitler looked upon bitter struggles between peoples as the norm of political behavior. It was a world in which one was not expected to show mercy toward one's foes. Hitler's mature world view evolved from this pitiless environment, and in the mid-1920s he candidly revealed in *Mein Kampf* his future plans of enslavement and extermination of the Jewish and Slavic peoples of Europe. Hitler also hated the humane and liberal doctrines that had come to fruition in Western civilization since the mid-eighteenth century. Created in Munich in 1920, Hitler's National Socialist German Workers' party (NSDAP or Nazi party) was not a traditional political party of the liberal-democratic type. Instead, it defined itself as a "movement" dedicated to German national rebirth, using whatever means necessary to crush the "un-German" forces of Marxism, democracy, liberalism, pacifism, and parliamentary government that were keeping a de-

feated people in a state of humiliation. Although he claimed that his coming to power on January 30, 1933, was a revolutionary act, a genuine "seizure of power" (*Machtergreifung*), Hitler became head of the German government because of the gullible nature of conservatives and reactionaries who had convinced themselves that the Nazis could be placed at the head of a regime that would destroy Marxism in Germany by instituting a reign of terror, abolishing civil liberties, and setting up an authoritarian state along Italian Fascist lines. Within a few months, however, Hitler had used the pretext of a "Communist uprising" to set up a totalitarian state in which conservatives were quickly deprived of significant influence. After the death of Reich President Paul von Hindenburg in August 1934, Hitler quickly grabbed all the reins of power, becoming a Führer whose word was law. After 1934, the German state and the Nazi party became increasingly fused into one massive regime of control and regimentation. Backing Hitler was a growing propaganda machine under Joseph Goebbels and a terror instrument shaped by Heinrich Himmler's SS and Gestapo. From 1933 to the outbreak of war in 1939, Hitler proved to be a virtuoso propagandist for the foreign policy aims of his Third Reich. Through speeches and interviews he was able to convince most Germans and many of Germany's former enemies that his regime only desired peace and that the growing military might of the Third Reich existed to protect Germany from an expansionist Soviet Union. At the Nazi party rallies at Nuremberg and on other occasions Hitler succeeded in convincing many of his people that under his leadership there would not be another war and that Germany would blossom in peace and prosperity. For those not swayed by propaganda, there were always the concentration camps to enforce acceptance of the dictatorship. By 1937 Hitler had decided on his timetable for war. His annexation of Austria and dismemberment of Czechoslovakia in 1938 convinced him that the Western powers were weak and indifferent to his ambitions, and he was deeply shocked when the British and French governments honored their pledge to Poland when that nation was attacked by Germany in September 1939. Given a free hand in the East because of his pact with Stalin, Hitler planned a brilliant military strategy that smashed France in a few weeks. But, under Churchill's leadership the British refused to surrender, and when Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941, it found itself in a two-front war that expanded into a global conflict when Hitler backed his Japanese ally in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor by declaring war on the United States. The Soviet Union's defense in the winter of 1941-1942 marked the end of Hitler's easy victories. Having burned its bridges behind it, his regime now revealed its nihilism by accelerating a systematic annihilation of "inferior" peoples, including six million Jews and more than three million Soviet prisoners of war. Others deemed to be outside the human family, including Gypsies and the mentally and physically handicapped, were singled out for extermination. By January 1943 the decisive defeat of the Sixth Army at Stalingrad made it clear that the days of the Thousand Year Reich were numbered. Hitler increasingly withdrew from his own people after 1943, no longer delivering public addresses and never visiting the bomb-shattered cities. Increasingly dependent on drugs and living a nocturnal life at his military headquarters, he tried the patience of his inner circle with his interminable monologues on various historical, cultural, and racial themes. By the summer of 1944 his health was shattered and he customarily exploded at his generals, accusing them of cowardice and incompetence. After the failed assassination attempt of July 20, 1944, he struck out against the conspirators and their families with savage brutality. In his political testament, dictated the day before his suicide on April 30, 1945, he remained true to form by shouldering none of the blame for his nation's defeat and destruction, blaming instead the Jews and treacherous elements within his own Nazi movement. As for the German people, he regarded them as deserving defeat and humiliation because in a great test of wills they had proven themselves to be weaker than their enemies. To the end, Hitler believed in the merciless biological doctrines that had been spawned in the late nineteenth century to justify European imperialism. In the hands of a brilliant but amoral political genius these doctrines were pushed to their most aggressive form to justify Nazi world hegemony and led to the destruction not only of Germany but of traditional Europe as well.

Overview of Biographical Sources

Until the appearance of the Bullock biography in 1952, Hitler biographies were dominated by the "evil genius" notion of historical explanation, which was certainly entertaining to readers but provided little in the way of explanation. Bullock placed Hitler in the context of his times, making it clear how he was able to flourish in a European political and cultural environment that was profoundly disordered as a result of the traumas of

World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the collapse of moral certainties in this century. The only biographical study of Hitler since the publication of the Bullock volume to match it in quality of research and interpretive insights is that of the German journalist Joachim Fest, which sees Hitler from the perspective of the moral void that the failed Austrian artist was able to exploit to his own advantage. Fest believes that the "great fear" of the European and particularly German middle classes—a fear not only of Communist revolution but also of loss of status and security—contributed mightily to the appeal of a demagogic Nazi movement that promised psychological redemption to both individuals and the entire German nation. All of the other Hitler biographies concentrate on details of the dictator's life, often to the point of trivializing his immense impact on our age.

Evaluation of Principal Biographical Sources

Beard, Miriam. "Hitler Unexpurgated: Deletions from 'Mein Kampf.'" In *Nazism: An Assault on Civilization*. Edited by Pierre van Paasen and James Waterman Wise. New York: Harrison Smith and Robert Haas, 1934. (G) An extremely revealing article, written at a time when the English-speaking world had only an expurgated and poorly edited version of *Mein Kampf* by which to judge Hitler's intentions.

Bezymenski, Lev. *The Death of Adolf Hitler: Unknown Documents from Soviet Archives*. New York: Harcourt, 1968. (A) Contains the autopsy reports of the Soviet Army Forensic Medical commission charged with investigating the human remains found in the Reich Chancellery in Berlin in May 1945; presents conclusive evidence, based on identification of their dentures, of the death by suicide of Hitler and Eva Braun.

Bierman, John. "The Führer's Dark Legacy." *Maclean's* 102 (May 1, 1989): 32, 34. (G) Thoughtful article that sees totalitarianism as a lurking force of our century and concludes with a quotation from historian Michael Kater: "Hitler was German, but he represents the evil in everyone."

Binion, Rudolph. *Hitler Among the Germans*. 1976. Reprint. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1984. (A) A psychohistorical interpretation arguing that Hitler's war against the Jews originated in two personal traumas—his mother's death while under treatment by a Jewish physician and his 1918 hospitalization for mustard gas poisoning. This highly speculative study should be used only with extreme caution.

Boldt, Gerhard. *Hitler: The Last Ten Days*. New York: Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, 1973. (G) A firsthand account of life in the Berlin bunker with Hitler by an aide de camp to the chief of the German General Staff.

Breitman, Richard. "Hitler and Genghis Khan." *Journal of Contemporary History* 25 (May-June, 1990): 337-351. (A) Many of Hitler's wartime actions, including his technique of involving others in his criminal plans, were based on his historical knowledge of the bloody deeds of the Mongols as conquerors.

Brown, Cyril. "New Popular Idol Rises in Bavaria." *New York Times* (November 21, 1922): 21. (G) The first newspaper article in the United States to describe Hitler, who is "credited with extraordinary powers of swaying crowds to his will."

Bullock, Alan. *Hitler: A Study in Tyranny*. New York: Harper and Row, 1952. Rev. ed. 1964. (G) This much-praised standard biography credits Hitler's phenomenal political successes to his own energy and superb political instincts; oratorical and dramatic skills made Hitler the greatest demagogue of the twentieth century. Remains useful both factually and in terms of interpretation.

Carr, William. *Hitler: A Study in Personality and Politics*. New York: St. Martin's, 1979. (A) Argues skillfully that Hitler achieved power not only because of his personal talents but because of the deep pathologies of German society and his own extraordinary good luck. Credits Hitler with a superb sense of timing, of knowing when to "strike."

Childers, Thomas. *The Nazi Vote: The Social Foundations of Fascism in Germany, 1919-1933*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984. (A) Shows how Hitler's energy and demagogic tactics made the Nazis the first genuinely mass party in German history.

Davidson, Eugene. *The Making of Adolf Hitler*. New York: Macmillan, 1977. (G) A highly readable biography which argues that Hitler's rise to power was as much the result of the blindness of European leaders as it was due to Hitler's skills. Sees Hitler as a reflection of the collapse of European stability after 1918.

Deuerlein, Ernst. *Hitler: Eine politische Biographie*. Munich: List Verlag, 1969. (A) A sensitive, un-dogmatic biography, unfortunately not translated into English, particularly strong on the Bavarian aspects of the Nazi rise to power.

Dornberg, John. *Munich 1923: The Story of Hitler's First Grab for Power*. New York: Harper and Row, 1982. (G) Based on interviews as well as standard printed sources, this is an excellent popular study of the 1923 *Putsch* showing how the later Führer was already formed in the early 1920s.

Fest, Joachim C. *Hitler*. New York: Random House, 1975. (G) The best biography to date, emphasizes Hitler's genius for creating rituals of mass ecstasy that emotionally bound millions of Germans to his cause. Provides massive detail on how the Nazis destroyed the Weimar Republic by violent rhetoric and violent deeds.

———. "On Remembering Adolf Hitler." *Encounter* 41 (October 1973): 19-34 (G) A brilliant essay, rich in insights, arguing that Hitler's denial of reality was his greatest strength as well as major cause of his downfall.

Fleming, Gerald. *Hitler and the Final Solution*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984. (A) Fleming believes that because of the existence of a vast bureaucratic chain of command, Hitler did not have to issue an actual document to activate the process that resulted in the extermination of most of Europe's Jews.

Flood, Charles Bracelen. *Hitler: The Path to Power*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989. (G) Takes Hitler's career up to the 1923 *Putsch*, adding little factual information to previous studies but presenting the story clearly and with dramatic skill.

Gierasch, Paul. "The Bavarian Menace to German Unity." *Current History* 19 (November 1923): 221-229. (G) The first magazine article mentioning Hitler to be published in the United States describing him as a "street-demagogue who can make an effective appeal, even in cultured Munich."

Gordon, Harold J. *Hitler and the Beer Hall Putsch*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1972. (A) The definitive scholarly study of Hitler's failed 1923 *Putsch*, the author shows in great detail how the governing classes of Bavaria tolerated Hitler and gave him the "green light" to seize power. Gordon, Sarah Ann. *Hitler, Germans, and the "Jewish Question"*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984. (A) Using Gestapo and other files, this study notes that despite Hitler's vehement anti-Semitism, the majority of Germans were not so much violent foes of the Jews as largely indifferent to their fate.

Gurian, Waldemar. "Hitler—The Simplifier of German Nationalism." *Review of Politics* 7 (July 1945): 316-324. (A) Sees Hitler's appeals to traditional conservative values and his lack of ties to any specific privileged group as crucial to an understanding of his successes.

Haffner, Sebastian. *The Meaning of Hitler*. Translated by Ewald Osers. 1979. Reprint. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1983. (G) Presents Hitler as the great gambler of modern times, a man who lived a "life of all or nothing," and whose relentless totalitarianism brings him much closer to Josef Stalin than to his Fascist ally Benito Mussolini.

Hanfstaengl, Ernst. *Unheard Witness*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1957. (G) Member of a socially prominent Munich family, the author first met Hitler in 1922 and became his foreign press chief. Valuable for details on how Hitler forged alliances with the German economic and social elite before 1933.

Hanisch, Reinhold. "I Was Hitler's Buddy." *New Republic* 98 (April 5, 12, 19, 1939): 239-242; 270-272; 297-300. (G) Translation of a brief memoir of one of Hitler's pre-1914 Vienna friends, this is a vivid portrait of the young Hitler. Because he knew too much about Hitler, Hanisch was murdered by the Nazis in 1938.

Hanser, Richard. *Putsch! How Hitler Made Revolution*. New York: P. H. Wyden, 1970. (G) Good popular study, but sometimes misses the larger context of the revolt, including the powerful impact in Germany of Mussolini's 1922 March on Rome.

Heiden, Konrad. *Der Fuehrer: Hitler's Rise to Power*. Translated by Ralph Manheim. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1944. (G) The best biography written while Hitler was alive, this study of the man's personality and insatiable desire for power remains highly readable, written by a perceptive journalist who personally observed Hitler before 1933. Has become a valuable part of the historical record.

Henri, Ernst. *Hitler Over Europe*. Translated by M. Davidson. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1934. (G) This Marxist analysis sees Hitler as a puppet in the hands of German heavy industry. "Ernest Henri" was the nom de plume of the Soviet TASS representative in Great Britain, Semyon Rostovsky.

Heston, Leonard L., and Renate Heston. *The Medical Casebook of Adolf Hitler: His Illnesses, Doctors, and Drugs*. Chelsea, MI: Scarborough House, 1980. (A) This detailed investigation of Hitler's medical history argues that his health deteriorated dramatically after 1942 largely as a result of his dependence on amphetamines administered by his notorious personal physician Dr. Theo Morell.

Heyl, John D. "Hitler's Economic Thought: A Reappraisal." *Central European History* 6 (March 1973): 83-96. (A) Shows how Hitler always emphasized the political and psychological elements in economic policy.

Infield, Glenn B. *Eva and Adolf*. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1974. (G) While it is of only slight historical interest, the relationship between Hitler and his mistress Eva Braun, related here in somewhat tedious detail, will nevertheless fascinate some readers.

Jetzinger, Franz. *Hitler's Youth*. Translated by Lawrence Wilson. 1958. Reprint. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1979. (G) Written by a Linz archivist, this is a useful overview of Hitler's formative years and raises the possibility that his paternal grandfather may have been Jewish.

Jones, J. Sydney. *Hitler in Vienna, 1907-1913: Clues to the Future*. Chelsea, MI: Scarborough House, 1982. (G) The best investigation of Hitler's years in Vienna. Focuses on his crushed hopes of Hitler the failed artist and the reasons he grew to despise the Habsburg empire.

Kershaw, Ian. *Hitler*. London: Longman, 1991. (A, G) An important interpretive study of the sources of Hitler's power, this cogently argued book sees Hitler as a charismatic leader who was able to embody, more than any other modern dictator, a wide range of his nation's social expectations and resentments. Contains an excellent reading list and an accurate, detailed chronology of Hitler's career. Highly recommended for both students and the general reading public.

Kubizek, August. *The Young Hitler I Knew*. Translated by E. V. Anderson. 1955. Reprint. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1976. (G) Memoirs written by Hitler's adolescent friend, particularly valuable for details of the profound impact of music and the arts of the Führer-to-be.

Leavesly, James H. "Adolf Hitler." *Medical Journal of Australia* 142 (June 24, 1985): 687-688. (A) Diagnoses Hitler's wartime ailment to be a painful gallbladder ailment, not Parkinson's disease. From 1936 to 1945 he was prescribed twenty-eight different drugs, and was "a compulsive pill-popper."

Lewin, Ronald. *Hitler's Mistakes*. New York: Norton, 1986. (G) In this stimulating analysis of Hitler's increasingly disastrous military miscalculations, the author sees the Nazi dictator's sterile personality and inability to imagine the sufferings of other human beings as a fundamental cause of his failures.

Ludecke, Kurt. *I Knew Hitler: The Story of a Nazi Who Escaped the Blood Purge*. 1937. Reprint. New York: AMS, n.d. (G) One of the first major exposés by an ex-Nazi, this remains an important source of information on the early years of the NSDAP. Ludecke provided the Western public with a chilling firsthand description of conditions in a concentration camp.

Lukacs, John. "Hitler Becomes a Man." *American Scholar* 51 (Summer, 1982): 391-395. (G) Raises four unresolved questions about Hitler's life and personality: his hatred of Jews, his desire to conquer Russia, his belief in final victory during the last days of the war, and the Viennese sources of his political and social ideology.

Manvell, Roger, and Heinrich Fraenkel. *The Hundred Days to Hitler*. New York: St. Martin's, 1974. (G) A day-by-day chronicle from December 7, 1932 to March 23, 1933, this popular account shows how the political blindness of conservatives presented Hitler with his long-desired opportunity to seize power "legally."

Maser, Werner. *Hitler: Legend, Myth, and Reality*. New York: Harper, 1973. (G) Sets Hitler in a German cultural and social context of authoritarianism and militarism.

O'Donnell, James P. *The Bunker: The History of the Reich Chancellery Group*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1978. (G) Updates the classic Trevor-Roper account of Hitler's last days; based largely on interviews with survivors of the Berlin bunker.

Olden, Rudolf. *Hitler*. Translated by Walter Ettinghausen. New York: Covici, 1936. (G) One of the first Hitler biographies in English, Olden voices a stern warning of the aggressive nature of Nazism, viewing it as a totally new and malignant political system. The author died en route to the United States in 1940 when his ship was torpedoed.

Payne, Robert. *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler*. New York: Frederick Praeger, 1973. (G) A well-written biography with a narrow focus on the man rather than on the world that created him and which he per-

manently transformed. Sees a major source of Hitler's beliefs in the ideals and mystical values system of German romanticism.

Pridham, Geoffrey. *Hitler's Rise to Power: The Nazi Movement in Bavaria, 1923-1933*. New York: Harper and Row, 1973. (A) Hitler's personality and not ideology made Nazism a powerful force in Bavarian political life by the late 1920s.

Schramm, Percy E. *Hitler: The Man and the Military Leader*. Translated by Donald S. Detwiler. 1971. Reprint. Melbourne, FL: Krieger, 1986. (G) Written by a historian who worked at Hitler's headquarters during the war, this study argues that one of his major failings was that he was a "prestige-conscious propagandist" who often subordinated long-term military considerations to immediate public-relations goals.

Seward, Desmond. *Napoleon and Hitler: A Comparative Biography*. New York: Viking, 1989. (G) A stimulating comparative study of two of Europe's greatest conquerors. Only to be used after one has read a standard biography of both Hitler and Napoleon.

Smith, Bradley F. *Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood, and Youth*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace, 1967. (A) This remains the definitive study of Hitler's family origins and childhood, showing the dreary, mundane origins of this century's worst dictator.

Spielvogel, Jackson J. *Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History*. Engelwood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2d ed. 1992. (G) An excellent introductory text, providing basic chronology, interpretations, and suggestions for further reading. Has an excellent chapter on the Holocaust.

Stein, George, ed. *Hitler*. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1968. (G) An excellent collection of articles by and about Hitler, particularly useful for pursuing research on opposing viewpoints on Hitler.

Stierlin, Helm. *Adolf Hitler: A Family Perspective*. New York: Psychohistory, 1977. (A) A psychohistorical study positing that the young Hitler was unconsciously delegated by his mother to fulfill her own frustrated ambitions, which in his adulthood were transformed into a boundless sense of personal mission to redeem the German nation. This is a highly speculative essay and should be used only with other, more standard biographical works.

Stoakes, Geoffrey. *Hitler and the Quest for World Dominion: Nazi Ideology and Foreign Policy in the 1920s*. New York: St. Martin's, 1987. (A) A careful analysis of the changes in Hitler's thinking before he came to power, concluding that his policies were based on his basic racial ideas.

Strasser, Otto. *Hitler and I*. Translated by Gwenda David and Eric Mosbacher. 1940. Reprint. New York: AMS, n.d. (G) One of Hitler's most bitter rivals within the Nazi movement here analyzes his personality and beliefs, emphasizing Hitler's betrayal of the Nazi program of 1920.

Toland, John. *Adolf Hitler*. 1976. Reprint. New York: Ballantine, 1986. (G) Well-researched, this biography remains valuable because of its excellence. While not wedded to any one thesis, the author sees Hitler as the "greatest mover and shaker of the twentieth century."

Trevor-Roper, Hugh. *The Last Days of Hitler*. New York: Macmillan, 1947. (G) First written in 1945 as a report for British intelligence, this account of the final phase of Nazi Germany's leadership remains a gripping historical study.

Wagener, Otto. *Hitler—Memoirs of a Confidant*. Edited by Henry A. Turner, Jr. Translated by Ruth Hein. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985. (G) Written in 1946 and completed in 1958 by one of Hitler's economic advisers, this book provides fascinating details on Hitler's prejudices on themes ranging from education to art.

Waite, Robert G. L. *The Psychopathic God: Adolf Hitler*. 1977. Reprint. New York: New American Library, 1983. (A) A psychohistorical study that drew mixed reviews at the time of publication; to be used with caution in conjunction with other, standard biographies. Waite sees Hitler as a borderline personality in whom the tensions between his personal neuroses and his political achievements finally resulted in a compulsive rage to destroy all that he had created.

Warlimont, Walter. *Inside Hitler's Headquarters, 1939-1945*. Translated by R. H. Barry. New York: Praeger, 1964. (G) Written by a former Wehrmacht general who served under Hitler at his headquarters, this memoir provides many examples of disastrous military blunders committed by the Führer.

Weinberg, Gerhard L. *The Foreign Policy of Hitler's Germany: Diplomatic Revolution in Europe, 1933-1936*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970. (A) Shows how in the early years of his regime Hitler

stalled for time in order to rearm, all the while protesting to the world that Germany only desired peace.

———. *The Foreign Policy of Hitler's Germany: Starting World War II*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980. (A) In this highly acclaimed study, Hitler is seen preparing for war, partly because he believed he would soon die and would not let himself be denied great victories.

———. "Hitler's Image of the United States." *American Historical Review* 69 (July 1964): 1006-1021. (A) In the 1920s Hitler had a high opinion of certain aspects of American society, but the depression of the 1930s convinced him that the U.S.A. was a racially decadent and politically impotent nation.

Wolfe, Robert, ed. *A Man Called A. H.* New York: Garland, 1991. (A) Reproduces original intelligence files dealing with Hitler's career and personality assembled during World War II by the CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps). The originals of these documents are now in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and give a good idea of the Hitler image available to President Roosevelt and other top American policymakers in World War II.

Overview and Evaluation of Primary Sources

Hitler left behind very few personal documents, and despite the immense literature that has accumulated on his life and career since the 1930s, he remains in many ways as much an enigma today as he was two generations ago. Despite this, a significant body of primary documentation does exist, and careful use of it enables researchers to penetrate into the mind of a man whose brilliance was harnessed to some of the most destructive forces of modern human history. Hitler's basic ideas, as well as a certain (not always truthful) amount of autobiographical details can be found in his *Mein Kampf*, written in Landsberg prison in 1924, and first published in Munich in two volumes in 1925-1926. Although Hitler was a major political figure, the English-speaking world had to depend on an edition by E. T. S. Dugdale (*My Battle*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1933) that contained only about one-third of the original text and omitted many of the more aggressive passages; not until 1939 was a complete and unabridged translation into English available (*Mein Kampf*. New York: Reynal and Hitchcock). The best translation, by Ralph Manheim, appeared in 1943 (*Mein Kampf*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin; A, G). Hitler's views on many issues in the 1930s can be found in Otto Wagener, *Hitler—Memoirs of a Confidant* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985; A, G), edited by Henry Ashby Turner, Jr.

An absolutely indispensable source of documentation is the massive collection of letters, newspaper and magazine articles, poetry and notes for Hitler's speeches, *Hitler: Sämtliche Aufzeichnungen 1905-1924* (Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 1980; A), edited by Eberhard Jäckel and Alex Kuhn. A smaller volume in English that contains much of interest is Werner Maser, ed., *Hitler's Letters and Notes* (London: Heinemann, 1974; A). Important not only for Hitler's brief appearance as a defendant but also for the entire spirit of judicial toleration of radical Right activity is a complete translation of the trial transcript entitled *The Hitler Trial Before the People's Court in Munich* (3 vols. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1976; A), translated by H. Francis Freniere. By the late 1920s Hitler had written a number of important memoranda, including one aimed at the German industrial elite, "Hitler's Secret Pamphlet for Industrialists, 1927" *Journal of Modern History*, 40, 3 (September 1968: 348-374). In the area of foreign policy, Hitler wrote a major work in 1928 intended as a sort of supplement to *Mein Kampf*. In this work he argues for a strong alliance with Italy, based on a renunciation of German claims to the South Tyrol. Not published until 1961, this work was entitled *Hitler's Secret Book* (Reprint. New York: Bramhall House/Crown, 1986; A, G). In two interviews held in 1931 with the editor of the *Leipziger Neueste Nachrichten*, Hitler candidly revealed his future plans for dictatorship and aggression; these have been published as Edouard Calic, ed., *Secret Conversations with Hitler: The Two Newly-Discovered 1931 Interviews* (New York: John Day, 1971; G), translated by Richard Barry. Of major importance as sources for Hitler's speeches are Norman H. Baynes, ed., *The Speeches of Adolf Hitler April 1922-August 1939* (2 vols. 1942. Reprint. New York: Gordon, 1981; A, G) and *Adolf Hitler, My New Order* (1941. Reprint. New York: Octagon, 1973), edited by Raoul de Roussy de Sales. Valuable comments made by Hitler to diplomats are found in Andreas Hillgruber, ed., *Staatsmänner und Diplomaten bei Hitler: Vertrauliche Aufzeichnungen über Unterredungen mit Vertretern des Auslandes 1939-1941* (Frankfurt am Main: Bernard and Graefe Verlag, 1967; A). One of the most complete collections of speeches and public announcements made by Hitler was collected by the archivist Max Domarus, *Hitler: Reden und Proklamationen*,

1932-1945 (2 vols. 1963. Reprint. Wiesbaden: Löwit, 1973; translated as *Adolf Hitler, Speeches and Proclamations, 1932-1945* (Wauconda, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci, 1990; **A**). Hitler's wartime "table talk," consisting of his nocturnal monologues on all matters from the mundane to the profound, have been preserved in *Hitler's Secret Conversations 1941-1944* (1953. Reprint. New York: Octagon, 1973; **A, G**); see also Werner Jochmann, ed., *Adolf Hitler: Monologe im Führerhauptquartier 1941-1944: Die Aufzeichnungen Heinrich Heims* (Hamburg: A. Knaus, 1980; **A**). The surviving transcripts of the wartime military conferences, where Hitler's comments range from deeply insightful to (at the end of the war) thoroughly out of touch with reality, are found in Felix Gilbert, ed., *Hitler Directs His War* (1950. Reprint. New York: Octagon, 1972; **A, G**). Hitler's war directives to his armed forces, edited by H. R. Trevor-Roper, have been published as *Blitzkrieg to Defeat: Hitler's War Directives, 1939-1945* (New York: Henry Holt, 1965; **A, G**). In the last months of his life in his Berlin bunker, Hitler dictated his hate-filled political testament to his secretary Martin Bormann, documents which have been edited by François Genoud, *The Testament of Adolf Hitler: The Hitler-Bormann Documents* (London: Cassel, 1961), translated by R. H. Stevens. Annual reference works that enable researchers to keep up with new books and articles dealing with Hitler include *Historical Abstracts* and the *Jahresberichte für deutsche Geschichte*. Valuable bibliographies on Hitler and his regime include Leona R. Phillips, *Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich: An Annotated Bibliography* (New York: Gordon Press, 1977; **A**); Peter D. Stachura, *The Weimar Era and Hitler 1918-1933: A Critical Bibliography* (Oxford: Clio, 1977; **A**); Philip Rees, *Fascism and Pre-Fascism in Europe, 1890-1945: A Bibliography of the Extreme Right* (Sussex, U. K.: Harvester, 1984; **A**); Dieter K. Buse and Jürgen C. Doerr, *German Nationalisms: A Bibliographic Approach* (New York: Garland, 1985; **A**); *From Weimar to Hitler: Germany, 1918-1933* (2d rev. ed. London: Vallentine, Mitchell, 1964; **A**); Robert Wistrich, *Who's Who in Nazi Germany* (New York: Macmillan, 1982; **A, G**); James Taylor and Warren Shaw, *The Third Reich Almanac* (New York: World Almanac, 1987; **G**); Louis L. Snyder, *Encyclopedia of the Third Reich* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1976; **G**); *The Weimar Republic: A Historical Bibliography* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Information Services, 1984; **A, G**); *The Third Reich, 1933-1939: A Historical Bibliography* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Information Services, 1984; **A, G**); *The Third Reich at War: A Historical Bibliography* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Information Services, 1984; **A, G**); Abraham J. Edelheit and Hershel Edelheit, *Bibliography on Holocaust Literature [and] Supplement* (Boulder, CO: Westview, 1986, 1990; **A, G**); and Israel Gutman, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* (4 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1990; **A, G**).

Fiction and Adaptations

Bainbridge, Beryl. *Young Adolf*. New York: Braziller, 1979. A brilliant novel in which Hitler is depicted developing his unique personal traits during a visit to his half-brother Alois in Liverpool in 1912.

Hughes, Richard. *The Fox in the Attic*. New York: Harper and Row, 1962. An impressive novel in which an Englishman visits his Bavarian cousin in October, 1923, and meets, among others, Adolf Hitler on the eve of his *Putsch* attempt.

———. *The Wooden Shepherdess*. New York: Harper and Row, 1973. In Hugh's second novel of the Human Predicament trilogy, the protagonist is struggling to find himself and Hitler is in prison. Valuable as a picture of the political decay of Weimar Germany.

Hugo, Richard. *The Hitler Diaries*. New York: Morrow, 1983. A superficial thriller published coincidentally at the same time the forged Hitler diaries appeared.

Jeffers, Robinson. *Tragedy Has Obligation*. Edited by William Everson. Santa Cruz, CA: Lime Kiln, 1973. In this 1943 poem, Jeffers, a major American poet who was a political isolationist, addresses Hitler, giving voice to his complex feelings about the Nazi leader.

Mullally, Frederic. *Hitler Has Won*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1975. A sensationalistic work in which Hitler becomes pope and is gunned down in St. Peter's Square.

Riefensthal, Leni. *Triumph des Willens*. (*Triumph of the Will*). Personally commissioned by Hitler and directed by Riefensthal, one of the few women to achieve high professional status in Nazi Germany, this 1935 film claimed to be the documentary record of the September 1934 Nazi Party Congress held in Nuremberg but

can just as easily be seen as one of the most powerful works of propaganda ever created. Filmed only weeks after he became unchallenged dictator of both the Nazi party and the German state, Hitler dominates this two-hour film.

Snodgrass, William De Witt. *The Führer Bunker: A Cycle of Poems in Progress*. Brockport, NY: Boa Editions, 1977. A poetic attempt to capture the horrors of Berlin in April 1945.

Steiner, George. *The Portage to San Cristobal of A. H.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982. In this brilliant novel by a noted literary critic, Hitler is discovered hiding in the Amazon and returned to civilization to face his many accusers. Among other things, this book argues that Hitler was able to use language as an almost supernatural force.

Syberberg, Hand-Jürgen. *Hitler: Ein Film aus Deutschland. (Hitler: A Film from Germany)*. In this seven-hour film released in 1977, West German director Syberberg illuminates the darkest recesses of the German soul and puts forth the idea that Hitler is within all of us. The American critic Susan Sontag acclaimed this film to be "one of the great works of art of the twentieth century."

Van Rjndt, Philippe. *The Trial of Adolf Hitler*. New York: Summit, 1978. A stimulating novel that has Hitler surviving the war in a small Bavarian village and surrendering to the authorities for a trial in the early 1970s.

Weiss, Ernst. *The Eyewitness*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1977. This novel, by a German refugee writer who committed suicide in 1940, presents a Jewish doctor who treats and cures through hypnosis a certain "A. H." who goes on to bring tragedy to his nation and the world.

West, Paul. *The Very Rich Hours of Count von Stauffenberg*. New York: Harper and Row, 1980. Organized like a medieval book of hours, this novel traces the political and moral evolution of Count von Stauffenberg from an enthusiastic supporter of Hitler to a key member of the conspiracy to assassinate him.

Other Sources

Alexander, Edgar. *Der Mythos Hitler*. 1937. Munich: Kraus Reprint, 1980. A condemnation of Hitler by a Catholic conservative, describing Nazism as a total antithesis of Christianity. Barnes, James J., and Patience P. Barnes. *Hitler's Mein Kampf in Britain and America: A Publishing History, 1930-1939*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1980. An excellent study of how the English-speaking world discovered Hitler's intentions (the full text of *Mein Kampf* did not appear in translation until 1939.)

Bernanos, Georges. "A French Catholic to Herr Hitler." *Dublin Review* 207 (October 1940): 132-141. An imaginary letter to Hitler by a great French novelist who saw in the Nazi phenomenon impure greatness . . . born of German humiliation."

Burden, Hamilton T. *The Nuremberg Party Rallies: 1923-39*. New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1967. A popular history of the notorious—and highly effective—Nazi rallies that were held in Albrecht Dürer's city of Nuremberg in order to strengthen Hitler's hold on his populace in elaborate rituals of emotional allegiance.

Carsten, F. L. *The Rise of Fascism*. 2d ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1980. Provides a broad context of understanding of the European revolt against liberal democracy in which not only Hitler, but Mussolini and others seized power.

Churchill, Allen, ed. *Eyewitness, Hitler: The Nazi Führer and His Times as Seen by Contemporaries, 1930-1945*. New York: Walker, 1979. A collection of articles on Hitler and the Nazis that originally appeared in *Liberty* magazine; these often sensationalistic and inaccurate articles provide a good idea of what many average Americans thought they knew about the Nazis during those years.

Deakin, F. W. *The Brutal Friendship: Mussolini, Hitler, and the Fall of Italian Fascism*. New York: Harper and Row, 1963. Hitler remained loyal to his fellow-Fascist Mussolini, and so hastened the collapse of his own regime.

De Jaeger, Charles. *The Linz File: Hitler's Plunder of Europe's Art*. Exeter, England: Webb and Bower, 1981. A shocking chronicle of the full extent of Hitler's desire to strip conquered Europe of its art treasures.

Duffy, James P. *Hitler Slept Late and Other Blunders That Cost Him the War*. New York: Praeger, 1991. Argues that World War II was decided as much because of Hitler's phenomenal military blunders as by American weaponry and Soviet manpower. Above all, Hitler was unable to develop a concrete long-range

military plan and was also a prisoner of his almost maniacal belief in the strength of his own will power to transcend obstacles.

Fest, Joachim C. *The Face of the Third Reich: Portraits of the Nazi Leadership*. Translated by Michael Bullock. New York: Pantheon, 1977. Excellent biographies of Hitler's inner leadership circle, providing insights on how he was able to use their talents to enhance his own power.

Gun, Nerin E. *Eva Braun: Hitler's Mistress*. New York: Meredith, 1968. Largely anecdotal biography of a trivial person remembered solely because she was Hitler's mistress.

Hauner, Milan. *Hitler: A Chronology of His Life and Time*. New York: St. Martin's, 1983. A valuable chronology of Hitler's life, based on all of the important published sources.

Heck, Alfons. *The Burden of Hitler's Legacy*. Frederick, CO: Renaissance House/Jende-Hagen, 1988. Autobiography of an ex-German who joined the Hitler Youth in 1938 at age ten, and was a Luftwaffe officer at war's end in 1945, this book relates how Nazism was able to indoctrinate a generation of young people.

Helmreich, Ernst Christian. *The German Churches under Hitler: Background, Struggle, and Epilogue*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1979. Excellent survey of the Nazi-Christian struggle and Hitler's role in it.

Hitler in der Karikatur der Welt: 1924-1934. Darmstadt: Melzer, 1973. A fascinating collection of caricatures of Hitler from the early years of his career.

Hoffmann, Heinrich. *Hitler Was My Friend*. Translated by R. H. Stevens. London: Burke, 1955. The memoirs of Hitler's official photographer, containing interesting details but no major revelations. Provides some photographs not usually seen. Hoffman, Peter. *German Resistance to Hitler*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1988. The best brief survey of the subject, noting that of all the anti-Nazi movements, the German one was the only one without any Allied support or encouragement.

———. *Hitler's Personal Security*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1979. A fascinating study of the almost fifty attempts to assassinate Hitler.

Hoggan, David L. *The Forced War: When Peaceful Revision Failed*. Costa Mesa, CA: Institute for Historical Review, 1989. Highly controversial "revisionist" polemic arguing that Hitler's intentions were peaceful and that he was forced into war by other nations. To be used only with extreme caution.

Irving, David. *Hitler's War*. New York: Viking, 1977. A controversial book which evaluates surviving documentation in a narrow sense and argues that Hitler never officially authorized extermination of the Jews, that crime being solely the work of Himmler and the SS. To be used with caution.

Jäckel, Eberhard. *Hitler in History*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England for Brandeis University, 1985. Perceptive essays, covering the entire range of his life and career as a domestic demagogue and international personality, including one on Hitler's lifelong anti-Semitism.

———. *Hitler's World View: A Blueprint for Power*. 1972; Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1981. Argues that beyond his daily opportunism Hitler possessed a consistent philosophy, namely German territorial expansion linked to elimination of the Jews.

Johnson, Frank. "The Man Who Found a Way of Making Hitler Talk." *London Times* (August 8, 1985): 8. Argues that Hermann Rauschning's conversations with Hitler were largely fabricated, but that nevertheless his books captured the essence of Hitler's ideas.

Kater, Michael H. "Hitler in a Social Context." *Central European History* 14 (September 1989): 243-272. Excellent examination of the societal conditions that made Hitler's rise to power possible and how he mastered techniques to control these forces.

Keegan, John. *The Mask of Command*. New York: Viking, 1988. A highly praised work of military history that credits Hitler with grasping the new possibilities of highly mobile land warfare but criticizes him for being utterly incapable of conducting day-to-day military operations.

Kershaw, Ian. "Hitler and the Germans." In *Life in the Third Reich*. Edited by Richard Bessel. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987: 41-55. A succinct analysis of the immense impact on German society of the Führer cult crafted to convince the nation of Hitler's total infallibility. Koch, H. W. *Aspects of the Third Reich*. New York: St. Martin's, 1985. Sixteen valuable essays ranging from ideology to foreign policy by experts on Nazi Germany, most of them containing significant information on Hitler.

Lang, Jochen von. *The Secretary: Martin Bormann, the Man who Manipulated Hitler*. New York: Ran-

dom House, 1979. Traces the career of Bormann, who enhanced his power by bureaucratically weakening his rivals Goebbels, Goering, and Speer.

———. *Adolf Hitler: Faces of a Dictator*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1969. Photographs from the archives of the Nazi party's official photographer, Henrich Hoffman.

Langer, Walter C. *The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report*. 1972. Reprint. New York: New American Library, 1989. Written for the U. S. Government in 1943-1944, this psychobiography of Hitler is factually outdated but is still of interest for providing a look at contemporary American assessments of the Nazi leader.

McGovern, James. *Martin Bormann*. New York: Morrow, 1968. Contains interesting details on the bureaucratic chaos of the Third Reich and how Bormann cunningly enhanced his own power.

McKale, Donald M. *Hitler: The Survival Myth*. New York: Stein and Day, 1981. A detailed investigation of the persistent attempts to deny that Hitler died in Berlin in 1945, this is essentially a study in legend building.

Martin, Stoddard. *Art, Messianism, and Crime: A Study of Antinomianism in Modern Literature and Lives*. London: Macmillan, 1986. This stimulating and controversial book has as its central theme the idea that there is often a close link between crime and artistic failure. Among the failed artists who gravitated toward criminal behavior are, besides Hitler, the marquis de Sade and Charles Manson.

Mayer, Arno J. *Why Did the Heavens Not Darken? The "Final Solution" in History*. New York: Pantheon, 1988. Controversial interpretation of the Holocaust, arguing that it was only made inevitable by the onset of Hitler's failure to conquer the Soviet Union.

Merritt, Anna J., and Richard L. Merritt. *Public Opinion in Occupied Germany: The OMGUS Surveys, 1945-1949*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970. Valuable public opinion survey results include postwar opinions on Hitler and his legacy.

———. *Public Opinion in Semisovereign Germany: The HICOG Surveys, 1949-1955*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1980. Charts public opinion on the Nazi era in the early years of the German Federal Republic.

Nyomarkay, Joseph. *Charisma and Factionalism in the Nazi Party*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1967. As an unchallenged charismatic leader, Hitler was the key factor in the Nazi party's growth in the 1920s, and factions within the party always sought his support for their goals.

Peterson, Edward N. *The Limits of Hitler's Power*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1969. Shows how the actual workings of the Nazi state depended on the attitudes and fanaticism (or lack of it) of individual bureaucrats.

Phelps, Reginald H. "Before Hitler Came: Thule Society and Germanen Orden." *Journal of Modern History* 35 (September, 1963): 245-261. Shows how the insignificant anti-Semitic sects that existed in Munich when Hitler began his political career in 1919 were officially deleted from the historical record by the regime in 1933 to bolster the claim that he alone was the founder of National Socialism.

Pool, James, and Suzanne Pool. *Who Financed Hitler?: The Secret Funding of Hitler's Rise to Power, 1919-1933*. New York: Dial, 1978. Argues that the Nazis could not have come to power without massive financial support from reactionary industrial and business interests.

Price, Billy F. *Adolf Hitler: The Unknown Artist*. Houston: Billy F. Price, 1985. Price, himself a collector of Hitler's art since the 1940s, has here brought together virtually all of the surviving examples of Hitler's paintings, drawings, sketches and even doodles; contains ninety-two plates printed in excellent color.

Price, George Ward. *I Know These Dictators*. New York: Holt, 1938. A British journalist's account of his meetings with Hitler and Mussolini, presenting them in very positive terms.

Rich, Norman. *Hitler's War Aims*. 2 vols. New York: Norton, 1973-1974. All of Hitler's racist and expansionist ideals were outlined in *Mein Kampf*, and only the need to gain and retain power influenced his timetable for implementing them.

Rosenfeld, Alvin H. *Imagining Hitler*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985. A thought-provoking investigation of the continuing fascination of Hitler for the literary world.

Scheffer, Paul. "Hitler: Phenomenon and Portent." *Foreign Affairs* 10 (April 1932): 382-390. A liberal German journalist's assessment of Hitler and his movement published less than a year before the Nazi takeover,

noting that the element uniting all of Hitler's followers was their feeling of humiliation and injured self-respect. Interestingly, Scheffer was later accused of being a Nazi intelligence agent.

Schmidt, Paul. *Hitler's Interpreter*. New York: Macmillan, 1951. Contains many firsthand impressions of Hitler's behavior while negotiating with foreign diplomats and heads of state.

Sereny, Gitta. "Germany: The 'Rediscovery' of Hitler." *Atlantic* 242 (August 1978): 7-14. As a new generation of Germans began to struggle with the Nazi legacy in the 1970s, a national debate on Nazism took place and many new publications on Hitler were produced.

Stachura, Peter D., ed. *The Nazi Machtergreifung*. Cambridge, MA: Unwin Hyman, 1983. Excellent analytical essays on the Nazi phenomenon, including one by Jill Stephenson rejecting the notion that women voted for the Nazis because they were personally attracted to Hitler.

Staudinger, Hans. *The Inner Nazi: A Critical Analysis of Mein Kampf*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981. An excellent introduction to *Mein Kampf* by an American scholar who fled Nazi Germany in 1933.

Stern, Fritz. *Dreams and Delusions. National Socialism in the Drama of the German Past*. New York: Random House, 1989. A collection of stimulating essays, many of which probe the impact of Hitler on modern German politics, society and culture.

———. *The Failure of Illiberalism: Essays on the Political Culture of Modern Germany*. New York: Knopf, 1972. Sees a conservative state of mind in pre-1933 German culture as a major contributing factor to the rise of Hitler.

Stern, J. P. *Hitler: The Führer and the People*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1975. Sees the cause for the Nazi seizure of power in "a society longing for transcendence." Notes that Hitler's factual knowledge was often surprisingly solid.

Thyssen, Fritz. *I Paid Hitler*. Translated by Cesar Saerchinger. New York: Farrar, 1941. Steel magnate Thyssen here confessed to financially backing Hitler before 1933.

Toland, John. *Hitler: The Pictorial Biography of His Life*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1978. A thoughtful collection of photographs, emphasizing the "banality of evil" aspects of Hitler's thoroughly dull and unimpressive private life.

Turner, Henry Ashby, Jr. *German Big Business and the Rise of Hitler*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985. Impressively researched, this important revisionist study disagrees with the standard view that Germany's industrial capitalist leadership played a crucial role in financing the Nazi rise to power.

The Water Colours of Hitler. Florence: Alinari, 1984. A useful compilation of Hitler's art works.

Wheaton, Eliot Barculo. *The Nazi Revolution, 1933-1935: Prelude to Calamity*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1969. A detailed day-by-day chronicle of the establishment of the Nazi dictatorship.

Whiteside, Andrew G. "The Nature and Origins of National Socialism" *Journal of Central European Affairs* 12 (April 1957): 48-73. An excellent overview of two decades of scholarship on the Nazi phenomenon, this article cautions against single-cause interpretations.

Zalampas, Michael. *Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich in American Magazines, 1923-1939*. Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1989. A fascinating collection of original sources revealing how the American reading public learned about Hitler and the Nazi movement.

Zeman, Zbynek. *Heckling Hitler: Caricatures of the Third Reich*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1987. A thoughtful collection of contemporary political caricatures of the Nazi era, many of them directing their barbs at Hitler himself.

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