

# **Mein Kampf Study Guide**

## **Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler**

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# Plot Summary

Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler is a very controversial book. It causes a great deal of anger and emotionalism in different countries and some have even banned the printing of the book. This is the book in which Adolf Hitler expounds his theories and views and its copyright is held by the Bavarian Finance Ministry. The sale of the book is restricted in some countries because of the actions of Nazi Germany during World War II. Genocide becomes a word during the Hitler regime.

Mein Kampf is divided into two parts called Volumes. The first deals with Hitler's background. He intends it to be autobiographical but critics say he is more interested in portraying himself in a favorable light than he is in being factual. The second part of the book is concerned with Hitler's theories and views. The book is written while Hitler is in prison which is before he comes to national power. He basically sees himself as trying to stir up the people. He has no aspirations to national power early in his career but that soon changes as he begins to see himself as the Savior of the German people. Mein Kampf is written before he becomes a major political figure.

The first volume, or part, focuses on Hitler's youth. It is important because it explains how his values and views are formed. Much of it is used for the purposes of propaganda and he intersperses much of his story with his views on nationalism and social conditions. There is very little about the life of Hitler in this section since most of it contains his views on various topics. The Marxian influence is evident when Hitler discusses the social conditions of the day laborer. It is also obvious that Hitler's intense nationalism is a product of the end of World War I and the situation that is forced on the Europeans. Hitler's hatred of Jews is evident throughout the book but he never explains where it actually comes from. He tries to find proof in history to support his views.

The second volume is dedicated to presenting the foundations of his beliefs that form the basis for the National Socialist German Workers' Party. There is really not much of a difference between the two sections. They are both laden with propaganda. Hitler explains how the storm section comes into being, how the uniforms, insignia and flag are designed. He explains the position on trade unions, foreign policy, the federation of German states, propaganda and such things. In Hitler's views, Jewish is synonymous with Marxism and he views Marxism as the greatest threat to post-World War I Germany. He sees a strong Germany as being a necessity for the survival of the German people in the post-World War I world.

The book is a translation from the original German and the sentences are long. The whole book is so laden with propaganda that at times it is tiring for the reader. However, for those looking for insight into Hitler's character and into what National Socialism was, the book is required reading.



# Volume 1: Chapter 1, In the House of My Parents

## Volume 1: Chapter 1, In the House of My Parents Summary and Analysis

Hitler is born in the town of Braunau on the Inn. The town is on the border of two German states, Germany and Austria, and Hitler considers it an act of Providence. He sees the need for the German state to return to its days of glory and strength. The borders of the country should include every German. "German-Austria must return to the great German mother country, and not because of any economic considerations. No, and again, no: even if such a union were unimportant from an economic point of view; yes, even if it were harmful, it must nevertheless take place. One blood demands one Reich. Never will the German nation possess the moral right to engage in colonial politics until, at least, it embraces its own sons within a single state. Only when the Reich borders include the very last German, but can no longer guarantee his daily bread, will the moral right to acquire foreign soil arise from the distress of our own people" (Volume I, Chapter 1, p. 3). To Hitler, his birthplace symbolizes the need for what has to be done.

His father is a civil servant and his mother is a housewife. His father runs away from home as a teen in the 1850s and works as an apprentice. He learns a trade and decides he does not want to spend his life that way and becomes a Customs official. In this position he, and his family, move around quite a bit. Retired at fifty-six years of age, he buys a farm in the Austrian village of Lambach, which is where Hitler spends his teen years. The young Hitler is constantly having verbal disputes with his classmates. The teenager becomes interested in the military and war from reading magazines and books.

Hitler's father decides that the boy should be sent to high school. He does not want him to attend a humanistic Gymnasium and opts for a Realschule. He is set on his son becoming a civil servant like himself but the young Hitler makes it clear that he does not want to be a civil servant. Their battle over this begins when Hitler is eleven and it continues to be a struggle between them. Hitler wants to be an artist.

During this period of his life, Hitler claims that he becomes a nationalist and he begins to understand the importance of the meaning of history. Austria, to Hitler, is a German state and the German living within it have to struggle for the way of life they are used to. While this is going on, Germany is more interested in its colonies than it is in Germans in Austria. Hitler becomes radical in his German nationalism during his youth, by the age of fifteen. He disagrees with the way history is taught since it emphasizes the memorization of dates and the names of insignificant monarchs. To him, history means learning the causes of historical events, not the dates. He has a teacher named Dr. Leopold Potsch who teaches history in this manner and influences him greatly. This is



where Hitler learns some of his feelings of nationalism: "That Germanism could be safeguarded only by the destruction of Austria, and, furthermore, that national sentiment is in no sense identical with dynastic patriotism; that above all the House of Habsburg was destined to be the misfortune of the German nation," (Volume 1, Chapter 1, p. 16). Hitler becomes a revolutionary at an early age.

Hitler's father dies when the youth is thirteen. This ends his battle with his father over whether or not he will become a civil servant even though his mother tries to carry out his father's wishes. This ends when Hitler contracts a serious lung ailment and his mother is told he cannot stay in offices. His mother changes his school but dies two years later. Hitler now has to live on an orphan's pension which does not even provide for subsistence (according to him) so he leaves Lambach and travels to Vienna.



# Volume 1: Chapter 2, Years of Study and Suffering in Vienna

## Volume 1: Chapter 2, Years of Study and Suffering in Vienna Summary and Analysis

Hitler travels to Vienna to take the entrance exams at the Academy so he can study art. The Academy rejects him because his talent is more suited for architecture. He cannot enroll in architectural school because he does not have the proper academic background and in his present condition he has no way of obtaining it. He ends up moving to Vienna where he stays for several years. During this period Hitler becomes aware of the existence of Marxism and Jewry. He considers both of these to be important to the existence of the German people.

Hitler does not have fond memories of the years he spends in Vienna, just memories of hard work and misery. He forms many of his views and values at this time. Vienna is a city of contrast at the inception of the twentieth century. Stark poverty exists next to opalescence. Hitler is greatly affected by the social situation and the amount of misery he views and experiences. He looks at the plight of the peasant boy who goes to the big city. If he does not find work right away, he runs out of money. If he finds a job, he eventually loses it. When his unemployment benefits run out, he may face eviction which adds to his misery. The worker eventually becomes indifferent and is then used by others for their own purposes. The children learn these attitudes from their parents. The male turns to alcohol and there are fights between mother and father. The life they are forced to live leads to the degeneration of the individual.

Hitler is basically repulsed by the life that he and others lead in Vienna. He is sickened at the lack of pride Germans have in being German. He spends time studying the social situation while he supports himself by painting. This is the way in which his time spent in Vienna is important for him. Hitler sees little difference in the meaning of the terms socialism and Social Democracy. Trade unions, to him, are a part of the Social Democrats and because of this he rejects them. It is a view that he soon changes. Employers, he feels, have the duty to protect the public against the greed of individuals. Social Democracy cannot be understood without knowledge of the Jews.

Hitler's distaste for Jews begins when he is fifteen years old. He is in Vienna watching the events in Germany under William II and feels that the rise of the Reich is synonymous with the withering away of the Austrian state. He is outraged by the restrictions on speech. He begins to read Anti-Jewish pamphlets and becomes aware of the Zionist movement. He views the struggle between the Zionists and the liberal Jews with disgust. He begins to look for Jews in different positions and occupations. He finds them in the Social Democratic press. Hitler claims he has discussions with Jews and tries to talk them out of their Marxist views. He eventually comes to hate them.



# **Volume 1: Chapter 3, General Political Considerations Based on My Vienna Period**

## **Volume 1: Chapter 3, General Political Considerations Based on My Vienna Period Summary and Analysis**

This chapter concentrates on Hitler's years in Vienna and in the philosophies he forms there. Hitler believes that a man should not take part in politics publicly before he is thirty. Up until this time, he is learning and formulating his own views. Hitler will only speak of his views in small groups. He views this as a form of training. The Austrian state is basically being controlled by the Germans with a few Hungarians and there is no cell of power holding everything together. Austria differs internally from Bismarck Germany. Germany has a common cultural foundation, but Austria does not. There are too many splinter groups in Austria to form a Reich. This leads to the formation of states by the splinter groups that have a common cultural base as in Budapest and Prague. As these groups gain political strength and aspirations, they will bring Austria to an end. The territory that is Austria is being held together by force, not by a common bond among the people. The Habsburgs, according to Hitler, do not understand this.

The German empire begins to crumble in 1848 when feelings of nationalism are awakened and the formation of parliamentary representation is the beginning of the end for the German empire. Vienna adopts the British form of democracy and builds parliamentary buildings which are dedicated to the German people. Hitler is not opposed to the parliamentary form of government at this time, when he is in his twenties; however, he is opposed to dictatorship.

The Germans hold the majority in the parliament up until the introduction of universal suffrage. The Social Democrats oppose them. He feels that if the Germans are properly represented, there will be no reason for an opposition. Hitler visits the parliament on and off for over two years and becomes totally disillusioned with the idea of a parliament and sees the Western form of democracy that exists as a forerunner of Marxism. However, without the Reichsrat parliament, there would be only the Habsburgs to rule because there is no one statesman with authority or who is strong enough. The parliamentary system replaces the rule of one individual with a form of mob rule and allows the participants to hide behind the decision of the majority. Individuals wait in line to become the leader.

Hitler studies the election process and the men who are elected. He looks at the basis for public opinion and finds that propaganda is a part of it and is propagated by the press so he studies the press and the propaganda techniques and how they create opinions and views. "Thus, in the course of a few weeks it was possible to conjure up names out of the void, to associate them with the incredible hopes on the part of the





broad public, even to give them a popularity which the really great man often does not obtain his whole life long; names which a month before no one had even seen or heard of, which at the same time old and proved figures of political or other public life, though in the best of health, simply died as far as their fellow men were concerned, or were heaped with such vile insults that their names soon threatened to become the symbol of some definite act of infamy or villainy. We must study this vile Jewish technique of emptying garbage pails full of the vilest slanders and defamations from hundreds and hundreds of sources at once, suddenly and as if by magic, on the clean garment of honorable men, if we are fully to appreciate the entire menace represented by these scoundrels of the press," (Volume 1, Chapter 3, pp. 85-86). The press makes or breaks people. They scrounge around for unsavory facts in the individual's background, and if they cannot find any, they resort to slander. This is how the press manufacturers public opinion.

Hitler next compares democratic parliamentarianism with German democracy. The parliamentary form selects men and women to make decisions. They must have the consent of the general assembly in any of their actions. Therefore, the member is always trying to cull the favor of the majority. A nation has the capability of producing really good statesmen once in a while, not on a mass basis. The majority of representatives are forced to take positions on items they are prepared for. Eventually, this leads to the ruin of the representative's character. German democracy allows for the free election of a leader. The leader has all of the responsibilities for his decisions and actions. There is no majority to hide behind and this weeds out the weaklings and the incompetents. Hitler reaches these conclusions by attending Parliament for two years, and then never goes back.

The Austrian parliament consists of Slavs, Hungarians and other nationalities, as well as Germans. The different groups are against the Germans. The current Habsburg ruling family is now speaking Czech and trying to use the Catholic Church as a way of forming a barrier against Russia. The attempt to eliminate the Germans within the monarchy results in a Pan-German movement across Austria. These feelings intensify after the War of 1866 and patriotism gives way to nationalism. Attacking an ethnic group results in a struggle and that group fights to survive, no matter what the cost. "Human law cancels out state law," (Volume 1, Chapter 3, p. 96). The group that does not fight and win is eliminated.

Hitler then discusses Dr. Karl Lueger, the head of the Christian Social party and Georg von Schonerer, the head of the Pan-German movement. He feels that if von Schonerer had been listened to, World War I would not have occurred. Von Schonerer's weak point is his knowledge of men, and this is Lueger's strong point. Lueger recognizes the importance of economics and focuses on the middle class. He recognizes the strength of institutions and wins the support of the Catholic Church. Neither man can achieve his goal. Lueger cannot save the Austrian monarchy and von Schonerer cannot save the German people.

Hitler feels that the Pan-German movement fails for three reasons. It does not properly understand or grasp the social problems. Von Schonerer cannot understand why the



upper class clings to its pacifist views. The movement does not gain mass support. The second error they make is to try to fight from within the parliament, instead of fighting from the outside. They would reach more people speaking outside of parliament. The minute it becomes involved in majority rule, it becomes another political party and parliamentarians and ceases to be a movement. Their third error is in failing to recognize the value and the power of the masses of people and to understand the people. They basically put themselves where they cannot reach the people and they do not have the support of the clergy and they do not fight against the Catholic Church which supports the Christian Socialists.

Hitler observes that all great leaders concentrate on a single foe and direct the attention of the population to fighting that single foe. A really great leader manages to categorize all of the foes into a single group. If there are no enemies, the leader's power weakens.

The Christian Social Party does not have a clearly defined goal and this leads to its failure. They understand the value of the masses and steer clear of battling any religious institutions. It fails because its anti-Semitism is based on religion. It cannot save the monarchy by supporting and promoting racism and they cannot attract popular support. Balkan nationalist movements are already forming when Lueger dies.

Hitler views the existing political parties as unsuccessful and feels that he can affiliate with none of them. He is becoming very anti-Habsburg during this period. He feels that the fate of the German people lies within the Reich and not within Austria. Many of his philosophical views are formed during the years he is in Vienna. He wants to be a part of Germany.



# Volume 1: Chapter, 4 Munich

## Volume 1: Chapter, 4 Munich Summary and Analysis

Hitler moves to Munich, Germany in 1912. He feels at home in the city as soon as he arrives and he spends the happiest period of his life there during the pre-World War I years. He supports himself by painting and still hopes to attend architectural school. Munich is the art center of Germany, which is one of the reasons Hitler is so attracted to the city. He studies political events and German foreign policy during this period and is still opposed to the German Alliance policies.

Hitler finds that very few people in Munich know about or care about the Habsburg situation and what is happening in Austria. They look at Austria only as a German state. They did not realize how close to disintegration it is and he calls this stupidity on their part. The Germans view the Triple Alliance they have with Austria and Italy as a form of strength. The Austrians are in the process of eliminating Germanism and there is no place the Austrian Germans can go for support. The Germans miss the point that the Alliance cannot hold without a German base in Austria. This is also the problem with Italy. The problem is that the Germans have not studied history or they would see this.

Hitler sees a Germany that is faced with the problem of high birthrate and has to find a way to stave off starvation. Hitler sees them having four options. They can practice birth control as the French do. This he views as robbing the Germans of their future. The second option is internal colonization. By this Hitler means increasing agricultural output but increases in production do not necessarily provide for the increases in population and eventually the population growth exceeds the productivity of the soil. The increased productivity also makes them attractive for foreign colonization. He blames the Jews for coming up with ideas like inner colonization. A third option is to acquire new lands in Europe. Foreign colonies are not the answer because most are not suited for German settlement. The lands in Europe will have to be taken by force. He views Russia as a possible source of land but the only way to take it is through war so this is not a very viable option. The fourth is to acquire what they need through trade and commercial policy. They cannot obtain this through their Alliance with Austria and Italy.

Many people point to the strength of German technology and industry as its strength. Hitler does not see the state as a group of economic units. He views the Jews as parasites because they do not have their own state and he views the state as a collection of communities and not economic units. Government emphasizes economics instead of looking at what is required to preserve the species and the race. The best way to preserve the state is to preserve the common culture and virtues. With these characteristics intact, the economy can flourish. Once the reasons for existence disintegrate, the economy disintegrates. People are willing to die for ideals, not for businesses. Hitler claims this is what happens to Germany in 1914 and the officials cannot figure out why there is such a change in attitude.

Hitler becomes a part of the National Socialist movement in 1913-1914. He believes that Marxism has to be destroyed to save Germany.



# Volume 1: Chapter 5, The World War

## Volume 1: Chapter 5, The World War Summary and Analysis

Hitler follows the events of the Boer War with interest, eagerly awaiting the newspapers every day. He also follows the progress of the Russo-Japanese War. Hitler supports the Japanese. He hears the news of the death of the Archduke Ferdinand while he is at home in Munich and worries at first that it is the work of German fanatic students. Then Germany becomes involved in World War I. He applies to join a Bavarian regiment and is accepted and sent to Flanders. He describes the experience of being a soldier in philosophical terms. He finds the soldiers to be very heroic and more valuable than the politicians and parliamentarians. Hitler comes to hate the politicians.

Hitler finds two things wrong with their policies. The first is the way they handle victories. They spoon-feed the news of victories to the population instead of letting them celebrate joyously. Instead of trying to subdue the enthusiasm they should let it flow. The second problem he has with government policies is their attitude toward Marxism. He does not feel that they understand Marxism or the seriousness of the threat that it presents. Hitler feels that Marxism is very destructive for mankind and that people do not take time to read or understand the threat. The German workers of the day do not adopt Marxism as the government fears. They loyally fight during the war.

The Germans fail to defeat the Americans. Hitler feels the Kaiser does not run the war correctly. According to Hitler, the leaders should be jailed. There are principles that emerge from the study of history. There are underlying conceptions and ideals related to spiritual beliefs and the only way these can be destroyed is by the destruction of the whole ideal and tradition. This involves the withering of the state from being politically powerful. The persecution of the group holding the traditions continues as it gains more and more support. The only way to eliminate the doctrine is through annihilation, but this will not succeed unless there is some spiritual basis for the annihilation.

This means that a philosophy cannot be defeated by force and this is why so many of Bismarck's Socialist programs do not succeed. There is no new philosophy to replace it with. This is why the fight against Marxism fails and this is why the situation before the First World War is the same as after the First World War. To Hitler, Marxism is a part of Social Democracy and this is why he fights it. He decides to become a speaker after the war ends.



# Volume 1: Chapter 6, War Propaganda

## Volume 1: Chapter 6, War Propaganda Summary and Analysis

Hitler becomes interested in propaganda when he begins to study politics. He feels that the Socialist-Marxist organizations are experts in the use of propaganda. The correct use of propaganda can be very useful. During the war he feels that Germany's enemies are good at using propaganda by Germany does not engage in the process. The war is basically a means of struggle for the survival of the German people. Propaganda is a way to achieve this goal. When survival is the issue, then any means should be used to achieve the goal.

The American and English use propaganda to portray the Germans as barbarians. This prepares the soldiers and public for war and for defeats in battle and anything that happens because they expect it of Barbarians. This increases hatred of the enemy and fuels the war effort. The Germans, Hitler feels, do not understand the use of propaganda. Propaganda has to have a totally one-side attitude that covers all events. "The function of propaganda is, for example, not to weigh and ponder the rights of different people, but exclusively to emphasize the one right which it has set out to argue for. Its task is not to make an objective study of the truth, in so far as it favors the enemy, and then set it before the masses with academic fairness; its task is to serve our own right, always and unflinchingly," (Volume 1, Chapter 6, p. 182).

Since the Germans do not understand the purpose and nature of the use of propaganda, their's is never as successful as their enemy's. Propaganda must limit itself to a few points and it must keep repeating them over and over again. Things must be repeated thousands of times before the people will remember them. The propaganda must be consistent. Any changes that are made must not change the intent of the propaganda or it will not be effective. It must remain uniform.



# Volume 1: Chapter 7, The Revolution

## Volume 1: Chapter 7, The Revolution Summary and Analysis

The year 1915 marks the beginning of the Allied propaganda in Germany. It intensifies in the following years and is very effective by 1918. The Germans try to counter it but fail. Hitler is incensed at the situation and keeps thinking how different it would be if he were running the propaganda effort. Leaflets are being dropped telling the Germans how miserable their situation is and how badly the war is going for them. The leaflets are dropped into the trenches so the soldiers will read them. The emphasis of the propaganda is directed at Bavaria and that Prussia is responsible for the war and there is no help for Bavaria as long as Bavaria supports Prussia. Eventually the troop's attitude toward Prussia and Bavaria changes. From 1916 on, the propaganda is very successful.

In 1916, Hitler's division is at the Battle of the Somme. The German front holds. Hitler is wounded on October 7, 1916. He is hospitalized at Hermies and sent home by train. He is happy to be back in Germany and is sent to the hospital at Beelitz. Hitler is amazed by men bragging about their own acts of cowardice at the front and the fact that nothing is done against them. When Hitler recovers from his wounds, he is sent to Munich and he barely recognizes the city with all of the changes that have taken place. There is a lot of anger in the city and in the replacement regiment. He notices that most of the clerks are Jews and the Jews also are active in the economic side of the war. They control most of the production and finance. By March 1917, Hitler is back at the front with his regiment.

The army seems to reach a low point and then begins to recover by late 1917. The victory over Italy helps feed this mood. Preparations continue for the big attack in the spring. At this time, a munitions strike cuts off the supply to the front but it does not last for long. Germany has many Russian prisoners at the time. Troops and supplies continue to amass at the Western front for the big battle that is to come. As this occurs, a general strike occurs throughout Germany. This is interpreted as a possible attempt at revolution which strengthens the soldier's resolve to fight. They feel that a German victory will result from an attack on the Western front.

Hitler says that he fights in the first two offensives and the last offensive on the Western front. Conditions deteriorate as the fighting goes on. On July 13, 1917, the British attack begins. Hitler fights until he is relieved in early August. In 1918, he is injured in a gas attack and sent to a hospital at Pasewalk for several months as his eyes and vision recover. There is talk of Germany capitulating. He learns that the House of Hollenzollern no longer rules Germany and that there is a republic. They are told to accept the armistice. It is here that Hitler makes the decision to enter politics.



# Volume 1: Chapter 8, The Beginning of My Political Activity

## Volume 1: Chapter 8, The Beginning of My Political Activity Summary and Analysis

Hitler returns to Munich in November 1918 and goes to the replacement barracks of his regiment. He finds things in the control of soldiers' councils. He is at the camp until March, 1919. To Hitler, it looks like a revolution is in progress. He does not feel he can join any of the existing parties at this time. He meets a few people and discusses forming a new party and they decide on Social Revolutionary Party for a name. He still does not see economics as the basis for the continued survival of the German people. He attends a lecture by Gottfried Feder on international capital markets and stock exchanges. They exist because people make money from them. In studying Feder's ideas, Hitler formulates the basis for his new party.

Hitler views the role of the theoretician as determining how to achieve a goal. Once he does this, it becomes a way of life as the politicians try to achieve the goal. "The enormous difference between the tasks of the theoretician and the politician is also the reason why a union of both in one person is almost never found. This is especially true of the so-called 'successful' politician of small format, whose activities for the most part is only an 'art of the possible,' as Bismarck rather modestly characterized politics in general. The freer such a 'politician' keeps himself from great ideas, the easier and often the more visible, but always the more rapid, his successes will be," (Volume 1, Chapter 8, p. 211).

Feder's lecture talks about slavery interest which is what results from the capital markets. Hitler sees this concept as important for the German people. This, to Hitler, means that the capital used in the stock exchanges must be separated from the rest of the economy. He figures that the most important battle will be against international capital. To be independent, Germany must be free of the slavery interest of the international capital markets.

"What we must fight for is to safeguard the existence and reproduction of our race and our people, the sustenance of our children and the purity of our blood, the freedom and independence of the fatherland, so that our people may mature for the fulfillment of the mission allotted it by the creator of the universe," (Volume 1, Chapter 8, p. 214).

Hitler is assigned to the Munich regiment as an education officer. This gives Hitler the opportunity to speak to large audiences. In this role he meets a lot of people that hold the same views that he does, and these form the basis of the new movement he creates.





# Volume 1: Chapter 9, The 'German Workers' Party'

## Volume 1: Chapter 9, The 'German Workers' Party' Summary and Analysis

The German army sends Hitler to the lecture by Feder to see what the German Workers' Party is and what actions it is planning. He is sent to see what is happening and then to report on it. The army is watchful of political parties after the revolution that topples the House of Hollenzollern. The soldiers now have the right to engage in political activity and it is not again suppressed until they begin to turn away from the revolution. Hitler attends the lecture he is assigned to cover and finds twenty to twenty-five people there.

His impression of the German Workers' Party is that it is just another party that forms out of dissatisfaction with other parties. During the discussion, Hitler gives his views about Germany-Austria joining Bavaria. Hitler takes home a pamphlet he receives at the meeting and reads it later. It is about how an individual returns to the principles of nationalism in the midst of all the Marxist movements taking place at the time. The following week he receives a letter saying he is accepted as a member of the Party. He attends another meeting for the membership to see what it is all about and sits through the meeting watching and listening.

Hitler is not overly impressed with the organization but considers joining it. He wants to go into politics and needs a base. Since the German Workers' Party is so small, it is possible to use it to further his purposes. Hitler formally joins the Party.



# Volume 1: Chapter 10, Causes of the Collapse

## Volume 1: Chapter 10, Causes of the Collapse Summary and Analysis

Germany is a prosperous nation before the war. When the Reich falls, it falls from dizzying heights accentuated by the post-war situation. The intelligentsia view the situation in economic terms, not in terms of ethnicity and culture. Hitler says this is why Germany cannot recover and it is not just the defeat in the war that causes the problem. Hitler feels the problems begin when the peasants begin to move to the cities and unemployment problems begin. "A grave economic symptom of decay was the slow disappearance of the right of private property, and the gradual transference of the entire economy to the ownership of stock companies," (Volume 1, Chapter 10, p. 235). They serve to cause a separation of the worker and personal property.

Hitler watches the economy move toward Marxism and tries to explain the decay and what causes it. He looks at the press and divides its readers into three groups: those who believe everything, those who believe nothing and those who are critical thinkers when it comes to reading. The first group is the largest and consists of those who cannot think for themselves, whether it is due to lack of intelligence or lack of training. The second group is mostly those who used to belong to the first group but gave up and now no longer believe anything they read. They believe everything they read is lies and falsehoods. The third group consists of the independent thinkers who form their own opinions. According to Hitler, it is the radical press that is destroying the German people and the government does nothing to prevent this and this is what Hitler sees as their big mistake. The press is controlled by the Jews in Hitler's eyes. When the state does not defend itself against the press, it basically capitulates.

There is also a problem with syphilis during this pre-war time. Hitler does not feel that the government fights the situation properly. The fight against the disease should be a top priority. The same is true with prostitution. Hitler also talks about differences in art and the decline of the standard of living in the cities. People frequently move which means they do not form bonds with the area. At this time the German cities are mostly small. There are some big cities that are cultural centers but as the cities grow, art and culture deteriorate as they become more standardized. There are no cultural monuments for the community as there were during the days of antiquity. The pre-war days also see a decline in religion. This occurs when there is already a decline in ethics and morality. All of these are signs of decay in the Reich that lead to its eventual collapse.

Hitler feels that the Jews who control what he refers to as the Marxist press seek to incriminate Germany through their use of lies. At the same time, the Marxist parties prevent the training of the people for the military for both land and sea fighting. When

the war begins, it is the Jews who are knowledgeable about the use of propaganda, not the government and Hitler feels that Germany suffers for this. By the end of the 1800s, the average man feels little allegiance to princes and royalty. The biggest factor contributing to the decline of the Reich is the racial problem.



# Volume 1: Chapter 11, Nation and Race

## Volume 1: Chapter 11, Nation and Race Summary and Analysis

Hitler views the racial issue in terms of two people of different levels producing offspring that fall in between the high and the low of the two parents. Thus the offspring tend to bring down the higher level. The stronger level does not dominate and therefore the stronger must not be allowed to mate with the weaker. Racial mixing results in two things: a lowering of the higher level and deterioration in the physical and intellectual strength. He claims that all of mankind can be divided into three groups: the founders, bearers and the destroyers of culture. The Aryans are considered to be the founders of culture. The basis of culture is determined by the traits of the people. A race is culture-bearing if it assimilates the cultures of foreigners and then goes back to its own ways. They are not culture-founding. When bloods mix they lose their purity and the master people disappear within a thousand years.

The Aryan has to conquer and regulate the activity of those below him. The division between master and the lower levels disintegrates when the lower levels begin raising themselves up. The purity of the Aryan blood disintegrates due to racial mixing. This eventually leads to the collapse of the culture and a foundation is laid for a new culture. Cultures and empires come and go due to this phenomenon.

The Aryan is willing to labor and die for family and for others. He receives his strength from his community and the community survives because of his willingness to fight and die for it. He uses the German word *Pflichterfullung* to describe this duty. This duty arises from idealism. The culture praises those who sacrifice their own happiness for the sake of the community.

Hitler feels that the Jew is the counterpart of the Aryan. They have a very strong instinct for self-preservation and gain their intelligence from foreigners. They climb over the foundations of the past to reach their current intellectual level. Since they have never had their own culture, they obtain the foundations of their intellectual work from others but they never develop the idealism. This, according to Hitler, is why they never develop their own culture. The Jews only come together to fight a common cause and then the bonds disappear when the problem is eliminated.

To Hitler, this means the Jewish state is unlimited even though there is no land with boundaries. Without a state with spatial boundaries, there is no foundation for culture so to him the Jews have no culture of their own. They have adopted the culture of different people. To support this view, Hitler points out that there has never been any Jewish art. The Jews imitate other cultures and the most prevalent artistic activity that they have is acting, not architecture and music as other cultures have. There is no culture creating force. In spite of this, Hitler views it as dangerous to consider the Jews in the same ranks as the nomads. The nomads wander from place to place: the Jews do not. They



are parasites in cultures other than their own because they do not have a country. The Jews explain their existence as a religious community and hide their true inner nature so people think they are actually German or French but with a special religion. The Talmud, according to Hitler, teaches the Jew how to lead a profitable and practical life. It is not geared toward life in the hereafter. Hitler calls it a lie to say that the Jews are a religion instead of a race.

Hitler says that the Jews appear as soon as there are settlements. They are usually merchants. They gradually take on the role of middlemen in commerce. The Jews settle in certain areas and monopolize commerce and finance and become landowners, even though they never work the soil themselves. They become wealthy due to charging usurious rates of interest and use their money to get what they want from government and princes. He blames the German princes for their behavior that results in Germany not being able to rid the country of the Jews. After a thousand years of living in the original settlement, the Jew presents himself as a German but he remains a Jew inside.

People leave the farms and move to the cities to work in the new industries. This means an adjustment in their working conditions and hours. Many are not suited for the change and work for low wages. This situation results in a separation of the worker and employer and the creation of a new social class. The worker joins labor unions hoping to obtain better working conditions and wages. Leading the trade union movement keeps the economy out of balance. The Jews drive their competitors from the market so they remain alone.

The control of the press and the trade unions results in the trade union being an organization of agitation with the press preparing the people. The population does not understand the inner nature of the Jew and believe what they are told. The Zionists claim that the Jews want a state in Palestine but Hitler claims they do not really want to live there. They just want an international organization.

Hitler feels that it is important to keep the blood pure. Inner happiness is lost when the blood is not pure. The inner decay is already there when the German nation rises to its heights before the war. So even though the nation has apparent political success and economic wealth, the decay is still there and the deterioration continues. The entity that keeps fighting and does not suffer decay is the Jews.



# **Volume 1: Chapter 12, The First Period of Development of the National Socialist German Workers' Party**

## **Volume 1: Chapter 12, The First Period of Development of the National Socialist German Workers' Party Summary and Analysis**

Hitler believes that millions of people want a change in the conditions in which they live. They do not see much hope in the existing political structure. This is the population mass that the National Socialist German Workers' Party hopes to appeal to. Hitler sees the nation torn into two parts by the end of 1918. One group is the intelligentsia and the other group consists of laborers. The workers tend to be a more or less Marxist movement. The nation is disarmed after the war and Hitler sees this as a danger. The people have little desire to bear arms, let alone manufacture them.

In order to bring about change for the German future, there are a number of requirements from a tactical point of view. There is no sacrifice great enough to win the support of the masses and the only way to educate them is through indirect methods. The only way to carry out the nationalization of the masses is to avoid half-measures. They have to do more than just emphasize some weak objective. They must also destroy the opponent of the objectives and many of these are international. One of the most important factors is the racial preservation of the nation. The German nation cannot ever be strong without recognizing the racial and Jewish problem. This is the key to all of human culture. Class interests can still be justified.

The only way the German worker can be raised to national awareness is by raising his social and cultural situation. The effect must be clearly one-sided. Hitler feels that the new movement must address propaganda to the masses. In order to achieve political reform, the entity must hold political power. The new movement rejects majority rule and will not consider any issue outside of its political framework. The strength must lie with the leader who is to be elected. The movement, according to Hitler, is organized for expediency.

The inner structure of the movement has to be centered in Munich. They can defeat Marxist doctrine by showing an opposing movement. They will only allow local and other regional groups if they accept the leadership of the Munich central organization. They cannot afford to pay their people so their positions are honorary. This is why Hitler expects a slow growth for the start of the movement. He says that it is better not to have a local group than to have one with a weak leader and that the movement's growth is based on fanaticism. The inner strength is responsible for the growth and development

of the movement as well as the indoctrination of the members so they believe in what they are working for.

Hitler speaks for thirty minutes at the first meeting. They receive three hundred marks in donations which relieves some of their financial problem. Successive meetings are also very successful. They struggle during 1919-1920. Their first mass rally is on February 4, 1920 and it draws two thousand people.



# Volume 2: Chapter 1, Philosophy and Party

## Volume 2: Chapter 1, Philosophy and Party Summary and Analysis

At the February 4, 1920 meeting Hitler presents the twenty-five theses as the basis for the new party. The group accepts them. The party emphasizes that it is offering a new philosophy. "With this the first guiding principles and directives were issued for a struggle which was to do away with a veritable mass of old traditional conceptions and opinions and with unclear, yes, harmful, aims. Into the rotten and cowardly bourgeois world and into the triumphant march of the Marxist wave of conquest a new power phenomenon was entering, which at the eleventh hour would halt the chariot of doom," (Volume 2, Chapter 1, p. 374).

Most new programs come from the politicians who are trying to stay in office. The Marxists, Hitler feels, pretend to support democratic ideals but if Marxism is attacked, they will take to the streets. This will bring democracy to an end. Knowing the weaknesses of the system will result in a new conception being formed. He uses the terms folkish and religious and says religious has no meaning unless it has specific practices outlined. Even though the term religious has certain connotations attached to it, the principles are critically examined by the individual and this leads to the acceptance of religious views. Religion would have no value, would contribute to disintegration and have no value for people.

Hitler views the word folkish in the same way that he views the term religious. It has no meaning without a relevant political framework. The underlying basis is race, the culture-creating force not from the state. People err if they do not attribute culture-creating forces to the difference between the races. Through the state, racial existence is preserved. He sees human culture and civilization as the results of the Aryan.

There are a variety of views that oppose Marxism. There is no one strong force equal to Marxism and this is why they all fail. A strong organized philosophy is needed to combat Marxism.





## Volume 2: Chapter 2, The State

### Volume 2: Chapter 2, The State Summary and Analysis

It is pointed out to Hitler that his movement's attitude toward the state is negative in 1919-1920. The whole mechanism that exists in any society is geared toward the preservation of the state. Hitler says there are three different conceptions of the state. One conception views the state as existing for a grouping of people, whether it is voluntary or not. There is a veneration of state authority and men exist to serve the state, instead of the other way around. The purpose of the state in this situation is to maintain peace and order. The second conception involves the attaching of some conditions to the existence of the state. It must provide for uniformity in administration and language and must provide for the general welfare of the people. The third conception of the state is that it is to achieve the goals of its people.

If the goal of the people is nationalism and Germanization, the term does not apply to people but to soil. Speaking German does not make people German. Trying to force the language on non-Germans eventually causes the German element to be destroyed. The basis for nationality and race is blood not language. If the Austrians adopt the German language, the level of the Austrian people would be lowered. It is also better for Germany that the racial mixture does not occur. This is the mistake they make with Poland when they try to force the German language on the people. The only thing that counts is the soil settled by Germans. He also does not like the idea that German-speaking Jews are accepted as Germans by other countries.

Hitler says that it is Karl Marx, a German Jew, who separates the state from racial issues. People of one race come together because of a common bond. Government and the state are not the common bond. Hitler agrees with Marx on this. In spite of this agreement, Hitler feels that the struggle against Marxism must fail completely. The state, according to Hitler, is a means of attaining a higher form of culture and the basis lies in race. The race must be capable of having a culture. The culture is not created by the state. It only serves to protect the race which creates the culture and the race must be homogeneous. The state that does not do this disappears. A bad state does not protect the racial integrity of its people and Hitler feels that this is what has happened to Germany since the Thirty Years' War. Open borders allowing an influx of foreigners also leads to racial blending.

If the blending of the race continues, the result will be a culture of smaller capacity. "The German Reich as a state must embrace all Germans and has the task, not only of assembling and preserving the most valuable stocks of basic racial elements in this people, but slowly and surely of raising them to a dominant position," (Volume 2, Chapter 2, p. 398). It is easier for statesmen to work to preserve the existing structure than to work to form a new one. They feel that their lives belong to the state so they work to preserve it. The only ones who join Hitler's movement are those who do not find the reason for their existence in the preservation of the state.



Racial mixing causes results in succeeding generations. One who is racially divided will not take the same actions as one who is racially pure. The racially pure one will succeed where the racially mixed one will not succeed and this is due to Nature. The weaker one dies out. A new nationality is formed but it is not as strong as the pure bred race. Hitler expresses his opposition to the practice of birth control by Germans who are pure bred. A central function for the state is to make race the main focus of life and to keep it pure. Only the healthiest of the breed should be allowed to have children and the healthy people should not practice birth control to withhold children from the state. The state should provide modern medical means for the healthy to have children and to prevent those deemed inferior for whatever reason, from having children.

In the case of newly acquired territory, racial purity must be established and there must be a racial commission that issues settlement certificates. This is the only way to guarantee the racial purity of border areas. The future of the nation lies in its racial purity. The future of Germany lies in the German youth and therefore scientific breeding should be instituted. Schooling must include intense physical training. German youth must be self-confident. Hitler feels the present state is not coming close to any of these objectives.

Physical training is more important than character development. Children must not tattle on other children. When they do, they have an undesirable character. When they grow up their kind of character may result in treason against the country. Will-power and determination are desirable characteristics that should be promoted in youth. Hitler feels that the end of World War I was characterized by people who could not make decisions on their own.

His proposal for scientific school training is based on three things. First, the brain of the student should not be cluttered with things he cannot use. This is true especially in elementary and intermediate schools. If a person in his thirties and forties is asked questions about much of the material studied, the vast majority of the material will have been forgotten. Hitler uses languages as an example. Experts say that the material studied is for the purpose of developing thinking skills which is partly true. Hitler's point of view is that they are forced to spend years studying subjects that are useless to them in later life.

Education must be abbreviated and contain only the essentials that the youth need. The option for specialized training must also be offered. The time freed from not studying non-essential subjects will be time spent in physical training and in developing self-confidence and determination. Scientific training must also be included in the curriculum. Hitler does not just mean subjects like chemistry and physics, but world history and cultural history. The term scientific training refers to the approach taken in the different subjects. This kind of education should be made available to children selected from acceptable racial parentage. Ability should be a secondary factor and only taken into consideration to break a tie between two equally qualified individuals. There is no disgrace in being a laborer; the disgrace is in the public official who is incompetent but keeps taking a paycheck.

These are the factors that the National Socialist movement should be concerned with.



# Volume 2: Chapter 3, Subjects and Citizens

## Volume 2: Chapter 3, Subjects and Citizens Summary and Analysis

This brief three and one-half page chapter contains Hitler's views on citizenship in his ideal state. He begins by saying that in the present state, the terms citizens and foreigners are the only two designations that exist for people. Citizens are those who are either naturally born in the country or those who have been naturalized. Foreigners are defined as citizens of another state. Since most citizenship is determined by the place of birth, race and nationality have nothing to do with citizenship. Naturalization can take place if the immigrant is not a criminal or political subversive and does not present a financial burden to the country. He applies for citizenship, is accepted and receives a letter telling him that he is a German. The authorities pay no attention to the health of the applicant.

Hitler's folkish state looks at three classes of inhabitants. A subject cannot engage in political activity, such as holding office or voting. Race and nationality are the issue and he can become a citizen of the country of his nationality. The foreigner is already a citizen of his own country. The citizen follows the prescribed educational program with its emphasis on physical training. He also fulfills the requirements for military training. When he completes his training, he receives the right of citizenship and swears an oath of allegiance. From Hitler's point of view, there must be more honor in being a citizen laborer in the Reich than in being royalty in another country.



# Volume 2: Chapter 4, Personality and the Conception of the Folkish State

## Volume 2: Chapter 4, Personality and the Conception of the Folkish State Summary and Analysis

The purpose of the National Socialist state is to protect the bearer of the culture. Hitler disagrees with Marx on the point that all men are equal. Different blood backgrounds mean that men are not equal and their minds are not equal. It must be a philosophy of life that seeks out the best men, in the Hitlerian context. It is wrong to view a state in economic terms and the National Socialist state must distinguish itself from other states. Wage differentials and economic progress do not make a philosophy. To prove his point, Hitler reviews the factors that lead to the formation and development of culture.

One of the factors that distinguish man from animal is invention. Man invents things that make life easier. One invention leads to others. These inventions make it easier for all men to survive. The community uses all of these inventions that result from the creative processes of others. Free thinking must be encouraged among the masses because this is what advances mankind. The political life of the day does not embody these objectives since it is based on majority decisions. Hitler views the existence of Jews in these political bodies as a poisoning factor.

The existence of shop organizations in the workplace serve to inhibit individual and collective achievement. Hitler tries to discredit Marxism in its ability to take over an existing economy and lead to a higher order. It can take over existing economies but it does not lead to a higher order for the culture. Hitler's folkish philosophy distinguishes men by race and personality which is something Marxism does not do. This is one of Hitler's criticisms of Marxism. This is why National Socialism is a philosophy of life and Marxism is not.

The best state form is the form that gives the leading positions to the best minds. Decisions must be made by the leaders and not by the majority. The representative bodies consist of political and professional chambers with a senate of the Elite over them. They have no power of voting or advising of special important issues. It is through this mechanism that the Reich will build its leaders.



# Volume 2: Chapter 5, Philosophy and Organization

## Volume 2: Chapter 5, Philosophy and Organization Summary and Analysis

Hitler attempts to outline the major points contained in his folkish state. The important factor is how the state is created. The present political powers cannot be expected to implement the programs and policies. If their present situation continues, their society and political structure will be taken over by the Jews. In order to bring about change, a new force must be found and it must eliminate the existing Jewish power.

The first part in the battle is the eradication of the existing state of affairs. Their effect has to be negative because there is no such thing as constructive work. The criticism is negative, not constructive. Years and years of criticism tear down the existing structure of the state since Marxism cannot exist with any of the bodies that represent the old state order. Hitler compares this with the development of Christianity. It did not just come into being but had to destroy the heathen religions. Political parties differ from philosophies in that philosophies do not compromise any of their views. The compromises of political parties means that they do not even strive to attain a philosophy. They try to carve a little niche for themselves.

A philosophy is not willing to compromise or exist in the regime that it is trying to change and destroy. Marxism is a successful movement because it attracts mostly the uneducated masses. The strength of a political party comes from the obedience of its members, not from their intellectual activities. All of the ideas for Hitler's National Socialist Party are contained in the twenty-five theses presented at their rally. This is the party's platform and creed and it must remain unshakeable. In order to achieve its goals, a membership has to be created consisting both of intellectuals and laborers. The folkish ideas are the basis of the National Socialist German Workers' Party. The party creates a movement.



## **Volume 2: Chapter 6, The Struggle of the Early Period - the Significance of the Spoken Word**

### **Volume 2: Chapter 6, The Struggle of the Early Period - the Significance of the Spoken Word Summary and Analysis**

The Party's first great meeting is held in the Festsaal of the Hofbrauhaus on February 24, 1920. These mass meetings are scheduled on a weekly basis. One of the views of the movement are Hitler's views that the World War I peace treaty is basically an attack on Germany. The movement has to be held together during times when its beliefs are being challenged. They notice a unified opposition at their meetings always challenging the same few points. The young movement is besieged by a propaganda campaign against it and within two years Hitler becomes an expert at using this against his opposition.

Hitler emphasizes the peace treaty in his speeches. It is a rallying point for the attendees, especially the issue of reparations. Hitler feels that the spoken word is more potent than the written word when it comes to starting wars. In terms of the movement, leaflets and posters attract attention for a minute or two. Written matter must be in a form and level appropriate to its intended audience. This is the only manner in which the written word can approach the spoken word.

Hitler makes a distinction between the Marxist press and the bourgeois press in that agitation is the purpose of the Marxist press and their writers. They do what the bourgeois press would like to do. Hitler eventually develops the technique of mass suggestion for this purpose.



# Volume 2: Chapter 7, The Struggle with the Red Front

## Volume 2: Chapter 7, The Struggle with the Red Front Summary and Analysis

Hitler attends some of the bourgeois meetings in the 1919-1921 period. They always follow a certain structure. There is always a speech after which the attendees sing the Deutschland song. After that the attendees head for the nearest bars. Hitler's movement uses red posters at their meetings to irritate the Marxists. Their meetings are crowded with workers who would arrive early.

Hitler trains guards—a monitor service. He believes in fighting terror with terror. The monitor service is to deal with people who disrupt the meetings. Their meetings are always successful and crowded, so crowded that the police have to turn people away. At this point there is no party insignia or flag and Hitler knows that they need them to provide a common bond for party members. There is a bourgeois flag in German Austria and that is the only place where there is one until 1920. A flag would have been a rallying point against Marxism. The old black, red and white flag of the pre-war Reich is adopted in 1920. Hitler feels that the old flag is ineffective as a symbol of strength against Marxism.

Hitler designs a flag with a swastika on a white disc set on a red background. He designs the party insignia along the same lines. The flag is premiered in 1920 and is immediately popular. The program of the party is represented by the flag. The social ideals of the movement are represented by the color red; the nationalism is indicated by the color white; and the swastika represents the battle for victory. Hitler also designs a standard for the monitor service. These become the symbols of the National Socialist movement.

By 1920 the party is holding two meetings per week. They are always crowded and attract many Marxists who leave the Marxist organizations. They are considered to be a leading party in Munich by the winter of 1920 and are against the reparations payments that Germany is required to make under the terms of the peace treaty. Hitler wants to hold a rally to protest the reparations payments of one hundred billion gold marks. He decides to call for a demonstration for the following week.

The demonstration is held at the Circus which is larger than any of the other meeting halls they have used. Hitler is worried when the hall is not filling but by the time of the meeting the hall is filled. Hitler gives a speech at the rally and is constantly interrupted by applause. The meeting is so successful that Hitler schedules another for the following week. The government is trying to inhibit the movement in various ways. On November 4, 1921, Hitler receives notice that the meeting will be disrupted by workers





from the Red factories. Since he does not get the information in time, there are only a few guards on hand.

He talks to the guards that are present before the meeting and tells them that he expects them to stand their ground and fight to the death if necessary. If any of them do not do so, they will lose their insignias. When the meeting opens, Hitler is aware that he is confronted with many enemies in the audience. He sees that a group is collecting beer mugs at some of the tables near him. The disruption begins with angry shouting followed by the throwing of beer mugs. Hitler's monitor service attacks back and after twenty minutes they are expelled from the hall. This is the last disruption until 1923.



# **Volume 2: Chapter 8, The Strong Man is Mightiest Alone**

## **Volume 2: Chapter 8, The Strong Man is Mightiest Alone Summary and Analysis**

There is a federation of working folkish groups. These groups elect a common leadership and work on common actions. This is how parties are founded. The movement then has a right of priority which allows them to function with coordination to solve their common problems. The ones who make the party a success are the ones who are willing to sacrifice for it. The German Socialist Party forms at the same time as the National Socialist German Workers Party.

Hitler finds that many of his party's programs are being copied and adopted by others. Weak organizations cannot be made strong. Strong organizations, according to Hitler, usually cannot be weakened. Just because work groups unite in a federation, it does not necessarily mean that they will become strong. Coalitions are not usually the achievers of anything great in this world. Great things are usually accomplished by single victors. The successes of coalitions are usually not lasting. This is why the objectives of National Socialism will not be achieved by working groups but only by a single movement.



# **Volume 2: Chapter 9, Basic Ideas Regarding the Meaning and Organization of the SA**

## **Volume 2: Chapter 9, Basic Ideas Regarding the Meaning and Organization of the SA Summary and Analysis**

This chapter concerns Hitler's views on state authority. There are three foundations of the old state: the monarchist state form, the civil service and the army. All of this changes by the end of World War I. The basis for state authority is shattered by the end of the war.

There are three elements that form the basis for state authority. The first has to do with popularity. The foundation for a state cannot rest on popularity alone which leads to the second element of power. If the foundations based on popularity and power exist for a while, it can then lead to state authority based on tradition. The tradition associated with the old Reich is gone after the war. The tradition comes to an end. Force and power end with the disintegration of the army as given by the soldiers' councils. The only foundation on which to build a new state authority is popularity. The best people come to be the leaders and the masses follow them. The lowest element offers little resistance and the middle does not fight.

The war and high casualties disrupt the balance of the three groups. Many volunteer for various kinds of duties. These are basically members of the good group or members of the middle, so what remain are the lower elements. The soldiers who return from the war have little invested in the revolution that ends the monarchy. The country needs authority but what Hitler calls the Marxist leadership is not based on popularity. "The class supporting the revolutionary idea and carrying out the revolution was neither able nor willing to provide the soldiers for its protection. For this class by no means wanted the organization of a republican state body, but the disorganization of the existing state body for the better satisfaction of their instincts. Their watchword was not: order and a building up of the German Republic, but: pillage it," (Volume 2, chapter 9, p. 523).

Hitler says the government is not popular with the people who view it as existing through the use of force. Groups form to oppose the threat of the new government which Hitler claims is the mastermind of international Jews. Germany is not ready for a Bolshevik state and the army they have is characterized by thousands of deserters. In Hitler's view, deserters must die.

The revolution that overthrows the monarchy would not have succeeded if there had been opposition from the army and this is what the Jews worry about. They claim that



the new government is based on law and order, but in Hitler's view it is based on Marxism, even though it is not called that. There are two reasons why the revolution succeeds. First of all there is a breakdown in the concept of obedience and duty. The second factor has to do with the cowardice of those who should preserve the state. They form no opposition to the new government when they should do so. There is no strong unified force of opposition in existence because there is no clearly defined political goal or objective.

Hitler's movement is the first party that does not support a return to the past. It has a clearly defined program for a different kind of government. The National Socialist German Worker's Party (NSDAP) has its own philosophy to replace the existing philosophy and after the disruption of the rally in the Hofbrauhaus, Hitler renames the monitor service as the Sturmabteilung, or the storm section (SA). This gives the movement the appearance of being an armed and dangerous resistance to Marxism. They also represent a voluntary combat organization whose training involves the power of command, which is necessary in order to have a more or less private army without formal military training. It is impossible to train a soldier with only a few hours of training per week. Hitler views his storm section as not being a military organization and as having nothing in common with a military organization. Their purpose is the defense of the movement.

Since the storm section is not a military organization or a secret society, its training must be the result of necessity and expediency for the party. Its presence must be made known, which is why Hitler designs special uniforms for them. The uniforms are in no way reminiscent of the old army. The nature of the storm section (SA) is shaped by several factors and events. The first is the demonstration of all patriotic organizations against the Law for the Protection of the Republic. This takes place in Munich in 1922 where Hitler speaks to a crowd of more than sixty thousand people. The second factor has to do with the German Day march to Coburg. Hitler, who is invited along with an escort, decides to bring eight hundred SA men as his escort. They march into Coburg with flags and music, which makes a visible impression on the watchers. The third factor which shapes the SA is the French occupation of the Ruhr which occurs in 1923.

Hitler says the SA must be developed into the party's guard and it must number in the hundreds of thousands.



# Volume 2: Chapter 10, Federalism as a Mask

## Volume 2: Chapter 10, Federalism as a Mask Summary and Analysis

Hitler is familiar with the use of propaganda from his experiences in the war. He does not attribute the end of the monarchy to the distributed propaganda during the war. At that time there are various war society offices in Berlin which Hitler attributes to the Jews. He accuses them of pillaging the German nation through their war societies and he identifies Kurt Eisner as one who tries to pit Bavaria against Prussia. This takes place as a struggle between Bavarian workers against Prussian militarism.

Hitler addresses the issue of whether Germany should be a federated or unified state. A federated state consists of a league of sovereign states. They come together of their own free will and give up some of their sovereign rights for the benefit of the federation. The borders of these states are political creations. The heavy reparations payments from World War I are a burden on the country and on the provinces in the Reich. People are unhappy because of the way they are represented within the Reich.

In order to meet its financial obligations the Reich has to limit resistance in the provinces. Hitler defines the difference between the old Reich and the new Republic as differences between the internal and external appearances. The old Reich appears weak to the outside but it gives its citizens internal freedom. The new Republic is the opposite. Hitler views it as a slave colony without a flag as it keeps limiting the rights of the provinces.

"A powerful national Reich, which takes into account and protects the outward interests of its citizens to the highest extent, can offer freedom within, without having to fear for the stability of the state. On the other hand, a powerful national government can undertake and accept responsibility for great limitations on the freedom of the individual as well as the provinces, without damage to the Reich idea if in such measures the individual citizen recognizes a means toward the greatness of his nation," (Volume 2, Chapter 10, p. 572).

The policy of the National Socialists is to oppose unification. The government's need for finances for foreign policy leads to the nationalization of railroads, finances, postal service, and more, and this is what the National Socialists try to prevent. They also oppose centralization since it might lead to internal stability in the provinces under the control of a Jewish Democratic Reich. There is a party called the Bavarian People's Party that tries to obtain special rights for Bavaria and this is to be used against the national policy. The third reason for the party's opposition to unification lies in their belief that they are suppressing the institutions of the provinces in the hopes of replacing them with those of the revolutionary party.

Hitler's final point is that the Reich should not have a higher level of sovereignty than individual states have. He does not believe that the individual states should have their own mission in other countries. He also believes that when the core of the National Socialist policies are adopted, there will be more internal liberties.



# Volume 2: Chapter 11, Propaganda and Organization

## Volume 2: Chapter 11, Propaganda and Organization Summary and Analysis

When Hitler joins the German Workers' Party, he heads the propaganda department. To him, this is the most important department in the party. He feels it more important to spread the message than to handle administrative duties. He believes that some men are born leaders and that a good leader is not made by someone having a wealth of theoretical knowledge. These people make good organizers.

Hitler feels that every movement has to divide its people into supporters and members. Supporters are attracted by propaganda. The organization itself wins the members. The difference between a supporter and a member is that a supporter claims to agree with the goals of the organization while a member fights for the goals. Obviously, members have a more active role than supporters do.

The use of propaganda indoctrinates a whole population. Those who become members of the organization can in no way threaten it or its actions. The purpose of propaganda is to make the population ripe to accept an idea and its victory while the members work to achieve the victory. Propaganda facilitates the speed of the acceptance of the idea and leads to a faster victory. Supporters are more important than members when it comes to acceptance of ideas. The better the propaganda is, the smaller the number of members needed.

Propaganda serves the purpose of winning supporters that leads to the continuation of the organization and the organization uses propaganda to win people to influence with further propaganda. Another function of propaganda is to disrupt the existing state of affairs. The ideas of the organization are then filtered in while the organization carries on the fight for the victory of the new doctrine. Successful propaganda draws more members and leads to a stronger and bigger organization. The more revolutionary the doctrine of the organization is, the stronger the propaganda must be to draw the members. If enough weak members exist to force their views on the organization, the whole organization will be lowered. Therefore, the organization must be selective in who it admits and it must always be sure that leadership is a group of tried and true people.

In Hitler's role as the director of propaganda, his objective is to use only the best material. The more fiery the propaganda, the more intimidated the weaker are. In August, 1921, Hitler takes over the inner organization of the party and eventually they move to bigger headquarters. He forms an association with the business manager, Max Amann, of a folkish newspaper, Volkischer Beobachter. He is also the business manager of the party. He serves in the war with Hitler and Hitler thinks very highly of

him and makes him the party's business manager. If two candidates have the same qualifications, Hitler selects the party-member over the non-member.

On November 9, 1923, the party is dissolved. All of its property is confiscated. The loss is put at more than one hundred and seventy thousand gold marks.





# Volume 2: Chapter 12, The Trade-Union Question

## Volume 2: Chapter 12, The Trade-Union Question Summary and Analysis

Hitler's organization experiences rapid growth by 1922 and they have to look at objections to workers being with them because their occupations and economic situations are in the hands of their enemies. The workers have to belong to labor unions in order to hold jobs. Among the issues they have to address are the viability of trade unions; should the party engage in union activities; what should be the task and goals of a National Socialist trade union if they decide to form one; and how should they form the unions.

As far as trade unions go, Hitler feels they cannot be done away with and because of their importance, they have to be an area the National Socialist Party is interested in. He knows once they are in control they cannot just do away with existing organizations or take them over unless they have people in place in the unions. There must be a foundation for the various institutions that will be required in the National Socialist state. They cannot just be created and this is why the National Socialists have to have a presence in the trade union movement.

Hitler goes on to say that the National Socialist trade union is to represent the occupational interests of its members. It is not to be used as a tool of class struggle as it is in the Marxian framework. Its purpose is not to group people into classes since the National Socialist state is a classless society. In the National Socialist framework, the purpose of the strike to eliminate the factors that inhibit production so that production is enhanced as a result of a strike. Both the worker and the employer are a part of the National Socialist economy and have a part in contributing to its prosperity. They are both allowed freedom in the economy because this leads to greater efficiency and production. Once the folkish state is in place, the strike will not be necessary because the economic chambers will guarantee that the factors that lead to strikes are eliminated and the economy functions smoothly. Any issues between employer and employee will be solved through the chambers of estates and the central economic parliament.

The last issue, how these unions come into existence, is the most difficult issue to deal with, according to Hitler. It is usually easier to create a new institution rather than use existing institutions and there is no sense in establishing National Socialist unions to exist with other unions. Hitler says the party can either establish a trade union that will fight the Marxist unions or they can impenetrate the existing Marxist unions and fight for their own doctrine. They do not have the money to create a new union but they have fight the unions that are already in existence. It is beneficial to the movement if the trade unions are infiltrated by the National Socialist people to keep them from Marxism. This is the path that Hitler recommends.



## Volume 2: Chapter 13, German Alliance Policy After the War

### Volume 2: Chapter 13, German Alliance Policy After the War Summary and Analysis

This chapter is concerned with the alliance policy of Germany in the years following World War I. Those in power have no interest in an alliance policy or the re-establishment of the German state as it had been. Since the 1918 end of the monarchy, the government has been a failure in foreign affairs, according to Hitler. Party members and the population must be educated in the area of foreign affairs and foreign policy. People should always ask if a policy action will be beneficial or injurious in the present and in the future.

The purpose of pre-War foreign policy is to help preserve the character of the German people. In the post-war period, the nation must be restored to its pre-war position of power before sensible foreign policy can be undertaken. The policy undertaken by present-day Germany must be directed toward securing freedom in the future.

Hitler believes that a proper pre-war policy should be the acquisition of more land in Europe, instead of relying on commercial policy, which he discusses in the first part of the book. In the post-war period the nation basically has no foreign policy and this leads to a change in England's policy against Germany. Diplomacy should be aimed at the preservation of a people. It should not allow the people to perish. Hitler views the neglect of the objective of foreign policy to be criminal.

Hitler feels that the effect of World War I is a total shift in the power balance of Europe. Germany is no longer a strong force. This leaves France and England as the strong countries on the continent. The lack of a strong enemy benefits England and her allies because England does not want a strong continental power in either France or Germany. The French goal is to keep the German states as splintered as possible to keep Germany from rivaling France's power.

Using the above to consider foreign policy, the last country Germany can have an alliance with is England. The end of the war means a shift in British policy from seeing Germany destroyed to curbing the rising power of France. Alliance policies succeed by the advancement of common objectives, not through the pursuance of negative aims. He sees Italy as a possible alliance partner because England and Italy are not opposed to Germany as France is.

In considering the possibility of any kind of alliance, Hitler asks if it is possible for a nation to be an ally of Germany. The current leaders have exhibited incompetence and cowardice which is a deterrence to any kind of alliance. There is also the fact that Germany fought a war with many of the nations that could be prospective allies and the



populations of those countries do not have a favorable opinion of the Germans. He still views the Jew as Germany's worst enemy and feels that the Jews will cause anti-German agitation in other nations. In spite of this, he still views France as the most dangerous enemy. He believes their race is intermingling with Negro blood and is threatening the existence of the white race.

Hitler presents his view on the South Tyrol, an area lost during World War I. He believes that the only way to recover the lost territory is by use of force. He does not propose this route because there is no support for it among the German population. He believes that the future of Germany lies in correctly identifying and attacking their enemies.

Answering the three issues he raises at the beginning of the chapter, Hitler feels that no one would want to enter into an alliance with the present Germany in its condition of weakness. He also questions the ability of former foes to enter into an alliance with Germany and feels the Jews will serve to disrupt any plans that Germany has to form alliances with other nations. No alliance can be entered into unless Germany is strong enough to fight for freedom. The German people have no one to blame but themselves for their present position.

The chapter closes with Hitler seeing Jewish control of the press and other institutions as a threat. He more or less equates being Jewish with Marxism.



## Volume 2: Chapter 14, Eastern Orientation or Eastern Policy

### Volume 2: Chapter 14, Eastern Orientation or Eastern Policy Summary and Analysis

Hitler examines Germany's relationship with Russia in this chapter. He feels that the Russian issue is the most important issue confronting Germany and that the National Socialist movement must correctly assess the issue in order to formulate its own policy and actions. To Hitler, the ability to feed the nation depends on its soil and that is what must be protected. Thus, Germany must become a world power in order to guarantee its future and Germany is nowhere close to being a world power in the present circumstances.

"The National Socialist movement must strive to eliminate the disproportion between our population and our area—viewing this latter as a source of food as well as a basis for power politics—between our historical past and the hopelessness of our present impotence," (Volume 2, Chapter 14, p. 646). Hitler sees educating the German population in racial awareness and breeding as the way to achieve this goal.

There are three strong points in German foreign policy up until this time. The first is the colonization of the Ostmark; the second is acquisition of lands east of the Elbe; and the third is colonizing the Brandenburg-Prussian state. Ostmark and the lands east of the Elbe increase the size of the country and the third leads to the formation of the Prussian state. The goal of the present foreign policy should be to acquire land and soil and by this he does not mean the restoration of the lands lost during the war. This will scare other nations out of making an alliance with Germany and furthermore, state boundaries are the product of man.

Some nations, meaning Russia, have larger amounts of land than Germany does. Germany is more or less trapped with the amount of land that it has and this is what will harm the nation in the future. Foreign colonies will not fulfill the need of Germany for more land. Germany loses the intelligentsia it had in Prussia when it is taken over by the Bolsheviks. Hitler looks to Russia which he claims is controlled by Jews. The Russian state will end when Jewish rule comes to an end.

Hitler does not want a war with Russia because he feels the war will take place on German soil. The present Reich is too weak to defend the borders. If Germany enters into an alliance with Russia, they might not think of war but there would have to be plans for such a contingency or the alliance would be worthless. He also feels that the Russian rulers have aspirations to ally with Germany. Nations do not enter into alliances with other nations that want to destroy them. Hitler also feels that Bolshevism is a threat to Germany and is an attempt by the Jews to achieve world domination. Hitler also feels

that the Bolsheviks have their eye on Germany as a place where they want to spread their revolution.

In the pre-World War I period, Hitler favors an alliance policy with England against Russia instead of the commercial policy that Germany follows. This would have led to Germany acquiring land on the European continent. Germany could also team up with Russia against England. However, Germany does neither.

There cannot be two continental powers in Europe and they must take all precaution to prevent this from happening. Germany's strength depends on their homeland and the amount of soil they have. Russia is not the country Germany should have an alliance with. As Hitler states in the last chapter, the only two countries with which an alliance is possible are Italy and England. In this way, the power of the French will be checked.



# Volume 2: Chapter 15, The Right of Emergency Defense

## Volume 2: Chapter 15, The Right of Emergency Defense Summary and Analysis

The end of World War I and the armistice basically relegates Germany to a position of submission. The giving up of arms always has serious consequences. It is not just a loss of honor.

When the monarchy collapses in 1918, the only concern of the French is to get the Germans out of France and Belgium. Neither England nor France is interested in the dissolution of Germany. The disarmament terms of the peace treaty leads the French to think that Germany will be shattered. They think there will be ensuing economic pressures within the country that will help accomplish this goal. The purpose of the occupation of the Ruhr is to demoralize the German people and economy, even though the French breach the Versailles Treaty with the move into the Ruhr. This leads the loss of support from the English and the Italians.

Hitler expresses his admiration for Benito Mussolini, the Italian Fascist dictator because he is an anti-Bolshevik and he refuses to enter into alliances with any of Italy's enemies. In comparison with Mussolini, the German leaders are pathetic and weak. When the occupation of the Ruhr takes place, it is not the German leaders who emerge as strong. It is Herr von Cuno who emerges as strong by calling a strike of the coal workers so the French cannot obtain coal. He believes that the French will then leave since the occupation will not be profitable. The Marxists are needed for the success of the strike because they control the unions. This leads to a united front with von Cuno. Hitler thinks it foolish of them to think that an occupying army will depart because of a strike and views the strike as a form of passive resistance.

# Conclusion

## Conclusion Summary and Analysis

The National Socialist German Workers Party is dissolved in the fourth year of its existence on November 9, 1923. It is basically outlawed throughout the Reich. The Party reappears and is stronger than ever by November, 1926. All of the attempts at harming the party or its leaders fail.

"If, in the world of our present parliamentary corruption, it becomes more and more aware of the profoundest essence of its struggle, feels itself to be the purest embodiment of the value of race and personality and conducts itself accordingly, it will with almost mathematical certainty some day emerge victorious from its struggle. Just as Germany must inevitably win her rightful position on this earth if she is led and organized according to the same principles," (Conclusion, p. 688).



# Characters

## Adolf Hitler

Hitler is born in the Austrian-German border town of Braunau on the Inn. His father is a Custom's official so they move around a lot. The family settles in the Austrian town of Lambach, which is where the young Hitler attends school and begins to develop many of his nationalistic views. With both of his parents dead when he is fifteen, he moves to Vienna, living on an orphan's pension. He studies the parliamentary and electoral process during the years he is in Vienna and develops many of his philosophic views during these years. He decides he wants to be a German in Germany and moves to Munich in 1912. During the pre-war years in Munich he studies foreign policy and formulates his views on those topics. He serves during World War I and is injured several times and returns to Germany. At the war's end, he is assigned to be an education officer in Munich and this position allows him to speak to many people. He meets people that hold the same views that he does and forms a new party, since he still cannot accept the existing parties. His views that form the basis for the National Socialist German Workers' Party are the concepts presented in the book.

## Dr. Leopold Potsch

Potsch is a history teacher of Hitler's who influences him greatly. He believes in looking for the forces that cause historical events, not just memorizing dates and names. He believes that the purpose of reading is to retain what is important and to discard what is not important.

The views of Potsch influence the development of Hitler's educational program for scientific training. Hitler believes in minimizing the things not important or essential for the student. He believes in emphasizing physical training and minimizing time spent on unimportant subjects. How many people remember most of what they have studied in school? Hitler's view, derived from Potsch, is to teach only the essentials that people need.

## Dr. Karl Lueger

Lueger is the head of the Christian Social Party. Lueger correctly estimates the effect of economics on men and he learns to use this to advance his purposes. He concentrates on those classes who are threatened economically and avoids those who are secure. Lueger focuses on the middle class and wins the support of the Catholic clergy. Lueger serves as the mayor of Vienna.





## **Georg von Schonerer**

Von Schonerer is the leader of the Pan-German movement in Austria. His views foresee the end of the Austrian state as it exists then. Von Schonerer cannot express himself in a way to gain a strong following. He fails to see that the reason why men are unwilling to fight for change is their unwillingness to lose what they have in terms of economic things. This causes him to make errors in judgment when it comes to what men will and will not do.

## **Kurt Eisner**

Eisner is mentioned several times throughout the book. Hitler describes him as an international Jew. After the fall of the monarchy, Eisner plays Bavaria against Prussia. He is a newspaper journalist who travels all over Germany. To Hitler, Eisner is a servant of the Jews and if he has his way, in Hitler's view, the Bolsheviks would take control in Germany.

## **Gottfried Feder**

Feder is a lecturer in the area of international capital markets and stock exchanges. Hitler attends a lecture and learns about a concept called slave interest and finds it useful in the formation of his plans for what is needed to save the German people.

## **Benito Mussolini**

Mussolini is the dictator of Fascist Italy. Hitler admires Mussolini because he is an anti-Bolshevik and he refuses to enter into any alliances with Italy's enemies. Hitler compares the German leaders with Mussolini and finds them pitiful in comparison.

## **Herr Harrer**

Herr Harrer is the first chairman of Hitler's National Socialist Workers' Party. He is a journalist. He eventually resigns because he cannot support the views of the party.

## **Anton Drexler**

Drexler becomes chairman of the party when Harrer resigns.

## **Julius Streicher**

Streicher is a teacher from Nuremberg. He is a strong supporter of the German Socialist Party until he switches to support the Nationalist Socialist German Workers Party and urges his followers to do the same.

## **Max Amann**

Max Amann is the business manager of the folkish newspaper Volkischer Beobachter and business manager of the party. He first meets Hitler during the war, in 1914, at the front.



## Objects/Places

### **Braunau on the Inn**

This town, on the German-Austrian border, is the birth place of Adolf Hitler.

### **Lambach**

Lambach is an Austrian village where Hitler's father retires to and buys a farm.

### **Vienna**

Vienna, Austria is where the Academy is located. This is the art school Hitler tries to enter and is rejected by.

### **Munich**

Munich is a city in Germany where Hitler moves in 1912.

### **Beelitz, Germany**

Beelitz is a town near Berlin where there is a military hospital. Hitler is sent here to recover.

### **Nuremberg, Germany**

Nuremberg is the home of Julius Streicher.

### **Flanders**

Flanders is on the Western Front, where Hitler spends most of his time fighting during World War I.

### **Coburg**

Coburg is the site of a march in October, 1922. It is located in Bavaria.



## England

England is an opponent of Germany in World War I and is frequently mentioned in discussions of foreign policy.

## South Tyrol

The South Tyrol is a province of Germany that is the subject of battle in World War I. The Germans lose control of the area.



# Themes

## Hatred

One of the most prevalent themes of the book is Hitler's hatred of the Jews. He never explains where this hatred comes from but he tries to use historical facts to support his views. The Jews do not have a country and in his eyes, they do not really want a country. They just want an international organization. Hitler hates their control of the press and their use of propaganda. He criticizes them for being landowners who never work the land.

He spends time explaining how a high level species is brought down by mixing blood with lower level species. This basically explains his views on intermarriage and racial mixing. Even though the Jews present themselves as Germans or Frenchmen with a different religion, Hitler claims they are a race.

Hitler points out that a successful leader has one foe or lumps all of his foes into one group. Propaganda has to be directed at someone consistently and this is what Hitler does with the Jews. They are the group he heaps his hatred on and uses propaganda to control public opinion against.

## Quest for Soil

From Hitler's point of view, German expansion on the European continent is necessary for the survival of the German people. There must be enough soil to grow the food needed to sustain the German people and as the population grows, more land is required. Hitler does not see the answer in the acquisition of foreign colonies as England does, although he does favor an alliance with the English in the pre-World War I years.

Hitler considers the different policy options available to Germany at the time and feels the commercial policy that they choose is the worst possible choice. It does not result in an increase in land. The loss of certain territories at the conclusion of the war leaves Germany with less soil and this is something that makes Hitler bitter as he feels these areas should have been retaken before the conclusion of the war. In spite of this, Hitler does not see the restoration of the lost lands as a condition for post-war policy. The only way to retake them is through the use of force, and Germany is not in the position to use force.

One of his criticisms of the Jews is that they are landowners who never work the land.



## The Need for a Strong Germany

One of the themes that runs throughout the book is the need for a strong Germany. From Hitler's point of view, the German people can only survive if Germany is a world power. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles makes this impossible in the post-World War I years.

Hitler states that there can only be one power on the continent. The French compete for this position, and to Hitler this makes the French an enemy. He sees the need for Germany to enter into alliances with other nations, but the post-war government is so weak that it undermines the confidence of other nations to enter into any kind of alliance with the Germans. The only alliances acceptable to Hitler are alliances with England or Italy. He does not view the Russians as acceptable because no country should enter into an alliance with a country that wants to destroy them.

Germany cannot become strong under the post-war government whose leaders he feels are characterized by incompetence and cowardice. Therefore, in order for Germany to become strong and the German people to survive, a new form of government is required.



# Style

## Perspective

The book consists of Hitler's views entirely. In many cases, he explains how he arrives at his views and how his philosophies and policies are formulated. This book is written before Hitler becomes a national figure. He has political aspirations at the time but is just beginning his career. Hitler is qualified to write the book because it is based on his own opinions and views. He is not very interested in explaining the policies or views of others.

The book is basically a book of propaganda, even though he does explain how he arrives at many of his positions, many times reaching far back into history to support his positions. Like propaganda, the purpose of this book is to sway public opinion.

Hitler does not reveal much of himself or the facts of his life in the autobiographical section but he does explain where his positions come from, such as his views on the parliamentary form of government. There is some autobiographical value in this.

## Tone

The book is written in the first person with Hitler as the narrator. It is more or less subjective since it consists of so much propaganda. There is very little objectivity since he is trying to justify his position, and his hatred comes through, even though he tries to sound objective and factual about it. However, he does reach back into history trying to document some of his positions.

The quantity of propaganda and knowledge about what happens in World War II makes the book very difficult to read at times. One of the good points is that Hitler points out his differences with Marxism, which he associates with being Jewish. He explains how National Socialism differs from Marxism and why.

The book has to have a profound impact on the reader, especially one with prior knowledge of how National Socialism developed and the course of World War II. This makes it difficult to read, even if the reader tries to take an objective approach to the book.

## Structure

The book is divided into two volumes. Volume 1 is called A Reckoning and Volume 2 is titled The National Socialist Movement. The first part is supposed to be autobiographical and it is in many ways, but it is basically a platform for Hitler's propaganda. He does explain where some of his views develop from. Each volume is then divided into chapters, some of which are very long and some of which are only two or three pages



long. There is a Translator's Note and an Introduction as well as a three-quarter page Conclusion.

The book consists of very long sentences, due to the translation from German. It is not arranged strictly chronologically since it jumps around from time period to time period within each of the chapters. There are a few typographical errors, which in some cases make the long sentences hard to understand. One of the nice touches is that at the top of each page, there is a title with the topic of that page.





## Quotes

"The elemental cry of the German-Austrian people for union with the German mother county, that arose in the days when the Hapsburg state was collapsing, was the result of a longing that slumbered in the heart of the entire people—a longing to return to the never-forgotten ancestral home. But this would be inexplicable if the historical education of the individual German-Austrian had not given rise to so general a longing. In it lies a well which never grows dry; which, especially in times of forgetfulness, transcends all momentary prosperity and by constant reminders of the past whispers softly of a new future," (Volume 1, Chapter 1 pp. 13-14).

"If Social Democracy is opposed by a doctrine of greater truth, but equal brutality of methods, the latter will conquer, through this may require the bitterest struggle," (Volume 1, Chapter 2, p. 43).

"The devastation caused by this institution of modern parliamentary rule is hard for the reader of Jewish newspapers to imagine, unless he has learned to think and examine independently. It is, first and foremost, the cause of the incredible inundation of all political life with the most inferior, and I mean the most inferior, characters of our time. Just as the true leader will withdraw from all political activity which does not consist primarily in creative achievement and work, but in bargaining and haggling for the favor of the majority, in the same measure this activity will suit the small mind and consequently attract it," (Volume 1, Chapter 3, p. 81).

"It is not a collection of economic contracting parties in a definite delimited living space for the fulfillment of economic tasks, but the organization of a community of physically and psychologically similar living beings for the better facilitation of the maintenance of their species and the achievement of the aim which has been allotted to this species by Providence. This and nothing else is the aim and meaning of a state. Economics is only one of the many instruments required for the achievement of this aim. It is never the cause or the aim of a state unless this state is based on a false, because unnatural, foundation to begin with. Only in this way can it be explained that the state as such does not necessarily presuppose territorial limitation. This will be necessary only among the peoples who want to secure the maintenance of their national comrades by their own resources; in other words, are prepared to fight the struggle for existence by their own labor. Peoples who can sneak their way into the rest of mankind like drones, to make other men work for them under all sorts of pretexts, can form states even without any definitely delimited living space of their own. This applies first and foremost to a people under whose parasitism the whole of honest humanity is suffering, today more than ever: the Jews," (Volume 1, Chapter 4, p. 150).

"The function of propaganda does not lie in the scientific training of the individual, but in calling the masses' attention to certain facts, processes, necessities, etc., whose significance is thus for the first time placed within their field of vision," (Volume 1, Chapter 6, p. 179).



"More than once I was tormented by the thought that if Providence had put me in the place of the incapable or criminal incompetents or scoundrels in our propaganda service, our battle with Destiny would have taken a different turn," (Volume 1, Chapter 7, p. 188).

"The fight against international finance and loan capital became the most important point in the program of the German nation's struggle for its economic independence and freedom," (Volume 1, Chapter 8, p. 214).

"Therefore, if any new idea, a doctrine, a new philosophy, or even a political or economic movement tries to deny the entire past, tries to make it bad or worthless, for this reason alone we must be extremely cautious and suspicious. As a rule the reason for such hatred is either its own inferiority or even an evil intention as such. A really beneficial renaissance of humanity will always have to continue building where the last good foundation stops. It will not have to be ashamed of using already existing truths. For the whole of human culture, as well as man himself, is only the result of a single long development in which every generation contributed and fitted in its stone. Thus the meaning and purpose of revolutions is not tear down the whole building, but to remove what is bad or unsuitable and to continue building on the sound spot that has been laid bare," (Volume 1, Chapter 10, p. 261).

"The man who misjudges and disregards the racial laws actually forfeits the happiness that seems destined to be his. He thwarts the triumphal march of the best race and hence also the precondition for all human progress, and remains, in consequence, burdened with all the sensibility of man, in the animal realm of helpless misery," (Volume 1, Chapter 12, p. 289).

"Hence the Jewish leadership in trade-union affairs remains uncontested until an enormous work of enlightenment influences the broad masses and sets them right about their never-ending misery, or else the state disposes of the Jew and his work. For as long as the insight of the masses remains as slight as now and the state as indifferent as today, these masses will always be first to follow the man who in economic matters offers the most shameless promises. And in this the Jew is a master. For in his entire activity he is restrained by no moral scruples!" (Volume 1, Chapter 11, p. 322).

"We must bear in mind from what wretched viewpoints so-called 'party programs' are normally patched together and from time to time refurbished or remodeled. We must submit the driving motives particularly of these bourgeois 'program-commissions' to our magnifying glass, in order to achieve the necessary understanding for the evaluation of these programmatical monstrosities," (Volume 2, Chapter 1, pp. 373-374).

"The crown of the folkish state's entire work of education and training must be to burn the racial sense and racial feeling into the instinct and the intellect, the heart and brain of the youth entrusted to it. No boy and no girl must leave school without having been led to an ultimate realization of the necessity and essence of blood purity," (Volume 2, Chapter 2, p. 427).



"For the state must make a sharp distinction between those who, as national comrades, are the cause and bearer of its existence and its greatness, and those who only take up residence within a state, as 'earning' elements," (Volume 2, Chapter 3, p. 440).

"A philosophy of life which endeavors to reject the democratic mass idea and give this earth to the best people—that is, the highest humanity—must logically obey the same aristocratic principle within this people and make sure that the leadership and the highest influence in this people fall to the best minds. Thus, it builds, not upon the idea of the majority, but upon the idea of personality," (Volume 2, Chapter 4, p. 443).

"The National Socialist movement must never forget this and in particular it must never let itself be influenced by those bourgeois simpletons who know everything better, but who nevertheless have gambled away a great state including their own existence and the rule of their class. Oh, yes, they are very, very clever, they know everything understand everything—only one thing they did not understand, how to prevent the German people from falling into the arms of Marxism. In this they miserably and wretchedly failed, so that their present conceit is only arrogance, which in the form of pride, as everyone knows, always thrives on the same tree as stupidity," (Volume 2, Chapter 6, p. 479).

"By the formation of a working federation weak organizations are never transformed into strong ones, but a strong organization can will not seldom be weakened. The opinions that a power factor must result from an association of weak groups is incorrect, since the majority in any form whatsoever and under all presuppositions will, as experience shows, be the representative of stupidity and cowardice, and therefore any multiplicity of organizations, as soon as it is directed by a self-chosen multiple leadership, is sacrificed to cowardice and weakness. Also, by such a fusion, the free play of forces is thwarted, the struggle for the selection of the best is stopped, and hence the necessary and ultimate victory of the healthier and stronger prevented forever," (Volume 2, Chapter 8, p. 516).

"Times when a nation is rising are distinguished, in fact exist only, by the absolute leadership of the extreme best part.

Times of a normal, even development or of a stable state of affairs are distinguished and exist by the obvious domination of the elements of the middle, in which the two extremes mutually balance one another, or cancel one another.

Times when a nation is collapsing are determined by the dominant activity of the worst elements." (Volume 2, Chapter 9, pp. 519-520).

"The young movement, from the first day, espoused the standpoint that its idea must be put forward spiritually, but that the defense of this spiritual platform must if necessary be secured by strong-arm means. Faithful to its belief in the enormous significance of the new doctrine, it seems obvious to the movement that for the attainment of its goal no sacrifice can be too great," (Volume 2, Chapter 9, p. 534).

"In the face of this, the National Socialist trade union must, by organizationally embracing certain groups of participants in the national economic process, increase the



security of the national economy itself and intensify its strength by the corrective elimination of all those abuses which in their ultimate consequences have a destructive effect on the national body, injure the vital force of the national community, and hence also for the state, and last but not least, redound to the wrack and ruin of the economy itself," (Volume 2, Chapter 12, p. 601).

"The National Socialist movement today stands at the beginning of its struggle. In large part it has still to form and complete its philosophical picture. It must fight with all the fiber of its energy for the accomplishment of its great idea, and success is thinkable only if all its strength goes completely into the service of this fight," (Volume 2, Chapter 12, pp. 604-605).

"For the resurrection of a nation is not conceivable without its preceding nationalization, as, conversely, every great success in the sphere of foreign affairs inevitably produces reactions in the same direction. Every fight for freedom, as experience shows, leads to an intensification of national sentiment, of self-reliance, and hence also to a sharper sensibility toward anti-national element and tendencies. Conditions and persons who are tolerated in peaceable times, who often, in fact, pass unnoticed, are not only rebuffed in times of seething national enthusiasm, but encounter a resistance that is not seldom fatal to them," (Volume 2, Chapter 13, pp. 607-608).

"In one country the present state power can be regarded as so stabilized and serves the interests of the country so absolutely that we can no longer speak of a really effective obstruction of political necessities by international Jewish forces.

The struggle that Fascist Italy is waging, through perhaps in the last analysis unconsciously (which I personally do not believe), against the three main weapons of the Jews is the best indication that, even though indirectly, the poison fangs of this supra-state power are being torn out. The prohibition of Masonic secret societies, the persecution of the supra-national press, as well as the continuous demolition of international Marxism, and, conversely, the steady reinforcement of the Fascist state conception, will in the course of the years cause the Italian government to serve the interests of the Italian people more and more, without regard for the hissing of the Jewish world hydra," (Volume 2, Chapter 13, p. 637).

"Germany will either be a world power or there will be no Germany," (Volume 2, Chapter 14, p. 654).

"The fight against Jewish world Bolshevization requires a clear attitude toward Soviet Russia. You cannot drive out the Devil with Beelzebub." (Volume 2, Chapter 14, p. 662).

"In this period—I openly admit—I conceived the profoundest admiration for the great man south of the Alps, who, full of ardent love for his people, made no pacts with the enemies of Italy, but strove for their annihilation by all ways and means. What will rank Mussolini among the great men of this earth is his determination not to share Italy with the Marxists, but to destroy internationalism and save the fatherland from it," (Volume 2, Chapter 15, p. 681).



"I wish at the end of the second volume to remind the supporters and champions of our doctrine of those eighteen heroes, to whom I have dedicated the first volume of my work, those heroes who sacrificed themselves for us all with the clearest consciousness. They must forever recall the wavering and the weak to the fulfillment of his duty, a duty which they themselves in the best faith carried to its final consequence. And among them I want also count that man, one of the best ,who devoted his life to the awakening of his, our people, in his writings and his thoughts and finally in his deeds: Dietrich Eckhart," (Volume 2, Chapter 15, p. 687).

## Topics for Discussion

What were Hitler's original views on the parliamentary form of government? How do his views change and why?

How does Hitler view history? What is the significance of his approach?

How does Hitler form his racial views?

What kind of racial program does Hitler propose to preserve the future of Germany?

What are some of the elements included in the twenty-five these in the platform of the National Socialist German Workers' Party?

What are Hitler's view concerning the post-war condition of Germany?

How does Hitler propose to deal with the trade unions? What is the role for the National Socialist movement?

What is Hitler's attitude toward Russia and Bolshevism?