

Hitler: How to Deceive a Nation

“He alone who owns the youth gains the future.” - Adolf Hitler. Hitler was very close to owning the future through this tactic and others that will be discussed in this essay. Decisions that Hitler made later on in his life stemmed mostly from his childhood. Not that this is an excuse, but his early years echo a disturbingly similar pattern seen in many criminals' lives. From having an abusive father and several close siblings run away or die, early life for Hitler was very hard. His worldview changed with the First World War, and when he began to study history. This worldview led to his burning passion for revenge and getting pay back for what other countries and the Jewish banking community did to Germany in his opinion. Hitler was able to use his gift of speaking to influence the German people to see the world and Germany's place in it through his eyes and convince them that starting the biggest conflict in world history was the right thing to do. Hitler was then able to act on his desire to take over the world. He advanced his army so quickly that he had invaded most of Europe in only three years. Hitler's powers of oration persuaded people that he was the one to lead Germany out of a depression and to her rightful place of respect in the world. That is how Germany, a highly industrialized and leading nation, chose to follow the evil ideals of Adolf Hitler into the madness of starting a war which would kill millions.

What kind of early life creates one of the most vilified and evil people the world has ever seen? Hitler's early life was very hard in Germany. He was the fourth of six children in his father's family, along with an older half-brother. His three older siblings died in infancy. His father was a civil servant who worked for the government and had strong political leanings. However, he was abusive and his habit was to beat his oldest son. When Hitler's older half-brother ran away, Adolf was left to do most of the chores and he was often beaten for not doing jobs up to his father's standards. Early on in school he did very well and was top of his class, a popular and engaged student, until his younger brother, with whom he was very close, died of the measles. After this, Hitler was described as being distant and closed off from others. He began failing in school, and he was seen talking to trees and staring off into the

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stars for hours at night. He lived directly across from the graveyard where his brother was buried and spent most of his time there next to his brother's grave. When Hitler reached his late teens, he started to form strong political views that were the opposite of his father's. It seemed that he did everything in life from this point on to prove that his father was wrong by doing the opposite of what his father had done or believed. One of Hitler's close friends remarked that Hitler was a very powerful speaker and when he went on rants, he was very good at presenting his side of the argument. He easily persuaded people and won his arguments against friends, classmates, teachers, and even people on the streets. Hitler then unsuccessfully applied for art school, and began living on the street. He worked as a labourer while studying architecture in college to avoid being drafted into the First World War. After three years of living on the street, he changed his mind about enlisting and joined the army. He was known as a very brave soldier and received a number of medals for bravery and honour, one of which was the Iron Cross First Class. This medal is one of the highest medals you can be awarded as a German soldier. He was injured twice, and was in the hospital with his second injury when he was told that Germany had lost the war and was being blamed for starting WWI. France and Belgium invaded and took over many of Germany's large industries when Germany was unable to make their second reparation payment, leading to a depression for the German people. The German people were poor and not doing too well economically, socially, or politically after WWI.

Even though people today only see the evil in Hitler when we look at him, back when he took over the leadership of Germany, he drew people in masses to him with his talent for oration which convinced people of his worldview. Hitler started out after the First World War by working for the German government. He came across the German Workers' Party and found that he agreed with their policies, joining the movement in 1919. In 1920, the German Workers' Party changed their name to the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National Socialist German Workers' Party), or NAZI for short. His political stance was that he wanted to make Germany a leading nation in Europe again and a leading power in the world as he believed it always should have been. Hitler was a fantastic speaker, and his speeches drew

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people to him, along with his propaganda. The key idea from his political argument was getting pay back for the wrong that had been done to Germany after WWI. He blamed the Jewish bankers and the accumulating interest charges on Germany's debt from reparations for WWI for keeping the German people in poverty. With his captivating speeches, Hitler's following began to grow until it was one of the biggest parties in Germany. In 1933, through a complicated series of political dealings, he was reluctantly made Chancellor of Germany by President Hindenburg, with a non-Nazi Vice Chancellor and non-Nazi's in other key government positions, in hopes they would temper Hitler's more brutal tendencies. For example, he took full control of the school system, often giving broadcasts directly to the school children. He formed the "Hitler Youth for Boys and for Girls" to teach children about their German heritage and what rightfully belonged to them. In the spring of 1933, Nazi students were asked by Hitler to make a list of books that should not be read by Germans. On the night of May 10, 1933, the SA (Hitler's private police force) rummaged through libraries and burned 25,000 books from the list. These are just some examples of Hitler using children to keep his political campaign going into the future and to destroy all other ideologies in Germany. With Hindenburg's death in 1934, Hitler, already party leader and Chancellor, took over the powers of the President and declared himself Fuehrer (leader) and took ultimate power. Even before he had this ultimate power, Hitler had been growing his private army (the SS), and police force (the SA) and had already started to set up a few things that would ensure that his rein would, at least in his eyes, last forever. After gaining the power of Fuhrer, he started a campaign to kill every single political opponent using the SS and SA officers.

Hitler's decisions during the Second World War resulted in huge losses of life, not just for Allied forces, but for his own military and civilians as well. Hitler's impact is still evident today in the lives of many, from the grown men that never knew their fathers, to the Jews who have never forgotten the horror of the holocaust. Germany took over Europe fairly quickly using a tactic called "Blitzkrieg" or 'Lightning War". How it worked was that the Luftwaffe, which is the German airforce, would bomb the area of attack to weaken it. Then they would drive a

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spearhead of armoured tanks through the area. As the armoured tanks went through the area and expanded it outward, the light infantry would follow behind in trucks to refuel and resupply the front line. This tactic worked very well and in just 3 years Hitler's forces were able to take over Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, France, Yugoslavia, and Greece. In 1941, the Germans attacked the Soviet Union and pushed more than 600 miles from the gates of Moscow in the first advancement. In the second advancement in 1942 they pushed the Russians back to the shores of the Volgolia River. The Soviet Union begged other nations, including Great Britain and the United States, to start a second offensive on Germany so that Germany would be fighting on two fronts. At the same time Germany was also advancing into Africa, which would make this a three-front war. On June 6, 1944, Russia's request was answered with D-Day, the largest amphibious attack in military history with the Allied Forces attacking the German Army on the beaches of Normandy. This was the beginning of the end for Germany. Hitler began to run out of oil, natural resources, money, and troops fighting on three fronts. The Allies pushed Hitler's forces all the way back to Germany and into Berlin. The Soviet Union entered Berlin in 1945 and shortly after, Hitler killed his wife and himself in a bunker. The impacts of the Second World War are forever lasting as it had the highest casualty count of any world conflict to this day. The estimated mortality from Second World War was 70-85 million people, most of these civilians. To this day we celebrate the anniversary of D-Day (June 6) and the end of the war on Remembrance Day, (November 11) when we remember the soldiers who fought against this evil that tried to take over the world.

Hitler's charisma and convincing goal of leading his country out of its poverty persuaded Germany to believe in an evil ideal and follow him into a war that killed tens of millions. It is important to remember that Hitler used his gift of speaking to lead an entire nation into starting a global conflict that has never been seen before or since. If this could happen in a country as advanced as Germany, it could happen anywhere; even here, even now. As Adolf Hitler said himself, "The government is lucky that people never think."

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