



My Drift

Title: Adolf Hitler

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Hitler told Himmler that it was not enough for the Jews simply to die; they must die in agony. What was the best way to prolong their agony? Himmler turned the problem over to his advisers, who concluded that a slow, agonizing death could be brought about by placing Jewish prisoners in freight cars in which the floors were coated with...quicklime...which produced excruciating burns. The advisers estimated that it would take four days for the prisoners to die, and for that whole time the freight cars could be left standing on some forgotten siding.... Finally, it was decided that the freight cars should be used in addition to the extermination camps.

----Robert Payne, The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler



Holocaust Train Cars



Holocaust Death Camps

By genocide, the murder of hostages, reprisal raids, forced labor, "euthanasia," starvation, exposure, medical experiments, and terror bombing, and in the concentration and death camps, Hitler (and the Nazis) murdered approximately 21,000,000 men, women, handicapped, aged, sick, prisoners of war, forced laborers, camp inmates, critics, homosexuals, Jews, Slavs, Serbs, Germans, Czechs, Italians, Poles, French, Ukrainians, and many others. Among them over 1,000,000 were children under eighteen years of age. And none of these monstrous figures even include civilian and military combat or war-deaths.

HITLER (NAZI) DEMOCIDE	
GROUP/INSTITUTION/NATION	PEOPLE KILLED
GENOCIDE	16,400,000
Slavs	10,600,000
Jews	5,300,000
Gypsies	260,000
Homosexuals	240,000
INSTITUTIONAL KILLINGS	11,300,000
Forced Euthanasia	180,000
Forced Labor	1,860,000
Prisoners of War	3,100,000
Death Camps	6,160,000
DEMOCIDE IN OCCUPIED EUROPE	20,400,000
USSR	12,600,000
Poland	5,400,000
Yugoslavia	630,000
Hungary	410,000
France	260,000
Baltic States	255,000
Czechoslovakia	215,000
Other Nations	630,000
WORLD WAR II – EUROPE WAR DEAD	28,800,000
Germany	5,200,000
Other European Nations	23,600,000

Yes, Adolf Hitler was responsible for starting World War II and for millions of deaths in Germany and Europe. In this article, we are going to learn more about this German leader who just might be the most “EVIL” person in the history of the world.

EARLY YEARS

Adolf Hitler didn't come out of the womb a brutal tyrant (with an ugly toothbrush moustache) wanting to kill Jews – he became one.

Adolf Hitler was born on 20 April 1889 in the small Austrian town of Linz, in upper Austria on the Austrian-German border.

His father, Alois, was a Customs official while his mother, Klara, came from a poor peasant family. Life was financially comfortable for the Hitler family, but Alois was a domineering character and young Adolf frequently found himself on the wrong side of his father's short temper. At primary school Hitler was a clever, popular child. *At secondary school he withdrew psychologically, preferring to re-enact battles from the Boer War than study. He left school with no diploma at age 16.*



Baby Adolf Hitler

VIENNA (1908-1914)



Vienna hosted a rich intellectual and artistic life at the beginning of the 20th Century

The beautiful old-world city of Vienna, capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, with its magnificent culture that had seen the likes of Beethoven and Mozart, now had a new resident, a pale, lanky, sad looking 18-year-old named Adolf Hitler.

Vienna was a city alive with music and full of diverse people who loved the arts and felt lucky to call the place home. In February 1908, Hitler moved there with the goal of attending the art academy and becoming a great artist.

However, there was one small problem. Hitler was a bad artist and painter! He applied to the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts but was promptly rejected.



One of Hitler's best paintings

Hitler's friend from his hometown of Linz, August Kubizek, also came to Vienna and they roomed together. In Vienna, Hitler continued the same lazy lifestyle he had enjoyed in Linz after dropping out of school. He was a night owl who slept till noon and made no effort to get a regular job, considering himself far above that.

Kubizek recalled Hitler displayed an increasingly unstable personality with a terrible temper. At times he was quite reasonable, but he was always prone to sudden outbursts of rage especially when he was corrected on anything. He had no real interest in women, preferring to keep away from them and even smugly rebuffed those who showed any interest in him.

In October 1908, Hitler tried for the second time to gain admission to the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts. However, his test drawings were judged as so poor that he was not even allowed to take the formal exam.

After this bitter disappointment, Hitler soon parted company with his friend in a rather strange manner. He just moved out of their shared apartment and left no forwarding address. Hitler now had no use for his friend and made no attempt to find him again.

Hitler lived by himself, moving from place to place as his savings gradually dwindled and his lifestyle spiraled downward. He eventually pawned all his possessions and actually wound up sleeping on park benches and begging for money. He quickly became a dirty, smelly, unshaven young man wearing tattered clothes and did not

even own an overcoat. In December of 1909, freezing and half starved, he moved into a homeless shelter. He ate at a soup kitchen operated by the nuns from a nearby convent. In February 1910, he moved into a home for poor men where he would stay for the next few years.

Another resident at the home, Reinhold Hanish, recalled Hitler as undisciplined and moody, always hanging around the men's home, eager to discuss politics and often making speeches to the residents. He usually flew into a rage if anyone contradicted him. Eventually, Hitler quarreled with Hanish, even accusing him of stealing his property and falsely testified against him in court in August 1910, getting Hanish an eight-day jail sentence. (In 1938, Hanish was murdered on Hitler's orders after talking to the press about him).

In Vienna, and later, Hitler suffered bouts of depression. Other times he experienced extreme highs, only to be followed by a drop back into the depths. One consistent personality trait was the hysteria evident whenever someone displeased him. Hitler's personality has been described as basically hysterical in nature.

Among the middle class in Vienna, anti-Semitism was considered rather fashionable. The mayor, Karl Lueger, a noted anti-Semite, was a member of the Christian Social Party which included anti-Semitism in its political platform. Hitler admired Lueger, a powerful politician, for his speech-making skills and effective use of propaganda in gaining popular appeal. He also admired Lueger's skill in manipulating established institutions such as the Catholic Church. He studied Lueger carefully and modeled some of his later behavior on what he learned.

Hitler left Vienna at age 24, to avoid mandatory military service in the Austrian army, and thus avoided serving the multicultural Austrian Empire he now despised. In May of 1913, he moved to the German Fatherland and settled in Munich. But he was tracked down by the Austrian authorities in January 1914. Faced with the possibility of prison for avoiding military service, he wrote a letter to the Austrian Consulate apologizing and told of his recent years of misery. The tone of the letter impressed the Austrian officials and Hitler was not punished for dodging the service. He took the necessary medical exam which he easily failed and the matter was dropped altogether.

WORLD WAR I (1914 – 1918)

In the muddy, lice infested, smelly trenches of World War I, Adolf Hitler found a new home fighting for the German Fatherland. After years of poverty, alone and uncertain, he now had a sense of belonging and purpose.

The "war to end all wars" began after the heir to the Austrian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was gunned down by a young Serbian terrorist on June 28, 1914. Events quickly escalated as Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany urged Austria to declare war on Serbia. Russia then mobilized against Austria. Germany mobilized against Russia. France and Britain then mobilized against Germany.

All over Europe and England, young men, including Adolf Hitler, eagerly volunteered. Like most young soldiers before them, they thought it would be a short war, but hopefully long enough for them to see some action and participate in the great adventure. It would turn out to be a long war in which soldiers died by the millions. An entire generation of young men would be wiped out. The war would also bring the downfall of the old European culture of kings and noblemen and their codes of honor.

New technologies such as planes, tanks, machine-guns, long-range artillery, and deadly gas were used by the armies against each other. But a stalemate developed along a line of entrenched fortifications stretching from the North Sea, all the way through France to the Saar River in Germany. In these miserable trenches, Adolf Hitler became acquainted with war.

Hitler had volunteered at age 25 by enlisting in a Bavarian Regiment. After its first engagement against the British and Belgians near Ypres, 2,500 of the 3,000 men in the Hitler's regiment were killed, wounded or missing. Hitler escaped without a scratch. Throughout most of the war, Hitler had great luck avoiding life-threatening injury. More than once he moved away from a spot where moments later a shell exploded killing or wounding everyone.

Hitler, by all accounts, was an unusual soldier with a sloppy manner and unmilitary bearing. But he was also eager for action and always ready to volunteer for dangerous assignments even after many narrow escapes from death.

Corporal Hitler was a dispatch runner, taking messages back and forth from the command staff in the rear to the fighting units near the battlefield. During lulls in the fighting he would take out his watercolors and paint the landscapes of war.

Hitler, unlike his fellow soldiers, never complained about bad food and the horrible conditions or talked about women, preferring to discuss art or history. He received a few letters but no packages from home and never asked for leave. His fellow soldiers

regarded Hitler as too eager to please his superiors, but generally a likable loner notable for his luck in avoiding injury as well as his bravery.

On October 7, 1916, Hitler's luck ran out when he was wounded in the leg by a shell fragment during the Battle of the Somme. He was hospitalized in Germany. It was his first time away from the Front after two years of war.

Following his recovery, he went sightseeing in Berlin, then was assigned to light duty in Munich. He was appalled at the apathy and anti-war sentiment among German civilians. He blamed the Jews for much of this and saw them as conspiring to spread unrest and undermine the German war effort. This idea of an anti-war conspiracy involving Jews would become an obsession to add to other anti-Semitic notions he acquired in Vienna, leading to an ever-growing hatred of Jews. To get away from the apathetic civilians, Hitler asked to go back to the Front and was sent back in March of 1917.



Hitler (seated on right) and fellow soldiers during World War I. The dog had the name Fuchsl and was actually Hitler's pet during the war until it was stolen from him.

In August 1918, he received the Iron Cross 1st Class, a rarity for foot soldiers. Interestingly, the lieutenant who recommended him for the medal was a Jew, a fact Hitler would later obscure. Despite his good record and a total of five medals, he

remained a corporal. Due to his unmilitary appearance and odd personality, his superiors felt he lacked leadership qualities and thought he would not command enough respect as a sergeant.



From soldier to Führer. These portraits illustrate the change in Hitler's face and moustache between the years of 1915 to 1921. (Left to right) Hitler pictured in 1915, 1916, 1919 and 1921.



The many Faces of Adolf Hitler

As the tide of war turned against the Germans and morale collapsed along the Front, Hitler became more depressed. He would sometimes spend hours sitting in the corner of the tent in deep contemplation then would suddenly burst onto his feet shouting about the "invisible foes of the German people," namely Jews and Marxists.

In October 1918, he was temporarily blinded by a British chlorine gas attack near Ypres. He was sent home to a starving, war weary country full of unrest. He laid in a hospital bed consumed with dread amid a swirl of rumors of impending disaster.

On November 10, 1918, an elderly pastor came into the hospital and announced the news. The Kaiser and the House of Hohenzollern had fallen. Their beloved Fatherland was now a republic. *The war was over. Hitler described his reaction: "There followed terrible days and even worse nights – I knew that all was lost...in these nights*

hatred grew in me, hatred for those responsible for this deed." Not the military, in his mind, but the politicians back at home in Germany and primarily the Jews.

THE NAZI PARTY IS FORMED (1919 – 1921)

Adolf Hitler never held a regular job and aside from his time in World War I, led a lazy lifestyle, from his brooding teenage days in Linz through years spent in idleness and poverty in Vienna. But after joining the German Workers' Party in 1919 at age thirty, Hitler immediately began a frenzied effort to make it succeed.

The German Workers' Party consisted mainly of an executive committee which had seven members, including Hitler. To bring in new members Hitler prepared invitations which each committee member gave to friends asking them to attend the party's monthly public meeting, but few came.

Then they placed an advertisement in an anti-Semitic newspaper in Munich and at Hitler's insistence, moved the public meeting to a beer cellar that would hold about a hundred. The other committee members were concerned they might have trouble filling the place, but just over a hundred showed up at the meeting.

Hitler was scheduled to be the second speaker at this meeting. It was to be his first time as a featured speaker, despite the misgivings of some committee members who doubted Hitler's ability at this time. But when Hitler got up to speak, he astounded everyone with a highly emotional, at times near hysterical manner of speech making. For Hitler, it was an important moment in his young political career. He described the scene in *Mein Kampf*:

"I spoke for thirty minutes, and what before I had simply felt within me, without in any way knowing it, was now proved by reality: I could speak! After thirty minutes the people in the small room were electrified and the enthusiasm was first expressed by the fact that my appeal to the self-sacrifice of those present led to the donation of three hundred marks."

The money was used to buy more advertising and print leaflets. The German Workers' Party now featured Hitler as the main attraction at its meetings. In his speeches Hitler railed against the Treaty of Versailles and delivered anti-Semitic tirades, blaming the Jews for Germany's problems. Attendance slowly increased, numbering in the hundreds.

Hitler took charge of party propaganda in early 1920 and also recruited young men he had known in the Army. He was aided in his recruiting efforts by Army Captain

Ernst Röhm, a new party member, who would play a vital role in Hitler's eventual rise to power. In Munich, there were many alienated, maladjusted soldiers and ex-soldiers with a thirst for adventure and a distaste for the peace brought on by the Treaty of Versailles and the resulting democratic republic. They joined the German Workers' Party in growing numbers.

There were many other political groups looking for members, but none more successful than the Marxists. Genuine fear existed there might be a widespread Communist revolution in Germany like the Russian revolution. Hitler associated Marxism with the Jews and thus reviled it. He also understood how a political party directly opposed to a possible Communist revolution could play on the fears of so many Germans and gain support.

In February of 1920, Hitler urged the German Workers' Party to hold its first mass meeting. He met strong opposition from leading party members who thought it was premature and feared it might be disrupted by Marxists. Hitler had no fear of disruption. In fact, he welcomed it, knowing it would bring his party anti-Marxist notoriety. He even had the hall decorated in red to aggravate the Marxists. Hitler was thrilled when he entered the large meeting hall in Munich and saw two thousand people waiting, including a large number of Communists.



Hitler became a Great Motivational Speaker

A few minutes into his speech, he was drowned out by shouting followed by open brawling between German Workers' Party associates and disruptive Communists. Eventually, Hitler resumed speaking and claims in Mein Kampf the shouting was

gradually drowned out by applause. He proceeded to outline the Twenty Five Points of the German Workers' Party, its political platform, which included: the union of all Germans in a greater German Reich; rejection of the Treaty of Versailles; the demand for additional territories for the German people (Lebensraum); citizenship determined by race with no Jew to be considered a German; all income not earned by work to be confiscated; a thorough reconstruction of the national education system; religious freedom except for religions which endanger the German race; and a strong central government for the execution of effective legislation.



The Nazi Party Flag

Hitler realized one thing the movement lacked was a recognizable symbol or flag. In the summer of 1920, Hitler chose the symbol which to this day remains perhaps the most infamous in history, the swastika.

It was not something Hitler invented, but is found even in the ruins of ancient times. Hitler had seen it each day as a boy when he attended the Benedictine monastery school in Lambach, Austria. But when it was

placed inside a white circle on a red background, it provided a powerful, instantly recognizable symbol that immediately helped Hitler's party gain popularity.

The German Workers' Party name was changed by Hitler to include the term National Socialist. Thus, the full name was the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei or NSDAP) called for short, Nazi. By the end of 1920 it had about three thousand members.

By early 1921, Adolf Hitler was becoming highly effective at speaking in front of ever larger crowds. In February, Hitler spoke before a crowd of nearly six thousand in Munich. Hitler was now gaining notoriety outside of the Nazi Party for his rowdy, at times hysterical tirades against the Treaty of Versailles, rival politicians and political groups, especially Marxists, and always the Jews.

The Nazi Party was centered in Munich which had become a hotbed of ultra-right-wing German nationalists. This included Army officers determined to crush Marxism and undermine or even overthrow the young German democracy centered in Berlin. Slowly, they began looking toward the rising politician, Adolf Hitler, and the growing Nazi movement as the vehicle to hitch themselves to. Hitler was already looking at how he could carry his movement to the rest of Germany. He traveled to Berlin to visit nationalist groups during the summer of 1921.

But in his absence, he faced an unexpected revolt among his own Nazi Party leadership in Munich. The Party was still run by an executive committee whose original members now considered Hitler to be highly overbearing, even dictatorial. To weaken Hitler's position, they formed an alliance with a group of socialists from Augsburg. Hitler rushed back to Munich and countered them by announcing his resignation from the Party on July 11, 1921.

They realized the loss of Hitler would effectively mean the end of the Nazi Party. Hitler seized the moment and announced he would return on the condition that he was made chairman and given dictatorial powers. The executive committee of the Nazi Party eventually backed down and Hitler's demands were put to a vote of the party members. Hitler received 543 votes for, and only one against.

At the next gathering, July 29, 1921, Adolf Hitler was introduced as Führer (Leader) of the Nazi Party, marking the first time that title was publicly used to address him.

ADOLF HITLER'S RISE TO POWER (1921 – 1933)

In 1923, Hitler tried to overthrow the German government. His party was built upon German veterans who were committed to the Folk Party ideas, including its anti-Semitism. Lending legitimacy to Nazi ideas, Hitler conscripted the backing of one of Germany's most decorated military heroes, Erich von Ludendorff. However, the attempted coup – known in history as the Beer Hall Putsch — failed miserably and Hitler was arrested.

His prison stay was more like a house arrest and became a media event that, incredibly, earned him the sympathy of the masses. It was during this incarceration that he wrote “Mein Kampf”, his rambling, anti-Semitic, semi-autobiographical political testament, outlining what Germany had to do to regain its superior, dominant and domineering place on the world stage. In Mein Kampf, Hitler spelled out that he was going to:

- unify Germany with Austria and all German-speaking people in Europe,
- abrogate the treaty of Versailles,
- take back territory that was taken from Germany, including dismantling Czechoslovakia, and taking back the port of Danzig which was given to Poland,
- destroy the virus known as the Jewish people,
- destroy Bolshevism in Russia, and
- expand German borders under the pretense of Lebensraum, “living room” for German people.

To most people at the time, Mein Kampf was a long-winded tome filled with absolute nonsense. However, most if not all of the “nonsense” became true. In hindsight, it is stunning how the rest of the world – including the democracies in the West and Stalin in the East – misjudged him. Everyone thought it was just the ranting of racist demagogue. Few believed he would ever come to power, and everybody believed that in the remote possibility he ever came to power he would be controllable. Now we know they were dead wrong. Things unfolded exactly the way Hitler said they would unfold.

On 20 December 1924, having served only nine months, Hitler was released.

Hitler was abetted by the tremendous fear of communism taking over Germany. The communist party in Germany was led by a woman of Jewish birth, Rosa Luxemburg, also known as “Red Rose.” The Jews were prominent in the communist party in Germany, which had a firm control on the labor unions. Strikes in Germany were not countenanced very easily. Yet, at one of the things that sped the end of the First World War was the fact that the German labor force was no longer loyal to the Kaiser. They went on strikes and German war production faltered. It was the fissure that cracked the German war machine.

Hitler capitalized upon that fear. He found a ready response in the German people, who were more afraid of communism than what he stood for.

Hitler was a gifted orator. He would go on for hours at a time and mesmerize his audience. Eyewitness accounts talk about his hypnotic stare that could ensnare a person just with a glance. The psychology of domination was an essential ingredient of Hitler’s talent and rise to power.

Hitler also learned to use the radio, which was a revolutionary media in its time. It was a window to the outside world like never before. People did not merely listen but became drawn into the voice emanating from the box.

Hitler was able to mobilize criminal elements into street thugs who literally beat up his enemies. These became a paramilitary organization, the “brown shirts,” named after their uniforms. **Hitler took unemployed people off the street, gave them a brown shirt with an armband sporting a swastika, taught them the Nazi salute and handed them a stick to beat others. Suddenly, these powerless people had power.**

None of this could have come about without financial backing and Hitler found ready financial support among the German industrialists. They were uneasy with him, but at least he wasn’t a communist calling for the seizure and nationalization of their

businesses. They were confident that their financial power would control him – but, in the end, it would be he who would manipulate them to do his bidding.



The Hitler (NAZI) Salute – “Hail Hitler”

Despite Nazi gains, it was by no means certain that Hitler would achieve his goals and rule Germany. Although the Nazi party seemed to be gaining in popularity it was not considered a major force even into the late 1920s. Then, fate, so to speak, intervened in 1929 and the world economy collapsed. It began in the United States and spread throughout the industrialized world. When it reached Germany, it wreaked havoc. Hundreds of thousands if not millions of people were unemployed and the government was not dealing effectively with the problem.

Germans were looking for a savior and a scapegoat. Hitler provided them with both: he was the savior and the Jews were the scapegoat.

More than anything else, the Great Depression helped boost Hitler. In the election after the Depression first struck the Nazis doubled their seats in the Reichstag, the German Parliament, going from 7% to 13.5% of the vote. And in the ensuing election they reached 21%. At their height they would reach about 40%.

At that point, he felt victory was in his grasp and let loose the brown shirts more than ever before. Pitched battles were fought with his political enemies – not only metaphorically but literally. German politicians engaged in fist fights on the floor of the Reichstag. The Nazis terrorized the opposition. It was open hooliganism.

The president of Germany was the elderly war hero General Paul von Hindenburg. Hitler wanted to be appointed chancellor, which was the second most powerful

position to president, and only the president could grant that. Von Hindenburg had resisted the Nazis all along and disparagingly called Hitler the “Bohemian corporal.” Now, however, he felt he had to give in, hoping that being second-in-command would mollify Hitler and he would stop there.

Once Hitler got power, however, no one controlled him. He increased the activities of his brown shirts, even beating to death opposing politicians. Then he presented the Reichstag with the Enabling Act, a bill that would give him absolute powers, in effect making the Reichstag powerless. Although it was political suicide to vote for it, no one dared vote against Hitler and it was passed into law.

On August 2, 1934, the almost senile President Hindenburg died, and Hitler had complete control of Germany.



THE THIRD REICH (1933 – 1945)

Nazi Germany is the common English name for Germany between 1933 and 1945, when Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party (NSDAP) controlled the country through a dictatorship. Under Hitler's rule, Germany was transformed into a totalitarian state where nearly all aspects of life were controlled by the government. Nazi Germany is also known as the Third Reich meaning "Third Realm" or "Third Empire", the first two being the Holy Roman Empire (800–1806) and the German Empire (1871–1918).

Hitler was now free to implement policies that he had only spoken about. These policies were based upon three principles.

First, he was going to abrogate the treaty of Versailles. He was convinced he could bluff the entire world and get it done without war. Indeed, almost all of his initial victories were achieved without firing a shot.

The second policy was the destruction of the Jews: first their elimination from Germany and then from Europe. For almost six years Germany encouraged Jewish emigration, persecuting them so severely through government-sanctioned laws and raising the volume of anti-Semitism that most Jews left even when it meant leaving behind their wealth and the land they had lived in and died for for generations.

The third policy was that he was going to achieve full employment and a resilient German economy – and accomplish it through clandestinely putting the Germany economy on wartime footing. By doing so he would unite the labor forces and industrialists and earn the everlasting gratitude of the military.

Hitler declared that his Third Reich would last “a thousand years.” In actuality, it only last 12 years. But in those dozen years more harm would be done to civilization than in all of history until then.



D-Day America and their allies invade Europe

The Nazi regime ended after the Allies defeated Germany in May 1945, ending World War II in Europe.

THE HOLOCAUST (1933 – 1945)

(The Holocaust events run parallel with Hitler's and NAZI's control of Germany)

THE NAZI REVOLUTION (1933 – 1939)

At first, the Nazis reserved their harshest persecution for political opponents such as Communists or Social Democrats. The first official concentration camp opened at Dachau (near Munich) in March 1933, and many of the first prisoners sent there were Communists.

Like the network of concentration camps that followed, becoming the killing grounds of the Holocaust, Dachau was under the control of Heinrich Himmler, head of the elite Nazi guard, the Schutzstaffel (SS), and later chief of the German police. By July 1933, German concentration camps held some 27,000 people in “protective custody.” Huge Nazi rallies and symbolic acts such as the public burning of books by Jews, Communists, liberals and foreigners helped drive home the desired message of party strength.

In 1933, Jews in Germany numbered around 525,000, or only 1 percent of the total German population. During the next six years, Nazis undertook an “Aryanization” of Germany, dismissing non-Aryans from civil service, liquidating Jewish-owned businesses and stripping Jewish lawyers and doctors of their clients. Under the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents was considered a Jew, while those with two Jewish grandparents were designated Mischlinge (half-breeds).

Under the Nuremberg Laws, Jews became routine targets for stigmatization and persecution. This culminated in Kristallnacht, or the “night of broken glass” in November 1938, when German synagogues were burned and windows in Jewish shops were smashed; some 100 Jews were killed and thousands more arrested. From 1933 to 1939, hundreds of thousands of Jews who were able to leave Germany did, while those who remained lived in a constant state of uncertainty and fear.

BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II (1939 – 1940)

In September 1939, the German army occupied the western half of Poland. German police soon forced tens of thousands of Polish Jews from their homes and into ghettos, giving their confiscated properties to ethnic Germans (non-Jews outside Germany who identified as German), Germans from the Reich or Polish gentiles. Surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, the Jewish ghettos in Poland functioned like captive city-states, governed by Jewish Councils. In addition to widespread

unemployment, poverty and hunger, overpopulation made the ghettos breeding grounds for disease such as typhus.

Meanwhile, beginning in the fall of 1939, Nazi officials selected around 70,000 Germans institutionalized for mental illness or disabilities to be gassed to death in the so-called Euthanasia Program. After prominent German religious leaders protested, Hitler put an end to the program in August 1941, though killings of the disabled continued in secrecy, and by 1945 some 275,000 people deemed handicapped from all over Europe had been killed. In hindsight, it seems clear that the Euthanasia Program functioned as a pilot for the Holocaust.

HITLER'S "FINAL SOLUTION" (1940 – 1941)

Throughout the spring and summer of 1940, the German army expanded Hitler's empire in Europe, conquering Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Beginning in 1941, Jews from all over the continent, as well as hundreds of thousands of European Gypsies, were transported to the Polish ghettos. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 marked a new level of brutality in warfare. Mobile killing units murdered more than 500,000 Soviet Jews and others (usually by shooting) over the course of the German occupation.

A memorandum dated July 31, 1941, from Hitler's top commander Hermann Goering to Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the SD (the security service of the SS), referred to the need for an Final Solution to "the Jewish question." Beginning in September 1941, every person designated as a Jew in German-held territory was marked with a yellow star, making them open targets. Tens of thousands were soon being deported to the Polish ghettos and German-occupied cities in the USSR.



All Jews were marked with a Yellow Star



Since June 1941, experiments with mass killing methods had been ongoing at the concentration camp of Auschwitz, near Krakow. That August, 500 officials gassed 500 Soviet POWs to death with the pesticide Zyklon-B. The SS soon placed a huge order for the gas with a German pest-control firm, an ominous indicator of the coming Holocaust.

HOLOCAUST DEATH CAMPS (1941 – 1945)

Beginning in late 1941, the Germans began mass transports from the ghettos in Poland to the concentration camps, starting with those people viewed as the least useful: the sick, old and weak and the very young. The first mass gassings began at the camp of Belzec, near Lublin, on March 17, 1942. Five more mass killing centers were built at camps in occupied Poland, including Chelmno, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and the largest of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. From 1942 to 1945, Jews were deported to the camps from all over Europe, including German-controlled territory as well as those countries allied with Germany. The heaviest deportations took place during the summer and fall of 1942, when more than 300,000 people were deported from the Warsaw ghetto alone.



NAZI Death Camp

Though the Nazis tried to keep operation of camps secret, the scale of the killing made this virtually impossible. Eyewitnesses brought reports of Nazi atrocities in Poland to the Allied governments, who were harshly criticized after the war for their failure to respond, or to publicize news of the mass slaughter. This lack of action was likely mostly due to the Allied focus on winning the war at hand but was also a result of the

general incomprehension with which news of the Holocaust was met and the denial and disbelief that such atrocities could be occurring on such a scale.

At Auschwitz alone, more than 2 million people were murdered in a process resembling a large-scale industrial operation. A large population of Jewish and non-Jewish inmates worked in the labor camp there; though only Jews were gassed, thousands of others died of starvation or disease. During the summer of 1944, even as the events of D-Day (June 6, 1944) and a Soviet offensive the same month spelled the beginning of the end for Germany in the war, a large proportion of Hungary's Jewish population was deported to Auschwitz, and as many as 12,000 Jews were killed every day.

NAZI RULE COMES TO AN END (1945)

German forces had begun evacuating many of the death camps in the fall of 1944, sending inmates under guard to march further from the advancing enemy's front line. These so-called "death marches" continued all the way up to the German surrender, resulting in the deaths of some 250,000 to 375,000 more people.



Holocaust Death Marches

By the spring of 1945, German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to distance themselves from Hitler and take power. In his last will and political testament, dictated in a German bunker that April 29, Hitler blamed the war on "International Jewry and its helpers" and urged the German leaders and people to follow "the strict observance of the racial laws and with merciless resistance against the universal poisoners of all peoples"—the Jews. The

following day, he committed suicide. Germany's formal surrender in World War II came barely a week later, on May 8, 1945.

HITLER'S LAST DAYS (LATE APRIL 1945)

In late April 1945, chaos reigned in Berlin. Years of war had turned former superpower Germany into a battleground, and its cities from strongholds into places under siege. The Red Army had completely circled the city, which now called on elderly men, police, and even children to defend it. But though a battle raged on in the streets, the war was already lost. Adolf Hitler's time was almost up.

The people of Germany had already taken leave of their Führer. Since a public appearance on his birthday, April 20, he had been disconcertingly absent from the public eye. In reality, he was holed up in a bunker near the Brandenburg Gate in the heart of Berlin, surrounded by his command staff and a few private citizens, including his mistress Eva Braun.

For weeks, bad news drifted into Hitler's hideaway. As American forces advanced from the west, and the relentless Soviet tanks from the east, Hitler's generals began to lose their heads. Suspicious of a coup by his closest advisors, Hitler raged and planned and raged again. When he learned that Felix Steiner, one of his SS commanders, had ignored his orders to stage a heroic last stand south of the city, he began to rant and cry, declaring the war lost. Later that day, he consulted with Werner Haase, his private doctor, about the best ways to commit suicide.

April 29, 1945

By April 29, the situation had taken a turn for the worse. Though Hitler married Eva Braun that morning, people were more interested in discussing suicide than celebrating a wedding. Hitler had learned that Heinrich Himmler, leader of the SS, had given the Allies an offer of immediate surrender—an offer they promptly refused. Outraged, Hitler demanded that Himmler—once his close and powerful compatriot—be arrested. Then Hitler heard of the death of Benito Mussolini, his counterpart in Italy. Executed and defiled by an angry mob, the dictator's end was a powerful warning about what might be in store for the man who had promised his now-devastated country an endless empire. Mussolini's death set the last 24 hours of life in the bunker into motion.

April 30, 1945

All times are approximate

1 a.m.: Field Marshal William Keitel reports that the entire Ninth Army is encircled and that reinforcements will not be able to reach Berlin.

4 a.m.: Major Otto Günsche heads for the bathroom, only to find Dr. Haase and Hitler's dog handler, Fritz Tornow, feeding cyanide pills to Hitler's beloved German Shepherd, Blondi. Haase is apparently testing the efficacy of the cyanide pills that Hitler's former ally Himmler had provided him. The capsule works and the dog dies almost immediately.

10:30 a.m.: Hitler meets with General Helmuth Weidling, who tells him that the end is near. Russians are attacking the nearby Reichstag. Weidling asks what to do when troops run out of ammunition. Hitler responds that he'll never surrender Berlin, so Weidling asks for permission to allow his troops to break out of the city as long as their intention never to surrender remains clear.

2:00 p.m.: Hitler and the women of the bunker—Eva Braun, Traudl Junge, and other secretaries—sit down for lunch. Hitler promises them that he'll give them vials of cyanide if they wish to use them. He apologizes for being unable to give them a better farewell present.



Hitler and Eva Braun

3:30 p.m.: Roused by the sound of a loud gunshot, Heinz Linge, who has served as Hitler's valet for a decade, opens the door to the study. The smell of burnt almonds—a harbinger of cyanide—wafts through the door. Braun and Hitler sit side by side. They are both dead. Braun has apparently taken the cyanide, while Hitler has done the deed with his Walther pistol.

4:00 p.m.: Linge and the other residents of the bunker wrap the bodies in blankets and carry them upstairs to the garden. As shells fall, they douse the bodies in gas. Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda, will kill himself tomorrow. Meanwhile, he holds out a box of matches. The survivors fumble and finally light the corpses on fire. They head down to the bunker as they burn.

On May 1, Germans who can find time between shells to listen to the radio are greeted with the tones of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*—"The Twilight of the Gods." Hitler, they are told, has "fallen at his command post in the Reich Chancery fighting to the last breath against Bolshevism and for Germany." The Führer is dead.

AFTERMATH OF THE HOLOCAUST

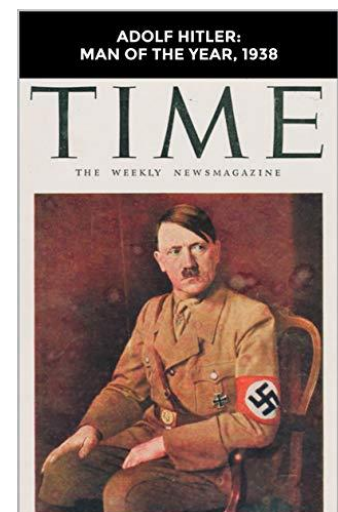
The wounds of the Holocaust were slow to heal. Survivors of the camps found it nearly impossible to return home, as in many cases they had lost their families and been denounced by their non-Jewish neighbors. As a result, the late 1940s saw an unprecedented number of refugees, POWs and other displaced populations moving across Europe.

In an effort to punish the villains of the Holocaust, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials of 1945-46, which brought Nazi atrocities to horrifying light. Increasing pressure on the Allied powers to create a homeland for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would lead to a mandate for the creation of Israel in 1948.

Over the decades that followed, ordinary Germans struggled with the Holocaust's bitter legacy, as survivors and the families of victims sought restitution of wealth and property confiscated during the Nazi years. Beginning in 1953, the German government made payments to individual Jews and to the Jewish people as a way of acknowledging the German people's responsibility for the crimes committed in their name.

10 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HITLER

- 1. Hitler Was Selected Time Magazine's Man of the Year for 1938**
- 2. Hitler Never Visited a Single Concentration Camp**
- 3. Hitler Most Likely Had Parkinson's Disease**
- 4. Hitler's Original Family Name Was Schicklgruber:**
(Hitler's father Alois Hitler was the illegitimate child of Maria Anna Schicklgruber.)
- 5. Hitler suffered from a Fear of Cats!**
- 6. Medical records show that Hitler only had one testicle.**
- 7. He had extreme gastrointestinal issues and farted uncontrollably.**



8. He became incredibly paranoid after a food poisoning attempt and had a staff of 15 terrified young women taste test all his meals.
9. After a few rogue Nazi officers almost succeeded in killing him in 1944, he had 5,000 people executed in response.
10. Hitler was kind of a health nut since he didn't eat meat, smoke or drink alcohol.

4 BURNING QUESTIONS

1. Was Hitler a Homosexual? MOSTLY

For most of his life, Hitler was predominantly homosexual. In his teens and early twenties, he had a string of “exclusive male companions”, including August Kubizek, Reinhold Hanisch, and Rudolf Hausler. He shared accommodation with these men in seedy Viennese or Munich backstreets and in “homes for the destitute”.

From the outset of the war, Hitler enjoyed a sexual relationship with fellow dispatch-runner, Ernst Schmidt which lasted almost six years. The relationship was not exclusive, however, and Hitler is believed to have had “sexual relations with a senior officer”. US intelligence later discovered that Hitler was never promoted during WW1 because of his “sexual orientation”.

Even after Hitler became Nazi Party leader in 1921, “his personal bodyguards and chauffeurs were almost exclusively homosexual”. Two of these bodyguards, Ulrich Graf and Christian Weber, were expected to satisfy their boss’s needs whenever necessary.

While thousands of gay Germans were being butchered or imprisoned, Hitler was having a secret affair with his Munich chauffeur Julius Schreck. The two were apparently devoted to each other and enjoyed romantic trysts at the Hotel Bube near Berneck, the midway point between Berlin and Munich.

Later, Hitler attempted to “go straight”, as he was sick and tired of paying off or killing blackmailers who knew of his homosexuality, but his attempts to have relationships with women proved disastrous. He had a picture of his mother hanging over his bed in Munich, in Berlin, and at his retreat in the Bavarian mountains. Few, if any, of his heterosexual relationships were ever consummated. Due to the “disgusting things” he made these women do, eight of the women he had sexual contact with attempted suicide and six succeeded.

Then, there was the long-suffering and loyal Eva Braun. She became so sexually frustrated that she asked Hitler’s physician Dr Theodor Morell to give him hormone injections to increase his libido. In the final months of her life, she told girlfriends she

regretted not leaving him 10 years earlier. Instead, she committed suicide with him just 40 hours after their marriage in the Berlin bunker in April 1945.

2. Was Hitler a Drug Addict? YES

Hitler met a doctor called Theo Morell in 1936. Morell was famous for giving vitamin injections, and Hitler, with his healthy diet, immediately believed in this doctor and got daily vitamin injections.

But then as the war turned difficult for Germany in 1941, Hitler started getting daily injections of opiates and hormones.

During the last few years of WWII, Hitler was taking a cocktail of 74 different drugs, including a form of what is now commonly known as crystal meth. He also took barbiturate tranquilizers, morphine, and bulls' semen. The Nazi leader was supposedly injected with extracts from bull's testicles to boost his libido -- the Führer needed to cut a virile figure in public and, as reports suggest, keep up with Eva Braun, his much younger consort.

Methamphetamines, which were pioneered in Germany at the end of the 19th century, were used by the German Army during World War II as stimulants to aid fatigued soldiers. The drug was popularly consumed in Germany as Pervitin, a pill Hitler took among his various daily medications.

3. Was Hitler Crazy or just Evil? BOTH

Hitler was both, an explosive combination. Hitler was an insomniac, paranoid, and was incapable of forming close human relationships. He led an abnormal life, was a night owl, and was basically out of touch with reality, particularly in the last months of the war. Hitler had a basic insanity, which was the ultimate belief in his victory. Add to that the regular injections of various drugs by his favorite physician, Dr. Morell, who also prescribed several pills to be taken daily. These drugs and stimulants caused swings of mood from euphoria to depression. If you consider what he did to the Jews, it can only be concluded that this was an act of an evil man. Hitler thought that eliminating the Jews was his God-given mission. So, you can say that Hitler was an evil, insane man. A modern-day comparison would be Charles Manson who has always believed that what he did (multiple murders) was right. Anyone who tries to justify Hitler's deeds with all sorts of reasoning is way off the mark. The man was evil and insane, period.

4. Why did Hitler hate the Jews? Several possible reasons are listed below.

Even before Hitler came to power, there were rumors that he was of Jewish descent, a detail of personal history that would be highly damaging, even humiliating to him, and which he went to lengths to quash. Remember, Hitler's father, Alois Hitler, was illegitimate and might have come from a Jewish family.

A young Hitler may have blamed the Jewish physician, Eduard Bloch, who cared for Hitler's beloved mother, Klara Hitler, for her death. The family doctor treated her for breast cancer before her death in 1907, at age 47. By the time Klara's condition was diagnosed, it was incurable, but Dr. Bloch, at her son's insistence, treated her for more than a month with a quasi-experimental medication called iodoform. The medication caused her excruciating pain but did not extend her life.

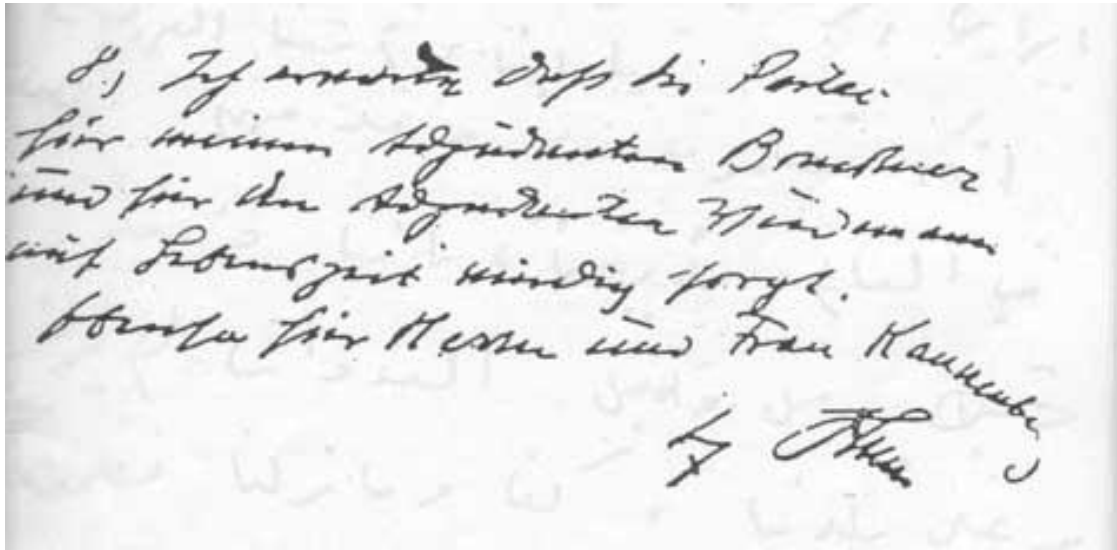
Hitler got the idea for the Holocaust from the Palestinian political and religious leader Amin al-Husseini, who was the grand mufti of Jerusalem from 1921 to 1937. According to Benjamin Netanyahu, Hitler would have sufficed with expelling the Jews from Germany, but Husseini complained that if he did that, they would just come to Palestine. When Hitler asked Husseini what he recommended, said Netanyahu, the Arab counseled him to "burn them."

In "Mein Kampf," published in two volumes, in 1925 and 1926, Hitler himself explains that he had no special feelings about Jews before he moved to Vienna, in 1908, and that even then, initially, he thought favorably of them. He saw the light only after Germany's loss in World War I, for which he held the Jews responsible.

Yet another theory suggests that Hitler had contracted a venereal disease from a Jewish prostitute while living in Vienna.



SUMMARY – HITLER'S PERSONALITY



Adolf Hitler's Handwriting

Hitler's handwriting pretty much confirms everything we learned in this article. It shows the following personality traits:

Domineering + Temper + Resentment + Narrow-minded + Pessimistic + Vengefulness

EQUALS

A person with Manic Depression (called Bipolar now days), paranoia, and Schizophrenia

Checkout the ending word of the paragraph and Hitler's signature. When the writing looks like it is falling off a cliff or goes straight down, this means the person is suffering from or is near a complete mental collapse.

Yes, Adolf Hitler was a crazy and evil man!!

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