

Yellow as of 12/23/00

Birth date

1837

The Child As Father to the Man

CHAPTER 3

1837

The Child As Father to the Man

I and the public know
What all schoolchildren learn,
Those to whom evil is done
Do evil in return.

—W. H. Auden

Every basic conflict of childhood lives on, in some
form, in the adult.

—Erik Erikson

HITLER'S GENEALOGY, which has puzzled biographers since his death, worried him all his life. It seems likely that one of the reasons he required all citizens in his Reich to identify and prove the racial purity of their ancestors was because he harbored nagging doubts about his own.

Difficulties in tracing his lineage are increased by a tangled web of family intermarriage, incest, and illegitimacy, as well as by name changes and incomplete or altered baptismal records. A few facts, however, have emerged from provincial archives, parish church records, the oral traditions of the countryside, and the sedulous research of historians.

It can be affirmed that one spring day in 1837 a middle-aged peasant woman from the tiny farming village of Stronnes, in Lower Austria journeyed to a nearby hamlet to have the parish priest baptize her baby boy. The entry in the Baptismal Registry for the Parish of Döllersheim, Tomus vii, page 7, records that the woman was Maria Anna Schickelgruber, unwed daughter of Johann Schickelgruber, a farmer in Stronnes. Her baby, who was to become the father of Adolf Hitler, was christened Aloys Schickelgruber. The blank for the father's name

was not filled in that day. Ma
Georg Hitler was added in a d

The mother never reveals years doubt and controversy e
Hitler's paternal grandfather.
mother is clear. For generatio
or itinerant farm laborers i
Austrian Waldviertel. Even i
incest was not uncommon,
ticularly complex family int
mental and physical aberrati
stapo files show, for example
Veit, a cousin of Hitler's fat
them committed suicide in a
family seem to have been si

Maria Anna Schickelgrul
contemporary farm women t
vincial city, as a domestic s
and returned to her home vi
Alois, (as he later preferred t
Führer. When the boy was five
mill worker named Johann C
Hüttler, Hidler, Huetler, Hiltl
unable to care for the boy,
hardworking farmer, Johann
raised him as his own son o
the boy, at the age of 13, left t

In the capital, Alois bec
began a rise in life remark
unique in the family annals.
ship, at the age of 18, he w
in the Department of Inland
ber of the Royal and Imperia
siderable prerogatives and pr
would do with palpable pride

In 1876, when he was 13
father, Johann Nepomuk Hiltl
Thus, on an autumnal day i
of his illiterate relatives harm
the narrow, winding country
the blank in Adolf Hitler's o
aged parish priest that his fo
had in truth been sired by his
The priest accepted the testin
1837 was altered in the Regis
space "Name of the Baptized"
out, and the space for the fa

Blue as of 12/31/00

Moved to pink

finally — using this ink as the
marker was not. Either a line —, a
double line — or —

1837, 1876

Frank

inherited the farm and sold out when he fell into financial difficulties, and another brother became a common laborer and a drunkard.

There were thousands of illegitimate children in the Waldviertel, and the birth of Alois Schicklgruber caused no particular surprise. No shame was attached to illegitimate birth, but there were inevitable disadvantages, for such children tended to become farm workers without any legal claim to any property, and usually they were doomed to poverty.

The boy spent the first five years of his life at Strones. On May 10, 1842, Johann Georg Hiedler married his mother, and shortly afterward the boy was taken to live in the household of Johann Nepomuk Hiedler at Spital.

No one knows why Alois Schicklgruber became the ward of Johann Nepomuk Hiedler. What is known is that Johann Georg and his new wife were living in great poverty in Strones, and it may have been simply an act of mercy to rescue the child. It has been suggested that Johann Nepomuk was the real father, and by taking the boy into his household he was assuming the responsibilities of fatherhood. But all this is surmise, as unrewarding as the many theories advanced to prove that this or that person was the boy's father. The father might have been almost anyone at all, and it is quite possible that Maria Anna Schicklgruber did not know who the father was. Hans Frank, once Governor General of Poland, remembered or half-remembered that toward the end of 1930 he was directed by Hitler to investigate a story that the father of Alois Schicklgruber was the nineteen-year-old son of a Jewish family called Frankenberger, living in Graz. He says he found letters written by the Jewish family to Maria Anna Schicklgruber, and that for the first fourteen years of his life regular payments were made for the boy's support. According to Hans Frank the results of his inquiry were "to the highest degree painful," but Hitler remained unconvinced. He had heard differently from his father and believed that his grandfather was Johann Georg Hiedler. No substantial proof that Hitler had a Jewish grandfather has ever been offered.

The birth certificate of Alois Schicklgruber survives, and we know that it was tampered with in a strange way during the summer of 1876, almost certainly at the instigation of Alois. Originally the document had blank spaces under the words "Father" and "Remarks." These were now filled. Under "Father" the local priest wrote: "Georg Hitler. Cath. rel. Living in Spital." Under "Remarks" he wrote:

The undersigned witnesses hereby confirm that Georg Hitler, who was well known to them, acknowledged paternity of the child Alois, son of Anna Schicklgruber, and they request that his name be entered in the

baptismal register. +
Breiteneder, Witness +

These insertions in the a mark, prove only that and found a compliant years had passed since the death of with the help of three illegitimate himself

Only one of the witnesses with the family. This was Nepomuk's daughter. Was his testimony would have led to believe that Johann was "living in Spital," where about the altered document

If there was deliberate and August Kubizek, a friend, reason was a very simple daughters and the family. He therefore wrote a will on condition that he should be found.

On January 6, 1877, it recorded in the government Schicklgruber was always

The mystery of Alois' records possess no legal force. It was the Austrian custom of legitimacy unless they considered considerable wealth. If a man no obligation to submit to legal proceedings. He sim of the matter. The fact that Hiedler has no specification on a name that was set

To the question: Who Both Johann Nepomuk are candidates, but there are them. Nor are there any c A number of photographs

A scene

Maria Anna
Georg Hiedler
+ Johann Nepomuk
Can't marry you
Can't marry my brother

What'll we do for money?
He's wife's son

He's wife's son
He's wife's son

Get a list of his cases in Graz + black mail of Jewish family in Graz

* HH was not like this possible. It's argument is that the intensity of the Frank's life could only come from a close union of the genes of the father and mother.

* D.T. We could find out but it would take too much disbursement of effort

It's not a proper witness

→ all the evidence of his intellectual behavior points to a few. Moreover, this shows the inevitable brain and fortitude of the Father, since death or serious malformation is the very highly predominant factor of 1st degree mutations.

THE YOUNG HITLER I KNEW

e of his father with great respect. I never heard
hing against him, in spite of their differences of
it his career. In fact he respected him more as
a. Adolf did not take it amiss that his father
cally decided on his son's future career; for this
d his right, even his duty. It was quite a differ-
hen Raubal, his step-sister's husband, this un-
son, who was himself only a little revenue offi-
l to himself this right. Adolf would certainly
m to interfere in his personal affairs. But the
is father still remained, even after his death,
he struggle with which Adolf developed his
His father's attitude had provoked him first to
open rebellion. There were violent scenes,
ided in the father giving him a good hiding,
ne himself. But Adolf matched this violence
uthful obstinacy, and the antagonism between
grew sharper.

official Alois Hitler showed a marked sense
l his life. Consequently we have good pic-
im at various stages of his life. Not so much
, which were always under an unlucky star,
us promotions in his career, did he have his
Most of the pictures show him, with his digni-
it's face, in gala uniform of white trousers
on which the double row of highly polished
l. The man's face is impressive. A broad,
e most notable feature being the side whisk-
those of his supreme master, the Emperor.
f the eyes is penetrating and incorruptible,
who, as a customs official, is obliged to view
suspicion. But in most pictures dignity
"inquisitiveness" of the gaze. Even the pic-
time when Alois Hitler had already retired
an was, in spirit, still on duty. Although

ing strengthened his
self

PORTRAIT OF HIS FATHER

he was past sixty he didn't show any of the typical signs of
age. One of the pictures, probably the last one, which can
also be seen on his grave in Leonding, shows Alois Hitler as
a man whose life consisted of service and duty. To be sure
there is also an earlier photograph, dating from his Leonding
days, which, emphasising his private life, depicts him as a
comfortable, well-to-do citizen, fond of good living.

Alois Hitler's rise from being the illegitimate son of a poor
servant girl to the position of a respected civil servant is the
path from insignificance and inferior status to the highest
rank open to him in the service of the State.

His colleagues in the Customs Service describe him as a
precise, dutiful official who was very strict and had his "weak
spots." As a superior Alois Hitler was not very popular. Out
of office he was considered a liberal-minded man who did not
conceal his convictions. He was very proud of his rank.
Every day he would pay his morning visit to the inn with
an official's punctuality. His regular drinking companions
found him good company but he could flare up over trifles
and become rude, displaying both his inborn violence and
the sternness that he had acquired in his job.

His illegitimate birth is conclusively proved by the Church
register of the Parish of Strones. According to this, the forty-
two-year-old servant maid Anna Maria Schicklgruber gave
birth to a son on July 7, 1837, who was christened Alois.
The godfather was her employer, the peasant Johann Trum-
melschlager, in Strones. As far as is known the child was
the first and the only one. The identity of the father was
not revealed by the mother.

Anna Maria Schicklgruber married the mill worker Jo-
hann Georg Hiedler in 1842 when the illegitimate child was
already five years old. The Church Register of Döllersheim
contains the following entry:

The undersigned hereby confirm that Johann Georg
* Dr. T. Kless believed that a child
with Alois could, therefore, go very far.

Alois

39

1889

He had
the faint
dark
calves
of the
the
by the
of the
official
which
patron
look
June
on the
day
with
reiner

1889

1889

THE CASE OF THE MISSING TESTICLE

1889 Klara Hitler was not only worried about her son's feeding and toilet training. While cajoling or forcing him to eat more food, to move his bowels regularly and on schedule, and to control his bladder, she also could have fretted about an anatomical defect she may have detected in her son: one of his testicles was missing. One can speculate that she periodically felt the little boy's scrotum, checking anxiously to see if the testis had descended. Such solicitous concern would have heightened Adolf's infantile sexual feelings and increased the difficulty of a healthy mother-son relationship.

Since the matter is of considerable importance to the psychological development of Hitler from infancy onward, let us pause here and come to grips with the problem of the Führer's testicles.

It can now be affirmed that the British Tommies were right all along in the first line of their version of the *Colonel Bogey March*—they were manifestly mistaken in the last:

Hitler has only got one ball,
Göring has two, but very small;
Himmler is very similar,
And Goebbels has no balls at all.

Ribald speculation yielded to medical evidence only after World War II, when the Soviet government released the report of an autopsy performed by Red Army pathologists on Adolf Hitler's body, whose partially burned remains were found in May 1945 in a shallow grave outside the Führer's Berlin air raid shelter.* The relevant medical findings are clear:

The left testicle could not be found either in the scrotum or on the spermatic cord inside the inguinal canal, or in the small pelvis. . . .

Before pursuing the matter any further, it would be well to establish the identity of the corpse the Russians examined. Positive identification could be made only after comparing Soviet evidence of the teeth of their cadaver with the X rays, diagrams, and pictures of Hitler's head and teeth which were found after the war by U.S. authorities in the files of Hitler's doctors and his dentist, a 1911 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Dental School named Hugo Johannes Blaschke. Werner Maser, who is sometimes considered the world's lead-

* Although the autopsy was performed on 8 May 1945, the report was not released until 1968, in a book published in both German and English. See Lev Bezymenski, *The Death of Adolf Hitler: Unknown Documents from Soviet Archives* (New York, 1968).

The Child As Father to the

ing authority on details knowledge of the dental was fraudulent. Hugh 7 its findings.⁵⁷ But after Germany's distinguished Maser and Trevor-Rope correct: the teeth of 1 Hitler.⁵⁸

That conclusion ha Norwegian specialists in nals, they set forth the represented the facts, as to Hitler. An American Army, and who had ac Dr. Blaschke in 1945-1 the present Russian stor successfully made on th

The most authorita however, has been mac ists in odontology. With over all the extant ro documents from Hitler: compared these data "u matic, and descriptive findings are clear and in

The individual iden U.S. National Arch: autopsy report [as] ously unknown doc

Two conclusions tl the Soviet pathologists p and in that body the left

Nevertheless, there sexual apparatus was : doubted fact that Hitler doctors, Morell and Gie: unusual about Hitler's t are of dubious value on he never allowed them t had had an opportunity been adequate to the ta of his scrotum.

No doubt Doctors physical examination.) not persuasive. Morell

1889

D.T. The S.O. informed me that the exact moment was much in doubt (Jefferson) but the possibility was live after 176) HITLER AND THE OCCULT *is a good one*

1889

Despite these and similar accounts of Hitler's astrological belief, accounts that continued sporadically throughout the war, there appear to be no authenticated records showing that Hitler ever overtly expressed any abiding interest or learned curiosity in astrology, horoscopes, or the like.

One of the most persistent aspects of the astrological-Hitler link is to be found in the still surviving belief he was born under a rare combination of stars that ensured his infamous life. Professional writers Anthony West, a native of New York, and Jan Gerhard Toonder, a Dutchman, say the conjunction of stars at the moment of Hitler's birth is traditionally conceded to generate the most violent qualities of which human nature is capable.⁶ The two writers, who have a mutual interest in astrology, drew up a chart for a child born at 6:22 P.M. on 20 April 1889. It shows one of the highlights of its aspects is the relationship of Venus and Mars to Saturn (they are both "square," that is, at an angle of 90 degrees to Saturn). The chart shows Venus, the "ruler" of this horoscope, could scarcely be more seriously afflicted.

The conjunction (of Venus) to Mars, by itself capable of blending the charm of Venus with the energy of Mars, is turned both sour and violent by their mutual square to Saturn. The Venus-Saturn square is held to bring out the worst and most selfish aspects of any given nature, while the Mars-Saturn square is traditionally conceded to generate the most violent qualities of which human nature is capable.

... Needless to say, not all people born with such a configuration turn out to be Hitler, but an astrologer would expect something "Hitlerian" from anyone with such a Venus-Mars-Saturn configuration.⁷

One problem here is that they used the *wrong time* for his birth. The Branau parish register volume nineteen shows Hitler was born at 6:30 P.M. on 20 April 1889.⁸ Werner Maser asserts that there is no substance in the much canvassed view that after 1938 the original entries were tampered with.⁹ Howe also agrees on the 6:30 P.M. birth time.¹⁰

1889

27

The Early Years

repetition of material

Adolf Hitler's birth certificate records that he was born at six o'clock in the evening on April 20, 1889, and it goes on to record that two days later, at a quarter past three in the afternoon, in the presence of Father Ignaz Probst, the boy was baptized in the local church. On the certificate Adolf's name is given as Adolfus. Alois Hitler is described as a customs official, and Klara is described as "the legitimate daughter of Johann Pölzl, peasant, and of Johanna, born Hitler." We learn that the midwife was Franziska Pointecker and the godparents were Johann and Johanna Prinz, distant relatives of the family, originally from Spital but now living in Vienna. Another godparent was Johanna, Klara's sister.

In the normal course of events Alois Hitler's parentage would also be recorded on the birth certificate. Presumably this was not done because the recorder of the diocese of Linz, who issued the certificate, was aware of his illegitimacy. The Church was responsible for all birth certificates and in its wisdom preferred not to give offense.

The small border town of Braunau am Inn, founded in the thirteenth century, had some importance in history. There remained some crumbling medieval walls and seventeenth-century fortifications, and the imposing Stefanskirche with its Gothic vaults. The town had been fought over during the Napoleonic wars, and it was remembered that Johann Palm, a Nuremberg bookseller, had been shot there for having written a pamphlet against Napoleon entitled *Germany in the Hour of Her Deepest Humiliation*.

Although Adolf was sickly at birth and for some weeks Klara feared he would share the fate of her other children, he grew into a sturdy child. A photograph taken when he was nine or ten months old shows him to have inherited her features: the same oval face, the same bright

Feb 01 schedule

Friday, 9 Feb

make sure NM has his Cape Air commuter book.

Norris drives to NYC

Sat 10 Feb

4:30pm Cape Air to Boston conf code TYZNQT

5:30pm Delta shuttle to LGA

9pm River Café, dinner with Ivan—waiting to hear confirmatio of the time from Ivan's office, although Mona guessed he would like 9pm. Gave message that he should make reservations.

Sunday 11 Feb

documentary on the '60s and The Armies of the Night

10:30 TV crew arrives at 142

11:30 am NM does half an hour on camera

load out

2:30pm John's play

The Producers' Club

358 W 44th Street between 8th and 9th

4-8 Al's birthday party

258 W 11th St

Monday 12 Feb

11:30am Delta shuttle to Boston, arrive 12:30pm

1:30pm Cape Air to Ptown, conf code UEUFKO you will need your commuter book.

1938

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

Munich apartment one winter day in 1937 to examine and measure his head. The leader of the group, who must have been acutely embarrassed by the whole affair, was Professor Ferdinand Sauerbruch, a surgeon of international reputation. He was obliged to watch as phrenologists and craniologists, armed with all manner of calipers and tapes, took meticulous measurements of every conceivable part of the Führer's skull. They measured from ear to ear; from forehead to vertebrae; from eye socket to eye socket; from eye to ear; from ear to chin. . . . All measurements were annotated and compared with those computed from the death masks or portraits of famous people. Hitler was as delighted as a child to hear his experts proclaim that he had certain measurements remarkably like those of Frederick the Great or Bismarck or Napoleon. He nodded benignly and said, "Yes, yes, record it all." Posterity seems to have been deprived of the annotated drawings that were made on that day.¹⁰

What was there about Hitler's past that made him so concerned about his head, eyes, hands, and nostrils? Why did he play that staring game with dinner guests?

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Childishness

One of the striking personal characteristics of this political giant who bestrode Europe for a decade was his infantilism. There was in him little capacity for mental, emotional, artistic, or sexual growth. The tastes, opinions, and life-style of the chancellor were those of the child and adolescent of Leonding, Linz, and Vienna.

He sought to cling to his childhood by remembering it in dozens of sentimental soliloquies about his boyhood escapades; he was convinced that a magic elixir of youth really did exist, and he thought seriously of sending an expedition to India to find it. He became a vegetarian partly because he believed that a diet which (he reminded his secretaries) prolonged the lives of elephants would also add to his own.

Like a child, he sought oral gratification by sucking inordinate amounts of sweets and chocolates. The granddaughter of Richard Wagner remembered that as a little girl she and her sisters were fascinated by the amount of sugar and chocolates Hitler consumed while visiting their mother. He told them that he ate two pounds of chocolates every day. They waited expectantly for him to miscount the number of teaspoonfuls of sugar he invariably put in his tea, but he never miscalculated. Always there were seven—it was his favorite number. His valet

mis.

The Image and the Man

recalls that his master was 1 ments of tension. During a "room, down several chocolates, of agitation, the leader of the sucking his little finger."¹¹

The child of Leonding likewise enjoyed doing the same record the Führer's enthusiasms. Württemberg, Hitler "was like whistling." On a picnic to the taneous child—enthusiastic and

Hitler took boyish delight when female performers were favorite diversion was movies. recalled that Hitler had given German and all foreign films routine was to see at least one

war effort was to give up his b he saw only newsreels; after 5 of films he saw, two were parti the Seven Dwarfs, which was absolutely enthralled by little blond girl no bigger than days. His favorite movie actresses

The Führer liked to play (Beaver Game), was played se train. Anyone who saw a mai counted up his triumphs. Th assures us, when the Führer vented a game of bowling pla balls and if he knocked down turn; if he failed, the game w could undress and dress hims Hitler's bedroom—would stanc "Los!" When Hitler had finish rush out of the room to see if l

He enjoyed games that b fective actor and an excellen poked fun at the one-armed p press director who was deaf. I ordinates by having someone c "Führer orders" while he whis intimidate the victim.¹⁵

There was nothing childis they were executed with a ma remarkable ability to exploit instinctive reaction to his tri

1938

1938

*

8

D.T. They eat sugar to feel warm and sensual, alive and close to God. We encourage sugar except in the case of those people the Q.O. wishes to keep alive a little longer, but in the main, sugar accelerates them over us, for it has

to be said
—living in
our
jurisdiction
does
produce
& contain
ambition
in them.

HIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

to examine and measure his
have been acutely embarrassed
and Sauerbruch, a surgeon of
ed to watch as phrenologists
ver of callipers and tapes, took
ceivable part of the Führer's
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to ear; from ear to chin. . . .
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his tea, but he never miscal-
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The Image and the Man

recalls that his master was particularly drawn to chocolates in mo-
ments of tension. During a "Führer conference" he would leave the
room, down several chocolates, then return to the meeting. In moments
of agitation, the leader of the Thousand Year Reich had the habit of
sucking his little finger.¹¹

The child of Leonding liked to go on expeditions and picnics: the
adult enjoyed doing the same things. Diary entries of a close associate
record the Führer's enthusiasm. In April 1926, on a motor trip to
Württemberg, Hitler "was like a youth, exuberant, singing, laughing,
whistling." On a picnic to the Königssee he was "like a beloved, spon-
taneous child—enthusiastic and rapturous."¹²

Hitler took boyish delight in circuses and became very excited
when female performers were endangered by wild animals. But his
favorite diversion was movies. A director of the German UFA Studios
recalled that Hitler had given a standing order "to have every new film,
German and all foreign films shown at the Chancellery." His regular
routine was to see at least one film a night. His idea of sacrificing for the
war effort was to give up his beloved movies. After the start of the war
he saw only newsreels; after Stalingrad, no newsreels. Of the hundreds
of films he saw, two were particular favorites: Disney's *Snow White and*
the Seven Dwarfs, which was shown many times, and *King Kong*. He
was absolutely enthralled by the story of the great ape who loved a
little blond girl no bigger than his finger. He talked about the film for
days. His favorite movie actress was Shirley Temple.¹³

The Führer liked to play games. One of them, called *Biberspiel*
(Beaver Game), was played sedulously by the entourage on his personal
train. Anyone who saw a man with a beard called out "Beaver!" and
counted up his triumphs. There was great excitement, his secretary
assures us, when the Führer won—which he usually did. He also in-
vented a game of bowling played at the Berghof. He would take three
balls and if he knocked down all the pins, someone else could have a
turn; if he failed, the game was over. He also liked to see how fast he
could undress and dress himself. His valet—who was not allowed in
Hitler's bedroom—would stand by the door with a stop watch and call
"Los!" When Hitler had finished dressing, he would cry "*Schluss!*" and
rush out of the room to see if he had broken his record.¹⁴

He enjoyed games that hurt or embarrassed other people. An ef-
fective actor and an excellent mimic, he worked up routines which
poked fun at the one-armed publisher, Max Amann, and an assistant
press director who was deaf. He liked to frighten and confuse his sub-
ordinates by having someone call them on the telephone with imperious
"Führer orders" while he whispered instructions that were designed to
intimidate the victim.¹⁵

There was nothing childish about Hitler's prewar diplomatic coups:
they were executed with a mature and masterful sense of timing and a
remarkable ability to exploit the weaknesses of his victims. But his
instinctive reaction to his triumphs was a childlike pleasure in the

1939,

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

"surprises" he had played on an unsuspecting world. A member of his intimate circle recalled that during the military reoccupation of the Rhineland in March 1936, which crushed the treaties of Versailles and Locarno under the jarring cadence of the Wehrmacht's boots, "Hitler's face assumed that expression which [we] knew so well meant that he was enjoying a little joke of his own." During the occupation of Austria in March 1938, he led his unsuspecting entourage to the middle of a bridge over the Inn River. They were astonished when Austrian children greeted Hitler as their Führer and presented him with flowers. Hitler "turned round and laughed joyously at our surprised faces. Another surprise packet had come off!" When he forced President Hacha of Czechoslovakia to sign his country over to him in March 1939, Hitler ran up joyously to his secretaries and exclaimed, "Children, I am so happy, I'd really like to stand on my head!" Informed that the Soviet-Nazi Pact had been signed in August 1939, he turned to his court and exclaimed, "Won't that just make the world sit up again!" And in a mood of complete abandon . . . he slapped himself delightedly on the knee and exclaimed, "That will really land them [the Western Powers] in the soup!"¹⁰

A newsreel camera recorded for history the reaction of the man who, after the fall and humiliation of France, had just been proclaimed "The Greatest Military Commander of All Time": he giggled and slapped his thigh with delight.

Hitler characteristically dealt with disappointment and opposition in much the same way he had as a pampered mother's boy in Leonding and Linz: he sulked, ran away and hid, or staged a temper tantrum. A British diplomat recalls that when a dinner conversation did not go according to the Führer's liking, "He behaved throughout like a spoiled, sulky child."

His famous rages were seldom caused by important political or military defeats. When thwarted in his bid for the presidency in 1932, defeated at Stalingrad or the Battle of the Bulge, or confronted by assassination attempts, he took it all calmly and with great self-control. At the end, when defeat was obvious and the decision had been made to die in Berlin, many in his entourage were in a state of hysteria. But not Hitler. His stenographer recalled that at the last military conference he was "generally composed" and the one who "kept his nerves best under control."¹¹ His rages tended to be occasioned by little things. When someone disagreed with him, a valet forgot his favorite mineral water, or it was suggested that he had whistled a tune incorrectly, he would scream or beat his fists upon the table or the walls, sometimes spreading himself out as if crucified. No reliable witness, however, ever saw him lying on the floor chewing a rug. The sobriquet *Teppichfresser* (carpet eater) was not justified.

It has sometimes been suggested that Hitler's fury was carefully staged for effect, that it was a weapon in his armory used to frighten opponents into submission. Certainly he enjoyed his success in reducing

mis.

The Image and the Man

the old and ill President Hacha of mission by screaming threats to obliterated and graphic pictures given suggests neither premeditation nor Swedish visitor in August 1939 had resist Nazi aggression against Poland

Hitler jumped up and became very and down and declared, as if Germany was invincible. . . . So the room and stared straight at more garbled, his whole behavior who was not at all himself. Se . . . "If there is a war," he U-Boats, U-Boats!" His voice gradually one could no longer lected himself, raised his voice and screamed, "I'll build airplanes, I'll annihilate my enemies!" At demon in bad fiction than amazement. . . .¹⁸

On other occasions he deliberately effect. In any case, whether calculate the weapons of a child, the means of a doting mother into compliance with

Hitler went to the Western Commander in chief of all German military had gone on picnics as a boy. One of recalled that Hitler liked to take sun where they were going. He would in 1940 he told his entourage that they would not say where. A guessing game false channels by Hitler and by those you should take bathing suits along sealskin trophy. To make the game more nameplates removed from the town was passing. Not until the entourage artillery fire did Hitler announce pro He proclaimed in boyish triumph: "The Western powers has begun!"¹⁰

Both as boy and man, Hitler liked and American cowboys and Indians, adventure stories of Karl May, a German frontier without visiting the locale an "ern" language which his heroes spouted. The hero, Old Shatterhand—

1941, 1942

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

fellows!" [Zum Henker, Kerle!], "Well, I shall be bounced," and "Pshaw and damnation, sir!"—was an incredible marksman who knocked out the eyes of Indians or broke a hangman's rope at 50 yards with his 48-shot rifle. Always victorious in the face of staggering odds, he defeated his enemies through the power of his will, bravery, and treachery.

Hitler of course was not alone in his admiration for May's intrepid hero. The books sold by the thousands, and a generation of German boys were enthralled by Old Shatterhand's exploits. Few, however, could match Hitler in the intensity of his loyalty or the longevity of his infatuation. As chancellor, he had a special shelf built in his library to hold, in a place of honor, the results of May's prolific pen, specially bound in vellum. He read and reread the stories and commended them highly in his *Tischgespräche*. They served—along with the movie version of *Grapes of Wrath*—as a main source of his knowledge about America. He also had the idea that Karl May knew best how to fight the Soviet Army, telling his valet, "I have ordered every officer to carry with him . . . Karl May's books about fighting Indians. That's the way the Russians fight—hidden like Indians behind trees and bridges, they jump out for the kill!"²⁰

Hitler's passion for building and rebuilding on an enormous scale will be discussed later. But here, too, one notes a childlike quality: the master of Germany playing with building blocks. A former minister of finance recalled with amazement the scene he encountered when he was summoned to Hitler's office to discuss a loan from the Reichsbank to finance one of the Führer's building projects:

When the door was opened, there was Hitler lying on the floor with a number of toy buildings carefully arranged in front of him. . . . Hitler did not arise when his guest was announced, but invited his guest to join him on the floor. His first remark was "Isn't this beautiful? We must make Berlin the most beautiful city in the world." The official agreed that it was, but maintained that its realization at the moment was impossible. . . .

But Hitler was not defeated. He lay flat on his stomach staring at the models for a considerable period of time in silence. Suddenly he turned to his visitor and said like a little child with tears in his voice, "But you can't take this away from me. I will be so unhappy. You must let me have it!"²¹

The Führer liked to build things; he also liked to knock them down. In the basement of the Reichschancellery there was a miniature cannon with a barrel about 30 inches long and a special silencer built into the chamber. Hitler delighted in loading, aiming, and firing the little piece himself. His targets were wooden buildings and figures of "enemy" soldiers: Polish, English, French, and Russian—the Russians were painted with ugly, leering faces. As a very special favor to his

12

Shatterhand is Western's hand

mis.

The Image and the Man

friend Mussolini, Hitler let him play with it himself.²²

Ever since he was a little boy, Adolf at night. As an adult he insisted that with him and talk—or rather hear him Eva Braun, quite frankly, "I really shud at night." After his guests had left, his adjutant, Schaub, and had him sit with

Hitler's personal immaturity found he established for Germany. The Third historic actualization of a perverse child Lord of the Flies further brutalized and created by both adolescents (Adolf and the weak, mindless destruction, murder, cruelty, forced happiness decreed by primitive symbols, and incessant march song was much the same; only the version, "The blood of the Jew will squirt: children's chant of "Kill the pig! Spill his

The solutions Hitler found to problems were often childish and crude diplomats by saying that the best way in India was to kill the leaders of the he said, "and if that does not suffice to a dozen leading members of Congress; a hundred more and so on until order is

Humorlessness and Rigidity

Neither the boy nor the man had a friend of his youth said that Hitler was self-irony and that "one thing he could thing with a smile." Many years later Office recalled: "I never experienced a his table . . . Concerning people, Hitler and derogatory. Qualities such as for were completely foreign to him." A private the end of his life noted that Hitler himself sometimes gave a "sort of barking Schadenfreude . . . [but] I must say that heartily." And a valet who had served never laughed out loud. At least I never hearty laughter." Speer disagrees about humor or the source of his merriment though he could laugh loudly . . . so laughter. Often he would wipe tears from

He whenever he has distress (for all to say) does possess the most kind

Schubert
Scene

1941

1942

mis.

GOD: ADOLF HITLER

all be bounced," and "Pshaw marksman—who knocked out Europe at 50 yards with his staggering odds, he defeated bravely, and treachery.

admiration for May's intrepid and a generation of German exploits. Few, however, could pity or the longevity of his shelf built in his library to May's prolific pen, specially stories and commended them along with the movie source of his knowledge about May knew best how to fight the every officer to carry with the Indians. That's the way the behind trees and bridges, they

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The Image and the Man

friend Mussolini, Hitler let him play with his toy, loading and shooting it himself.²²

Ever since he was a little boy, Adolf had been afraid to be left alone at night. As an adult he insisted that his entourage or guests stay up with him and talk—or rather hear him talk—often until dawn. He told Eva Braun, quite frankly, "I really shudder at the thought of being alone at night." After his guests had left, he often rang for his dull-witted adjutant, Schaub, and had him sit with him until daybreak.²³

Hitler's personal immaturity found expression in the government he established for Germany. The Third Reich was in many ways the historic actualization of a perverse child's fantasies—William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* further brutalized and made real. The social orders created by both adolescents (Adolf and Jack) demanded contempt for the weak, mindless destruction, murder of the innocent, gratuitous cruelty, forced happiness decreed by the leader, total commitment to primitive symbols, and incessant marching and song. The meaning of song was much the same; only the words were different. The Nazi version, "The blood of the Jew will squirt from our knives," paralleled the children's chant of "Kill the pig! Spill his blood! Do him in!"

The solutions Hitler found to complex political and moral problems were often childish and cruelly simple. He startled British diplomatists by saying that the best way to deal with passive resistance in India was to kill the leaders of the Congress Party. "Shoot Gandhi," he said, "and if that does not suffice to reduce them to submission, shoot a dozen leading members of Congress; if that does not suffice, shoot two hundred more and so on until order is established."²⁴

Humorlessness and Rigidity

Neither the boy nor the man had a sense of humor. The only close friend of his youth said that Hitler was totally lacking in a spirit of self-irony and that "one thing he could not do was to pass over something with a smile." Many years later a high official of the Foreign Office recalled: "I never experienced a normal bantering conversation at his table . . . Concerning people, Hitler's judgments were usually bitter and derogatory. Qualities such as forbearance, humor and self-irony were completely foreign to him." A private secretary who was with him at the end of his life noted that Hitler liked to play tricks on people and sometimes gave a "sort of barking gurgles when he read of some *Schadenfreude* . . . [but] I must say that I never once heard him laugh heartily." And a valet who had served him a dozen years reported, "He never laughed out loud. At least I never once heard him break out in a hearty laughter." Speer disagrees about the laughter, but not about his humor or the source of his merriment: "Hitler had no humor . . . although he could laugh loudly . . . sometimes literally writhing with laughter. Often he would wipe tears from his eyes during such spasms.

* Whenever he kept me at a distance (for all humans, I am sad to say, do possess this power, I would insert the most hideous cleavage upon him — we don't possess this power. we need it. Otherwise, our desires could reject us completely with every little change of heart

late 20's
early 30's
THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

Hoffman
He liked laughing, but it was always laughter at the expense of others." He never told off-color stories nor permitted them to be told in his presence. Moreover, he had a horror of being laughed at. Before wearing a new suit or hat in public he would have himself photographed privately and consult with his photographer over the suitability of his new wardrobe.

He is said to have laughed uproariously at one joke which he liked to have repeated: "Question: 'Why is a swan's neck so long?' Answer: 'So that the swan doesn't get drowned [sic].'"²⁵

Hitler was as inflexible as he was humorless. Time and time again he spoke of flexibility as weakness and of obstinacy as strength. He was proud of his rigidity and thought of it as the key to his success. "I have attained success," he remarked, "because I would never allow myself to be deterred through weakness from a perception once it was given me."²⁶

During his nightly wartime monologues, he looked back longingly—and interminably—on his youth to emphasize the same point he had made in his memoirs: how little he had changed. He insisted, for example, that his early years in Vienna were absolutely crucial to his career because "at that time I formed an image of the world and a view of life which became the foundation for my actions . . . I have had to change nothing." Even the thought of changing his ideas was "very embarrassing" to him. He reminisced by the hour about past political decisions and victories which he attributed to inflexible stubbornness. He was fond, for example, of reminding his entourage of the successful gamble he had taken in marching into the Rhineland in 1936, and concluded, "What saved us was my *unshakable obstinacy* and my amazing aplomb."²⁷

Four thoughtful people who observed four different periods of his life all stressed the same characteristic. His boyhood friend wrote that Hitler's single most evident trait was "the unparalleled constancy in everything that he said and did. There was in his nature something firm, inflexible, immovable, obstinately rigid. . . . Adolf simply could not change his mind or nature. . . . How often did I experience this!" Forty years later a physician who knew Hitler well agreed: "It was impossible for anyone to induce Hitler to change his views. . . . Anyone who [tried to do so] produced only a stronger fixation of his prejudices." A Swiss diplomat also affirmed that it was counterproductive to try to dissuade Hitler from a line of action. While serving as the League of Nations' high commissioner in Danzig, Professor Carl Burckhardt, a distinguished relative of the great historian, was incensed by the persecution of Polish Jews and tried to intercede on their behalf. He discovered that his efforts only led to further persecution, noting sadly, "Every protest only had the result of goading Hitler on to the most brutal attack." Finally, Albert Speer, who knew Hitler best during World War II, was convinced that the Führer's intellectual development stopped with the world as he had known it in Vienna in 1910. The

mis.
The Image and the Man

Ringstrasse remained for him absolute the rifle he had used in World War I with soldiers three decades later.²⁸

Inability or refusal to change was his life-style and personal habits. The tained the same grammatical mistakes: cards sent from Vienna and from the vocabulary in private conversation words he had learned as a boy in rural *gespräche* we find him speaking of *Dimdln*, *Lackln*; he also uses such expressions as *kre* mal writings and speeches he had a pench phrases. Thus, in his memoirs dictated in 1928), and in conversations recorded in "The Holy Grail of the German Blood" ment of Decomposition."²⁹

As a youth in Vienna, he promise write a great political work and design with a swastika, with the author's na often in the future: "A. Hitler." The went through many editions, but Hi change it. A careful analysis of all the shows that Hitler permitted his publi: to correct grammatical mistakes.³⁰

Intimates all agreed that Hitler's smallest detail. As chancellor, when went through the same field every time of wood from exactly the same spot in attempt to persuade him to deviate considerable agitation and anger on his remembers similar behavior. Adolf ha the same lonely spot outside town familiar to him."

His personal hygiene was highly many times every day; he brushed his He kept the same suits, raincoats, sh wore a necktie until it disintegrated. often that he knew the serial numbers

At Berchtesgaden and in the Cf meals had a fixed seating order made structions. The slightest deviation fr his fury. The topics discussed at me subjects coming up over and over an evening before the war there were o repeated many times. At midnight around the blazing fire, where Hitler

ETHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

to have the war while he was speech to the commanders of his. Essentially all depends on me, talents. . . . My existence is can be eliminated at any time by how much longer I shall live. One of the Party leaders he con- glasses. Therefore I prefer to then at sixty." 48

ing imperishable memories and wished to raise a generation of from the fear that beset their all learn to overcome the fear of Hitler insisted, who was afraid of above everything else." 49

It would bring a continuation of that he would live on longer in to keep my hold on people after they look up at and go home to end in the mere form of death.

On another occasion, he told his in history. I have to gain im- tion perishes in the process." 50

throughout his life. As a boy, loved his love, he plotted a dual Munich Putsch, he drew three victorious with me or die with bullets in my pistol: three for my and the last bullet is for me." And

Hall, "Morning will either find a many or us dead." After the Party's said, despondently to Goebbels make an end of it all within three

on this period of dejection and myself because there was no acquaintance confirmed that Hitler of 1933. "He said that he could against him and that I'll put an end

ference with Wehrmacht leaders on continuing concern with his own sui- In the midst of an oration about he shouted, "When one's nerves say I can't go on' and shoot one- again to the story he had so often

The Image and the Man

1926 * mis.
told of a lovely woman, "a really beautiful woman," who was insulted by her husband and told to leave. "So the woman goes off, writes a letter of farewell, and shoots herself." A few minutes later he told the story of yet another beautiful woman whose husband had died: "She said she couldn't go on living, in spite of her children. Then she shot herself. That's what a woman can do. She's got the strength and soldiers haven't." Hitler's comments about suicidal women may have reflected his experience with Eva Braun, who understood him better than most people. He had first met her in 1930 but had paid her scant attention until first in 1932 and again in 1935 she attempted to kill herself. Hitler was so impressed that he invited her to move into the Berghof. In 1938, when he became momentarily infatuated with Miss Unity Mitford, Fräulein Braun again threatened suicide and Hitler immediately restored her to favor. As we shall see, five of the six women with whom Hitler had intimate relations committed suicide—or came perilously close to doing so.⁵²

Among the many childish games Adolf Hitler played was a form of substitute suicide. He disliked tying his own necktie and had his valet do it for him. Hitler made a game of it—but one that he took very seriously. He would hold his breath and count slowly to ten. If Linge could finish the knot before Hitler had finished counting, the Führer was greatly relieved.⁵³

Decapitation was the form of death which particularly fascinated Hitler. He spoke often of severed heads. Not only did he make his famous promise that when he came to power "heads will roll in the sand," but a statement years before to an intimate suggests that he sometimes thought of the possibility of his own decapitation. On 24 July 1926 he confided, "My head will not roll in the sand until I have completed my mission." 54

When Hitler flipped a coin to determine whether he should go on a picnic, heads did not win. Heads invariably lost.

When he was asked what he would do upon first landing in England, he replied without hesitation that he wanted most to see the place where Henry VIII chopped off the heads of his wives.

When Hitler designed a sort of promissory note for the Party in the mid-1920s—redeemable when he became ruler of Germany—he showed an idealized German warrior holding in his right hand a sword dripping blood, and in his left hand the severed head of a woman suspended by her blond hair. Under the picture in heavy Gothic type was printed "Warrior of the Truth, Behead the Lie." It is noteworthy that the Warrior is enjoined not to fight, not to pierce, but to decapitate the young lady.⁵⁵

Hitler's definition of politics was one that does not seem to have occurred to Aristotle, Jefferson, Gladstone, or Lincoln: "Politics is like a harlot; if you love her unsuccessfully she bites your head off." 56

The historic figures he particularly admired were associated in his

* Prelude to Celtic Rant 21

was served

GOD: ADOLF HITLER

ds of fantasy and reality
he life of the Third Reich.
his own fantasies and ex-
n reality. In a highly re-
s: "I suffer from torment-

created of himself grew
he self-proclaimed worker
miracles. And with frantic
to the problem. Thus he
n April 1945 meant the
prisoners would volunteer
uns in an "Anti-Bolshevik
the Russians in April 1945
chill and Roosevelt would

y miracles he conjured up
al illusion of supernatural

ard. As a private first-class
, and deserved to win, the
ear was one of the driving
courage. The world to Hit-
nent to undo him. Anyone
sprache can list a whole
rehension in the Führer.
, journalists, Communists,
ademics, Poles, meat eat-
smokers, Americans, and
l in man himself: human

use for apprehension:

is rooted in our spiritual
fleeing past us. Restless-
our people. The whole of

legitimate to ask whether
expressed convictions of

ompassed Germany, there
as frightened by all man-
l by horses—although he

two are cannot
iron on the
ground.

1934, 1943
The Image and the Man

mis.

loved to look at pictures and statues of stallions. He was afraid that
his body odors were offensive and was so disturbed by his flatulence
that he took huge quantities of "Dr. Koster's Anti-Gas Pills,"—which
contained strychnine and atropin. He was convinced that microbes
"pounced" on him personally.¹⁰⁰

Since his fears were so many, so great, and so unbearable, he
felt a great need to consolidate them all into one single fear that he
could recognize, one that would explain all others, and one upon which
he could release all his pent-up anger and hatred. He found it, as we
shall see, in the Jewish people.

Other Personal Dualities

Hitler could be a delightful and considerate dinner companion.
He was also a boor, offensively gauche, insufferably rude. He did not
like women guests to wear lipstick and often told them that lipstick
was—manufactured—variously—from sewage, human fat, or kitchen
garbage. Once, when ladies at the table were served suckling pig, Hit-
ler announced loudly, "That looks exactly like a roast baby to me."¹⁰¹

At social gatherings he was often timid, vulnerable, ill-at-ease.
He nervously checked and rechecked preparations for his teas and
worried whether his guests would have a good time. He fretted over
which tie he should wear. Anxiously he would seek reassurance that
everything was fine. He would mutter while planning the event, "I'll
show them that I know as much as they do about such matters."¹¹¹

Hitler was both frugal and profligate. His eating habits—with the
exception of chocolates, cake, and other sweets—were austere. At one
time he developed a liking for caviar but gave it up because it was
"sinfully expensive." His spartan field headquarters during the war
reminded his generals of a combination of "a monastery and a concen-
tration camp."

Yet Hitler was a very rich man. The revenue he received from
having his portrait on German stamps added to royalties from *Mein*
Kampf came to over a million dollars. He had owed over half a million
Reichsmarks in back taxes when he became chancellor, but he or-
dered these obligations canceled, and he paid no taxes after 1934.
As his architect reminds us, he threw away billions of marks on
unnecessary and unused buildings. "I have forgotten how many secret
headquarters I ordered built for him—nine, I think, seven of which he
seldom or never used."¹¹²

Hitler swung between the two poles of rigidity and movement. He
wanted many things to remain the same—political ideas, personal
habits, wearing apparel, members of his entourage, military strategy.
And he prided himself on being a rigid person. Yet there was always
a desire to change things and to move about a great deal—to redesign
and rebuild, to take sudden trips and excursions. He did not like to

* D.T. How we peached that
little tune. And his parts!

at such times even he had
some notion
an idea of my presence. "There
is a devil that won't let go
of me!" Naturally, he never
blamed it on all those vegetables
he ate, but then where is the vegetarian
who will take responsibility for his parts.

ADOLF HITLER

called it his movement

and unpredictably
he liked to think
on occasions he saw
barbarians! We want to
his self-image kept
and barbarity. Late
ed, "Thank God I al-
inclination to "soft-
ceptions of hardness
reflected, "When I
humane." But a few
the extermin-

self-image in adjacent
for example, he said,
do harm to anyone.
and . . . sentiment
night of 1-2 February
can say that I am full
nature." 113

moderate, but many of
other people. He sent
long motor trips he
himself ate; he sent at
the kindly Jewish doctor
remembered his family
both anniversary of a
about an old woman
he came to power when
an aide to find out if
for her. When another
arranged, Hitler was in-
in quiet talk to soothe
doctor in Munich named
received from Hitler
understanding that they
Nor did he forget his
Kubizek a food package
never discovered how

showed his thoughtful-
stood with several be-
making their hands and
have said that their chil-

The Image and the Man

1936

mis.

dren "simply adored him," and that Hitler was never so completely relaxed and genuinely friendly as when he was in the company of little children. "It was one of the few moments," a close associate recalls, "when a warm human feeling broke through." 114

He also had tender feelings about animals. During his Vienna days he always saved a bit of dried bread to feed the birds and squirrels in the Schönbrunn where he went to read on summer evenings. Hitler was very fond of birds and felt particularly drawn to ravens, a bird which in German literature often appears as the omen of misfortune and death. He gave special orders that ravens must never be molested.

During the first months after he attained power, Hitler signed three separate laws on the protection and treatment of animals, and the official *Reichsgesetzblatt* dutifully records in great detail definitions and penalties for cruel treatment, mishandling, and misfeeding. One regulation, dated 14 January 1936, shows particular solicitude about the suffering of lobsters and crabs. Hitler's decree sets forth new regulations for their preparation in all German restaurants:

Crabs, lobsters, and other crustaceans are to be killed by throwing them in rapidly boiling water. When feasible, this should be done individually.

High officials in Hitler's government had apparently debated the question of the most humane death for lobsters before this decree was passed, and two officials of the Ministry of Interior had prepared a scholarly disquisition on whether it was kinder to kill lobsters by placing them in cold water which was slowly brought to a boil or by pushing them headfirst into boiling water. The final decision, obviously, was that abrupt immersion in rapidly boiling water was the more humane. As jurists noted in the official introductory comments on the Law for the Protection of Animals, the purpose of the law, as approved by Adolf Hitler, was "to awaken and strengthen compassion [*Mitgefühl*] as one of the highest moral values of the German people." 115

Hitler's kindness to crustaceans did not always extend to human beings. During the same period that he fretted over lobsters, he is reported to have said to an associate, "Do I intend to eradicate whole races? . . . Of course I do. . . . Cruelty is impressive. Cruelty and brutal strength. . . . The masses want it. They need the thrill of terror to make them shudderingly submissive. I do not want concentration camps to become old age pensioners homes. Terror is the most effective way of politics." 116

The man who was constantly surrounded by people, and whose charisma appealed to millions of people, was a lonely person with no capacity for friendship. He abused and deserted August Kubizek, the only friend of his youth. He ordered the death of Ernst Röhm, a "du" friend of the early battle years. Rudolf Hess, whom he had once en-

1920, 1927

mis. 1920

GOD: ADOLF HITLER

The Image and the Man

Case to convince women that he was a
 man of overpowering virility. On one occasion, he had invited a young woman, Pauline Kohler, to the Obersalzberg to see his books. She recalled that during the course of a dull perusal in which she was losing interest, her host sought to gain her attention by suddenly stretching out his hand in the Nazi salute. He affected a deep voice and roared, "I can hold my arm like that for two solid hours. I never feel tired when my storm troopers and soldiers march past me and I stand at this salute. I never move. My arm is like granite—rigid and unbending. But Göring can't stand it. He has to drop his hand after half an hour of this salute. He's flabby. But I am hard. For two hours I can keep my arm stretched out in the salute. That is four times as long as Göring. That means I'm four times stronger than Göring. It's an amazing feat. I marvel at my own power."¹⁴¹

Hitler's dualities are particularly apparent in his attitude toward women. He revered and idealized them; he also treated them with contempt and sought to degrade them. As Erik Erikson was first to notice, Hitler showed his ambivalence in the way he talked about abstract forces that controlled his life. He made these forces into contradictory female images who were sometimes generous and kind but also capriciously cruel and treacherous. All his life he seemed surrounded by unpredictable supernatural female beings: Dame Sorrow, the Goddess of Fate, Lady Care, the Goddess of Misery. Thus, in the opening sentence of *Mein Kampf* we are told that the hero was born in Braunau because a kindly Fate designated that town to be the place of his birth. But it was "an unmerited, mean trick of Fate" that he was "born in a period of peace between two wars." This was the same "inexorable hand of the Goddess of Fate" which decides the destiny of nations. Here Hitler reveals his concern about the power of women by changing the neuter German noun *das Schicksal* to the feminine, *die Göttin*. In a letter of 1914 he makes another special grammatical point in order to feminize a noun. In lamenting his life spent with "Friend Care and Want," he chooses the feminine form and writes that he had *keine andere Freundin als Sorge und Not*.

And in a speech of 13 August 1920 in the Hofbräuhaus in Munich, he speaks of "the greatest goddess on earth, who oppresses man the most: the goddess called Misery" (*Die Göttin der Not*). Years later, in a May Day speech in Berlin in 1927, this goddess was still preying on his mind:

In spite of all Party dogmas and Party principles, the Goddess of Misery will come and beat on the door of a people which feel more and more the pain of want. A people slowly perishes if this want is not satisfied.

And again—we are back to his memoirs—when he was poor, "Poverty clasped me in her arms." When he felt depressed: "Dame Sorrow was my foster mother." To Hitler, misery was a female. In hearing about

1924, 1940

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

these statements, Karl Menninger asked, "What had Hitler's mother done to him to make him distrust and hate women so?"¹⁴² It is a question we shall pursue in a later chapter.

Of course, the hero of Hitler's memoirs learned to bear up under all the travail and anguish—"All this cruelty of Fate"—and even learned to accept his sufferings as "the wisdom of Providence" because she hardened him for the service of Nature, "that cruel Queen of all Wisdom," until she had guided him to another turning point in his life, when during World War I "Fate graciously permitted" him to become a soldier. The war was lost because, as he said in a Berlin speech on 30 January 1940, "Providence turned her face from the German people." When he decided to become a politician in order to save the "Motherland," it will be recalled that as he left the Hofbräuhaus during the night that he imagined to be so crucial to his political career, Hitler walked side by side with "the Goddess of Inexorable Revenge." At his trial in 1924, he was sure that the "Goddess of History's eternal judgment will smilingly tear up" the jury's verdict.¹⁴³

Hitler idealized women as wives and mothers and rhapsodized about the institution of marriage. As a boy he had talked to Kubizek about "pure marriage," which alone could keep alive "the Flame of Life." Indeed a main reason he had planned, as an adolescent, to establish one day a new "Reich" was to make sure that he could accomplish two main objectives: eradicate prostitution, "the Sin of Iniquity," and preserve "the Flame of Life." In the new Germany of his boyhood dreams—and years later in legislative reality—early marriage would be encouraged by state loans to young couples, attractive and inexpensive housing, and special bonuses for children. When he became chancellor, Hitler set aside a special day to pay homage to motherhood: on 12 August (the birthday of his own mother) fecund German mothers were awarded the Honor Cross of the German Mother. There were three classes: bronze for more than four children, silver for more than six, and gold for more than eight. Regulations printed in Hitler's newspapers required all members of Nazi youth organizations to treat mothers with the respect due to war heroes and to salute the wearers of the Mother's Honor Cross.¹⁴⁴

Typically, Hitler never defined "the Flame of Life," but his boyhood friend Kubizek understood that he meant it to be a "symbol of sacred love which is awakened between men and women who have kept themselves pure in body and soul and are worthy of a union which would produce healthy children for the nation." Decades later, Hitler continued to sentimentalize marriage. In one of his nightly reveries he asked rhetorically, "Is there a more lovely consecration of love, pray, than the birth of a handsome babe glowing with health? . . . Nature blesses the love of two beings by giving them a child. . . . To my way of thinking the real ideal is that two beings should unite for life and that their love should be magnified by the presence of children." He

mis.

The Image and the Man

eulogized the institution of marriage as the idea of establishing SS stud farms the results of their eugenic labors.

Hitler was absolutely furious he was emancipated from their trad and the nursery, asserting the term invented by the Jewish spirit." At the first general me January 1921, Hitler had the can never be admitted into the Executive Committee." In the eligible for jury service because ically or reason objectively sin

He expressed his own idea SA leader, Franz von Pfeffer:

A woman must be a sweet, and stupid.

Eine Frau muss ein nied süß und dumm.¹⁴⁷

On another occasion he noted enjoyed having beautiful women them to be intelligent or original said.¹⁴⁸

Apart from the studied presence, there are other indications by females. His sister recalled terrified at the thought that wanted him to get up in the morning give him a kiss. She said it no as soon as he heard the word me, he was out of bed in a flash. Many years later, at a New York attractive woman maneuvered him a good-natured kiss. A wit never forget the look of astonishment Bewildered and helpless as in an effort to master his arrival had shown a tendency almost glacial."¹⁴⁹

Hitler continued to be intimate with women, and compared soldier faces in battle. In mal projected his own fears: it was women were afraid of men. In I

* P.T. Hair over image of our beautiful young

1915

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

1915 The revelation that her encounter with her first man is for a young woman can be compared with the revelation that a soldier knows when he faces war for the first time.¹⁵⁰

After he came to power he was anxious about displeasing his motherly patron, Frau Bechstein. On one occasion when he felt that he had done something wrong, the Führer was so fearful of a tongue-lashing that he sought out the Wagner children to run interference for him. Friedelind Wagner—the granddaughter of the Meister—recalled that "throughout luncheon he tried to persuade us children to make the call for him to soften Frau Bechstein's blows, but we were so amused at the thought of [Hitler] trembling before her that we refused to go."¹⁵¹

1943 One of the reasons Hitler never ordered total economic mobilization during the war was that he was afraid of how women would react if they were deprived of beauty parlors and cosmetics. Dr. Goebbels, who urged total mobilization, recorded his disappointment at Hitler's refusal either to send women into the factories or to cut down on their beauty aids. In an entry in his diary of 10 May 1943—well after the catastrophic German defeat at Stalingrad—Goebbels records Hitler arguing that "women after all constitute a tremendous power and as soon as you dare to touch their beauty parlors they are your enemies."¹⁵²

1937 He could not trust women. Like the Goddess of Fate, they were by nature hypocritical, fickle, and false. "Women have the quality," he said, "which we men do not have: they kiss a friend at the same time that they are sticking them in the back with a stiletto." He convinced himself of their inferiority to men and showed his contempt by insulting them publicly. This was true of even the women closest to him. Eva Braun, for example, had given him full measure of loyalty and love. But Hitler would say loudly in her presence that "a highly intelligent man should take a primitive and stupid woman." He recalled on another occasion that he had made the mistake of discussing politics with women and some actually had the temerity to disagree with him. He commented on the incident: "But I shut their mouths by saying, 'you will not claim that you know men as I know women.'" He then concluded: "In short, gallantry [sic] forbids one to give women an opportunity of putting themselves in situations that do not suit them."

Hitler was intrigued by the spectacle of women in danger of their lives. He was particularly fond of watching pretty women in a circus on the high trapeze and tightropes. In 1933, for instance, he sent flowers and chocolates worth several hundred marks to the girls who had performed especially dangerous feats for him during a command performance. He could remember all their names. He was not particularly impressed with wild animal acts unless pretty women were involved. Then he watched avidly, his face flushed, and his breath came quickly in little whistling sounds as his lips worked violently.¹⁵³

52

Xerox p 53
 Elle - who all knows
 from the heavily
 marked book.

mis.

The Image and the Man

He was intrigued by women proved when they committed suicide. He did not often show clemency; he reinstituted death by decapitation. he pardoned six condemned men guilty of killing their wives. Si are not available because as of 1935, henceforth "mercy" was publicized.¹⁵⁴

In a favorite metaphor, Hitler both of whom were to be dominated and power. In lines notable for brutality, he said:

Like a woman whose psychological reasoning than by underestimating strength, who will dominate the weakling, the suppliant. . . . They need they are spiritually terrorized their human liberties, for doctrine down on them. force, the brutality and that they finally always submit.

At another time, Hitler compared was the stallion who could control as a circus audience: juvenile concluded that "Someone who feminine character of the speaker."¹⁵⁵

He often said that he was giving a successful speech. Of stage soaked with perspiration, written text of his speeches came between himself and his audience very erect, rocking back and forth fully modulated and deliberately ductory foreplay, he would move climax. The last five minutes of words." He once told an intimate attached to the delicate matter of audience. "By feeling the reaction exactly when the moment has which sets the crowd afire."¹⁵⁷

That the masses were for him

1933

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

through oral aggression is shown in a passage that throbs with passion and sexual symbolism:

Only a storm of burning *passion* [*Leidenschaft*] can turn people's destiny, but only he who harbors *passion* in himself can arouse *passion*.

Passion alone will give to him who is chosen by her the words that, like beats of a hammer, are able to open the doors to the heart of the people.

He to whom *passion* is denied and whose mouth remains closed is not chosen by Heaven as the prophet of his will.¹⁵⁸ MK

A distinguished German female historian recalled attending a Nazi Party rally in 1933 and hearing Hitler's spontaneous exclamation to his audience after he had reached his rhetorical climax: "Aren't you as *enthralled* by me as I am by you? [*Bin ich nicht Euch so verfallen wie Ihr mir?*]" The author adds, "The erotic character, not only of the words but also of the accompanying gestures, was unmistakable."¹⁵⁹

Hitler was fond of quoting one of the few lines he knew from Nietzsche: "Thou goest to women? Do not forget thy whip!" Whips, of course, are the traditional symbol and sign of sadomasochistic impulses. During the decade before he became chancellor, Hitler habitually carried heavy riding whips with which, in moments of excitement, he lashed about him, beat against his thighs, or *whipped his hand*, as if he were a little boy being punished. The three whips he treasured most had been given to him by three motherly old ladies.¹⁶⁰

His sexual gratification—when not achieved through the sublimation of passionate demagogic triumphs—may have been attained by a massively masochistic practice, degrading alike to himself and to his sexual partner. He is reported to have ordered young women to squat over him and to urinate or defecate on his head while he watched (see below, Chapter 3).

Here, then, was the man called Führer and Messiah of the Germans. His image was that of awesome power; but as a person he was infantile and vulnerable, beset by childish fears and neurotic compulsions, torn by contradictions. He was an infallible dictator who anxiously sucked his little finger; who longed to create and lusted to destroy; who ordered the massacre of the innocents and fretted over the death of ravens and lobsters; who exalted women and debased them; who spoke the words of Jesus and hated all mankind.

This peculiar man was one of the most compelling personalities of history, and one of its greatest enigmas. What follows is an attempt to understand him and the forces that brought him power and victory, humiliation, and defeat.

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* Discuss the meaning with Elke.

Verfallen means sublimated or sublimated?
Not in my dictionary

m is.

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The Intell of Adolf H

INSIGHT INTO Hitler's per and his career as dictator m of his remarkable mind, his his ideas about life and poli when one realizes how ofte torical reality.

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OD: ADOLF HITLER

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CHAPTER 2

mis.
1928

The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

Bear in mind that my brain works in about the
same way as a calculating machine.

—Adolf Hitler

As a human figure, lamentable; as a political
mind, one of the most tremendous phenomena in
all history.

—Konrad Heiden

INSIGHT INTO Hitler's personality, his appeal to the German people, and his career as dictator must begin with an inquiry into the nature of his remarkable mind, his peculiar artistic and literary tastes, and his ideas about life and politics. This discussion takes on importance when one realizes how often Hitler's private fantasies became historical reality.

Everyone who knew Hitler was struck by his incredibly retentive memory and the extraordinary range of his factual knowledge. He could remember the trademark and serial number of the bicycle he had used in 1915; the names of the inns where he had stayed overnight 20 years previously; the streets down which he had driven during past political campaigns; the age, displacement, speed, strength of armor, and other data of every capital ship in the British and German navies; the names of the singers and their roles in the operas he had seen in Vienna as a youth; the names of his commanders and their precise armaments down to the battalion. He had a note-perfect knowledge of the prelude to *Die Meistersinger* and whistled it in his curious, penetrating vibrato; he memorized the entire libretto of *Lohengrin*; he knew the production figures per man-day of work in England, France, America and Italy.

improving Cali.

1943 Tabletalk

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

cludes that he was one of the most underestimated statesmen of the twentieth century, a man who "succeeded spectacularly in the area of economic recovery."⁹

One is less impressed with the quality of Hitler's mind as it ranged over a vast number of subjects in the so-called *Tischgespräche*—the nightly disquisitions he gave to captive audiences at field headquarters during the war. Notes were dutifully taken by members of his entourage who had been told to preserve the pronouncements of their leader for posterity. While only a small fraction of the total *pensée* has been preserved, and only a few samples can be given here, they are enough to show Hitler's confidence in his ability to speak authoritatively on almost any topic.

He felt particularly knowledgeable about American history and social life: "In the single year, 1641, fifty thousand Irish left for North America." . . . Transplant a German to Kiev, and he remains a German. But transplant him to Miami, and you make a degenerate of him—in other words, an American. . . . Everything about the behavior of American society reveals that it's half-Judaized and the other half Negritized. . . . You can't imagine anything as miserable or degenerate as [American] farmers. . . ."

Although he had never mastered his own language and knew no other, he considered himself an expert on linguistics and literary criticism. "The English language," he said, "is incapable of expressing a poetic or philosophic idea. . . . One hour of instruction in French once a week is quite enough. . . . The three greatest books in the world are *Gulliver's Travels*, *Don Quixote*, and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. . . . In no country is Shakespeare so badly acted as in England."

He had strong views about art: "Anyone who sees and paints a sky green and pastures blue ought to be sterilized."¹⁰

He often lectured his entourage on philosophy, theology, and biblical studies: "It is on the foundation of Kant's theory of knowledge that Schopenhauer built the edifice of his philosophy, and it is Schopenhauer who annihilated the pragmatism of Hegel. . . . It is certain that Jesus was not a Jew. The Jews, by the way, regarded Him as the son of a whore—of a whore and a Roman soldier. . . . When Paul preached in Athens in favor of the Jews, Athenians shook with laughter. . . . It's impossible to escape the problem of God. When I have time, I'll work out the formulae. . . ."

History and cultural anthropology were among his stronger suits: "Russia has never suffered a famine. . . . To label the Bulgarians as Slavs is pure nonsense; originally they were Turkomans. The same applies to the Czechs. It is enough for a Czech to grow a mustache for anyone to see, from the way it droops, that his origin is Mongolian."

⁹ In point of fact, there was virtually no Irish immigration to America in 1641. The total population, including whites and blacks, in all colonies in America was about 26,600 in the year 1640. Ten years later the total population was 50,400. See *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to the Present*, 756.

* Secretly, Speer was all but ready to laugh at him, yet Speer was wrong. I had inhabited Adolf for so long that he had, obtained, well, really, many a superior intimation on the nature of divinity.

mis. The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

. . . The favorite soup in German soldiers had a horror of eating teeth. . . ."

He was also proud of his knowledge: "No one in the pressure. Their constant brawl. Now, thanks to the safety razor. . . . It has been proved that a will cure beri-beri within a week basically on the whale for its— even if they have but a million veins—produce regularly at least affords the best possible price."

Under the rubric of his expertise might be included to move a piano by himself. . . . beauty. . . . I can claim that faith."

That humor was not ongested by the observation that But pride often goes before a fall."

A perceptive and heroic hours of Hitler's verbal barrage last days in the Berlin air raid thing was missing. "Even to feeling is that in this whole humane note—the magnanimity."

HITLER'S READING

Presumably the books that a sight into his intellectual interest in Hitler's case the clues are not easily determined.

He liked to give the impression that he devoured "mountains of books" though they show a very consistent, do not reveal that he had

ADOLF HITLER

of 1924 while he was
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first to Emil Maurice
thoughts on an old
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German literary critic,
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The more practically
nd freer interpretation
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s: leads to the diminu-
it is incompatible with
n of his faith and his
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eir caps.⁴³

a publisher's list of "the
y as belles-lettres, it easily
copies. (*Die Zeit*, Nr. 26.

The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

A few more examples will suggest the difficulty of following his meaning:

This is a proposal which is meant well by just as many people as it is usually ill understood by most, in order to cause the greatest conceivable harm one can possibly imagine.

Protestantism in itself represents the considerations of Germanism better, as far as this lies based in its birth and later tradition altogether, but it fails at the moment when this defense of national interests must take place in territory which in general lines is either lacking in its conceptual world or is simply rejected for one reason or another.

Metaphors become rather mixed:

For it is the remarkable thing of the battle of language altogether that its waves perhaps wash hardest around the school in particular, the planting ground of the coming generation. Every path that leads to this is expedient and its non-fulfillment must be characterized as a crime unmindful of duty.

Hitler had the habit of feminizing various forces that attacked him or rendered him impotent. He also had recurrent nightmares about suffocation. In the following passages he gets into stylistic trouble with "Dame Poverty," who is trying to strangle him:

Whoever has not himself been on the tentacles of this throttling viper will never know its fangs.

An uncharitable critic has pointed out that a viper has no tentacles, that a snake which kills with its coils has no venom, that a man being throttled by a snake would not feel its fangs.⁴⁴

Although *Mein Kampf* was a smashing success, Hitler planned a still more important literary work which would preserve his thinking for posterity. This plan seems to have been one of the reasons he approved having his thoughts taken down during the table conversations and staff conferences. "When the war's over," he mused, "I shall retire. Then I would like to devote five or ten years to clarifying my thought and setting it down on paper. Wars pass by. The only things that exist are the works of human genius."⁴⁵

This scheme was abandoned, one suspects, because he was not really interested in putting his ideas on paper. "All enormous world revolutionary events," he said, "have not been brought about by the written, but by the spoken word."⁴⁶ His forte was indeed the spoken word, and few men in history have approached his power as a demagogue.

Since he held mankind in such contempt, it is small wonder that he considered duplicity and cunning high attributes of statescraft. Consider the political leaders he admired, those he ignored, and those he despised. He was an avid reader of history, yet in the records we have of thousands of hours of commentary and many pages of his writings on human history and the great political leaders of the past, there is no mention of Pericles or Justinian, of Henry II or Elizabeth I; none of Chatham or Gladstone or Disraeli; none of Washington, Jefferson, or Lincoln. He regarded Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt as fools and scoundrels: "Neither of the two Anglo-Saxons is any better than the other. . . . Churchill and Roosevelt, what impostors! . . . Roosevelt, who both in his handling of political issues and in his general attitudes, behaves like a tortuous petty-fogging Jew, himself boasted recently that he had 'noble' Jewish blood in his veins. The completely Negroid appearance of his wife is also a clear indication that she, too, is a half-caste." He saw Winston Churchill as "the undisciplined swine who is drunk eight hours of every twenty-four." Stafford Cripps, he said, was "a man without roots, a demagogue and a liar."⁵²

His favorite examples of statesmanship came from the East. He applauded the trickery, for example, of Kings Ferdinand and Boris of Bulgaria: "Under the rod of the old fox, son Boris himself became a young fox and was able to work his way out of the complicated tangle of Balkan affairs." As for the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, ah, there indeed was a "predominantly sly old fox . . . his quite exceptional wisdom puts him almost on equal terms with the Japanese. And what cunning diplomats the Japanese are!" To Rasputin he attributed a "power that could have contributed to the Slavic element a healthy life-affirmation." But his greatest praise was reserved for Joseph Stalin—a rival worthy of his steel. He spoke admiringly of "the cunning Caucasian" who commanded "unconditional respect," who was indeed, "in his own way, just one hell of a fellow! He knows his models Genghis Khan and the others very well." Stalin, he repeatedly said, was one of the "most extraordinary figures in world history." The reason for Hitler's feeling is revealing: "For him [Stalin], Bolshevism is only a means, a disguise designed to trick the Germanic and Latin people."⁵³

Struggle: "The Father of All Things"

The essence of Hitler's political thought was distilled in one speech delivered at Chemnitz on 2 April 1928. The thousands upon thousands of words that preceded and followed are merely an elaboration of these few sentences:

The first fundamental of any rational *Weltanschauung* is the fact that on earth and in the universe force alone is decisive. Whatever goal a man has reached is due to his originality plus his brutality.

Whatever man possesses of the Aryan race. The whole world. The basis of the individual, not individual is decisive, it up in three theses: it lies in blood, leadership

Struggle was indeed repeat the refrain: "He who he who does not want to be not deserve to be alive. Ever are . . . victory is forever cont

Public speeches of the gave the German people a they would get under Hitler's office been so explicit in his an early and important speech said: "Force is the first law and the world become great. gruesome, then the only animosity as a whole, no. . . reemphasized the same point Munich on 21 November 19 than the struggle of a people eternal battle of a people, f this planet. . . . Man [is] th on earth. He knows nothing t world."

That the idea of "battle" on several occasions. From t did in Munich as early as between war and peace. . . final decision lies with the s of the foreign policy of a peop

It is not accurate to s mere acts of aggression. As manifest, he wanted wars o was for Hitler the highest f pression of life's purposes, t the blood of another. The dea not dribble about humane fee

Struggle and battle also Germany, as Hitler infused s He spoke of the "battle for . . . the battle for population of his Reich was a line fro

stet

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

Reich! Ein Führer!"⁶⁹ The operative member of this trinity was the Führer.

Let us put the matter in a slightly different way. Hitler was a psychopath who reaped great political advantage from his self-delusion that he was ~~in fact the incarnation of a great historic myth~~. It was a delusion that had practical consequences. To the faithful he had become, in Dietrich Orlow's useful phrase, a "myth-person." He was both an individual and an abiding myth-principle, both changeable person and changeless absolute. In order to obey the myth-principle, members of the Nazi party, perforce, were obliged to obey the person. They could find no tenable ground in theory on which they could stand in opposition to the Führer; for the Führer, by definition, was the Party. Thus Hitler had it both ways: his authority was abstract, undefined, and changeless (the *Führerprinzip*), but at the same time it was arbitrary, specific, and unpredictable (the Führer's orders). He could apply his personal will and whim whenever he chose. He could judge subordinates, but they could never judge him without abandoning the basis of their faith, namely, "that he was the personification of the eternal myth."⁷⁰

One can get some feeling for the Nazi leadership principle by observing the images that were created of the Führer as he was hailed as leader, father, and savior in poetry, painting, prayer, and song. One poem is several cuts above the usual dreary encomium of the "follow the leader" genre and is perhaps worth repeating:

TO THE LEADER

Benign blue eyes and iron sword-hand
Husky voice, thou and the children's most loyal father
Behold across the continents banded together
Stand man and wife in the flames of the soul
Sacredly joined, an endless chain
Wave-encircled before the morn
Which your shoulders alone
Have raised across the mountain-ridges out of the
chasms of distress.⁷¹

pp 390-51
Greenberger
12 Jan Reich

Image-building was a reciprocal process: Hitler created his own image, but in an important sense his own propaganda machine also created him and required that the image become reality. As we have seen, Hitler saw himself as an infallible leader and as a Messiah sent from God with a special mission to save his Motherland. Special birthday editions of his own newspaper, the *Völkischer Beobachter*, substantiated and embellished that claim. On 20 April 1933 he was hailed as a person of absolutely unique greatness and of "unspeakable modesty." By 1937 he had become "the best imaginable expert in every specialized field." In 1938 he was a genius of "boundless passion . . . unshakable

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The Intellectual World of Ado

faith . . . concentrated str
tion."

In 1939 it was announ
of all times." But that wa
before it reached its apogee
race. . . . He embodies the
the dynamism of Hegel, the
II, the realism of Bismarck
Wagner, the perspicacity o
Tannenberg . . . and the das

All this raises question
cally complex: What was tl
quired such total approval?
Why did Hitler condemn hi

Racial Theory and Volks

Hitler's idea of race wa
Struggle and conflict were i
all history was racial; the
sion of this leader was to es
himself to be the very emb
representative of the Germ
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Hitler was so preposter
that he was never fully be
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blood. All that is not race in

Unlike other German
exalting the power of the S
earth," Hitler considered pol
State is a means to an end. I

Vienna?
1908?

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

headed international Jewish conspiracy." A great world war was necessary to annihilate the ubiquitous enemy, he wrote excitedly in bold-faced type: "All military preparations must be made in the most complete detail in order to fight this inevitable war which will come because it must come."⁹⁵ To prepare for this final Armageddon, a racial state must be built to exalt the Aryans and force inferior people into slavery. He quoted with approval his friend Lanz, who had written ominously and prophetically: "A day will come in which the whole mongrelized brood (*Mischlingsbrut*) which destroys customs, religion, and society must be wiped off the face of the earth."⁹⁶

Having set forth the founding principles for his new state, List described its bureaucratic structure. The new Reich was to be divided into units called *Gaue*, each with a *Gauleiter*. The Reich would have a leader whom List sometimes called the Kaiser and sometimes Araharl. But whatever his name, he was to be "the visible embodiment of the divine Aryan law." This new leader was necessary because "the Aryo-German demands a self-chosen Führer to whom he willingly submits." The leader is bound to his followers by a sacred oath which is strikingly similar to those later taken to Hitler as Führer. In List's version of 1911 all loyal followers make the following declaration: "I swear to God the Almighty, to the invisible Araharl and to my Kaiser as the visible Araharl according to Armanian Reich laws of fellowship and my duty to my Aryo-Germanic people, unconditional German loyalty, to cover and protect him with my shield, my own life and limb, goods and blood."

The new Reich would also have special racial laws to preserve the Aryans and suppress inferiors: "Only members of the Aryo-Germanic humanity of masters (*Herrenmenschheit*) enjoy the rights of citizenship; members of inferior races . . . are excluded from all positions of influence and authority." To prevent "mongrelization" and "mixing of the races" stringent marriage laws would be necessary. Every household was to be ordered to keep a blood chart of his and his wife's racial background which would be made available to government officials upon demand.

List was particularly concerned about secret symbols, most notably the swastika and the . He considered the Runic letters  particularly potent and recommended that they become the symbol of a new racially pure Reich.⁹⁷

The first edition of List's major work *Rita der Ario-Germanen* (Laws of the Aryan-Germans) appeared in 1908, just as Hitler began his extensive stay in Vienna. A new edition of 1920, which commemorates the death of List in 1919, is of particular interest. A saccharine preface entitled "From Our Master's Last Days" describes the "saintly death of the Master" caused by his contemplation of Germany's defeat. Not even he had realized the depths of Jewish perfidy. With deceitful cunning the

mis.

The Intellectual World of Ar

Jews had started World War to stab Germany in the planned a final book which disclosing its secret language died on 17 May 1919. prophecy. A letter of 1918 them once again to crush assured his followers that Aryans: in 1932 a racialist state that would root out "mit Armanengruss und H

The prediction was o. to power in 1933. German deutsche Gruss and Heil H

THEODOR FRITSCH

Hitler's ideas of race other anti-Semitic tracts, Fritsch (1852-1934), who anti-Semite before Hitler."

His most popular and *Judenfrage* (Handbook of gone through 26 printings Hitler paid one of his race stressed the importance of tory statement, "I had ah intensively during my youth buch extolled Fritsch as a"

Certainly the book was house of purportedly fact memorize in order to improve contains a long list of anti- of history. Dozens of such Erasmus, Luther, Frederic Fichte, Schopenhauer, B Treitschke, among others. could give the impression the works of the world's great

The general thesis of the by the List Society: the Jew and Jehovah's Witnesses—in Germany their dominating facts that we must reach must break this curse if v rotteness to our own race history." 102

1934

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

A great deal of the *Handbuch* is devoted to documenting the extent of the "Jewish peril" which had allegedly penetrated dangerously into all walks of life. The entire German press, for example, was controlled by Jews. According to Fritsch, it was Wagner who first "pointed out the pernicious influence and the degenerate nature of the parasitic Jew." Fritsch claimed that Jews were responsible for "degenerate atonal music"; he warned about "Jewification" of symphony orchestras and theaters; and he listed names of Jewish conductors, musicians, pianists, violinists, tenors, sopranos, altos, baritones, actors, and theatrical agents. The *Handbuch* also provided a long and impressive list of Jewish artists in all areas of cultural life—a list which would seem to raise questions about his argument, drawn from Wagner, that Jews are incapable of artistic creativity. List computed, for example, that while comprising only 1 percent of the total population, Jews constituted 38 percent of all German poets.

The *Handbuch* warned that Jews were a particular menace in the field of medicine and viewed as particularly ominous the number of Jews specializing in pediatrics and thus "undermining the health of German children." Even more insidious were the Jews involved in "sexual specializations, their favorite work." (Since the Jew has a totally different sexuality from the German, "he can never understand the German's sexual morality.") Freud and all his Jewish disciples, we are told, had concocted a theory whose obvious purpose was "to destroy the German soul . . . to poison the food on which the German soul feeds in order to destroy it. . . . The goal is the destruction of the German family."

This "handy guide to anti-Semitism" methodically associated Jews with most of the major crimes committed in Germany during the preceding century. Page after page of Jewish names were listed as responsible for murder, treason, rape, forgery, embezzlement, and a dozen other crimes.¹⁰⁰ Hitler was personally indebted to Fritsch for providing him with what he considered to be "factual proof" of the Jewish menace. After he came to power, the *Handbuch* was officially sanctioned reading in the schools of Germany.

When the grand old man of German anti-Semitism died in 1934, leading Nazis paid him fulsome tribute. Julius Streicher, the notorious editor of the pornographic anti-Semitic periodical *Stürmer*, Hitler's favorite magazine, for example, proclaimed that when he first read the *Handbuch*, scales had fallen from his eyes, his life was changed, and he had become a devout German anti-Semite. Theodor Fritsch, he intoned, was "one of those great Germans sent from God of whom little children would say 'Theodor Fritsch has helped to redeem the German people and, through the German people, Aryan humanity.'" ¹⁰¹

The racial ideas of Lanz, List, and Fritsch made a particularly deep impression on Hitler because they echoed the beliefs of his greatest hero, Richard Wagner (1813-1883).

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of p 97.

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The Intellectual World of Adolf

Hitler and Wagner

It is very difficult to exaggerate life and thought. He himself said that anyone who sought should first understand Richard

Adolf's boyhood swung full enthusiasm for the Master bounds." As his only friend of meant to him not a visit to transported into the extraordinary duced in him, that escape into in order to endure the tension tormented and bewitched. . . .

His need for Wagner did is something Godly and his can correspond in the 193 church."¹⁰⁷

There was one particular irresistible: the forbidden passion Wagner discussed more daring shall soon see, Hitler was terrified. So was Wagner, as his he could have gotten away with begins, it will be recalled, with refuge one stormy night in the arouses the hero's passion. She aware that they are twin brothers Brother and sister plan to elope fast curtain prevents the audience their love. Later, Sieglinde, mother birth to Siegfried, one of Wagner like Hitler, Siegfried was the And he too saw himself as a warrior In a later chapter we shall

* See below, Chapter 3, p. 13. T
parents was closer than Hitler's. S
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pointed out, Siegfried was his own c

1924-Landsberg - Here D.T. can
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THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

Hitler's memoirs and speeches are virtually unreadable. Wagner's German is so convoluted and awkward that his long-suffering translator and admirer felt repeatedly obliged to explain why his English translation sounded so infelicitous. He wrote despairingly in one footnote:

I have thought it best to quote the German of these last two sentences, as their construction presents peculiar difficulties to the translator; a remark that applies, in fact, to almost all the remainder of this article.¹¹⁶

Like Hitler, Wagner considered himself an authority on a great number of subjects. The ten volumes of his tortuous prose set forth major pronouncements on Shakespeare and American prisons; Spanish poetry and vegetable diets; the philosophy of Leibniz, Hegel, and Schopenhauer; the habits of wolves; Chinese art; the physical training of athletes; the tactics of the Turkish army; the foreign policy of Richelieu; Greek poetry; the medieval papacy; and contemporary American theatre.

An American critic has given a graphic picture of an evening's conversation with Wagner. His account would apply equally well to a night spent listening to Hitler's monologues in the Berghof or in his "Wolf's Lair" during World War II. One needs to keep remembering that the writer is talking about Richard Wagner and not Adolf Hitler:

He was one of the most exhausting conversationalists that ever lived. An evening with him was an evening spent in listening to a monologue. Sometimes he was brilliant; sometimes he was mad-deningly tiresome. But whether he was being brilliant or dull, he had one sole topic of conversation: himself. What he thought and what he did.

He had a mania for being in the right. The slightest hint of disagreement, from anyone, on the most trivial point, was enough to set him off on a harangue that might last for hours, in which he proved himself right in so many ways, and with such exhausting volubility, that in the end his hearer, stunned and deafened, would agree with him, for the sake of peace.

It never occurred to him that he and his doings were not of the most intense and fascinating interest to anyone with whom he came in contact. He had theories about almost any subject under the sun . . . and in support of these theories he wrote pamphlets, letters, books . . . thousands upon thousands of words, hundreds and hundreds of pages.¹¹⁷

That Wagner's opinion of his own talents was scarcely less exalted than Hitler's is suggested in a diary entry of September 1865: "I am the most German of beings [der deutsche Mensch]; I am the German spirit. Consider the incomparable magic of my works."¹¹⁸

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* Hitler may have read that essay in Landsberg

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The Intellectual World of Ad

The favorite personal projection onto others for example, was notably perfumes, lush pink-color and he did much of his and incense as he lounged tough man and exalted a c the French and the Jews fr such "luxury cravers" in lil

As with Hitler, Wagner's impression of his personal n continually addressed com treated. Also like Hitler, h His letters sound this leitn I suffer the "bare-faced in ple" to whom "I have show perilous; I balance on the r . . . Someone will be sorry flames of Valhalla."¹¹⁹

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Hitler was incapable c ing the most intimate trust Wagner, friendship had one genius deserved and his t: tenuous as his promises, an tried to seduce the wives o his own wife when she was mad King Ludwig, he spent and desperately ill, was forc: Wagner ridiculed. He was 1 of an infected finger.¹²²

Both Hitler and Wagn denied to human beings. Hi sters in the cooking pots of ders to protect ravens; Wagn against vivisection of frogs an anathemas at those—most 1 "truss and torture them."¹²³

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GOD: ADOLF HITLER

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The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

The favorite personal defense of both men was vigorous attack and the projection onto others of any weakness felt in themselves. Wagner, for example, was notably effeminate in his tastes. He affected Parisian perfumes, lush pink-colored silken gowns, and ermine-bedecked robes, and he did much of his composing surrounded by clouds of perfume and incense as he lounged amid soft cushions. Yet he saw himself as a tough man and exalted a crude Nordic-Spartan way of life, condemning the French and the Jews for effeminate softness and thundering against such "luxury cravers" in life and music.

As with Hitler, Wagner's much proclaimed hardness was an expression of his personal need to hide weaknesses. And like Hitler he continually addressed complaints to his friends about how badly he was treated. Also like Hitler, he repeatedly threatened to end his own life. His letters sound this leitmotiv: all my friends have deserted me, and I suffer the "bare-faced ingratitude, disloyalty and treachery of people" to whom "I have shown nothing but kindness. . . . My situation is perilous; I balance on the narrowest foothold—one push and all is over. . . . Someone will be sorry one day . . . yes—I would fain perish in the flames of Valhalla." 119

Wagner could tolerate opposition or criticism no better than Hitler. A mistress remembered how "a mild disappointment drives him almost to despair; the slightest irritation goads him into fury." 120

Hitler's lack of humor and inability to smile at himself was shared by the man who had the greatest influence on his life. "Whoever accuses me of insincerity," Wagner wrote, "must answer for it to God—but whosoever accuses me of arrogance is a fool!" 121

Hitler was incapable of friendship—and quite capable of betraying the most intimate trust or of sending a friend to his death. With Wagner, friendship had one purpose: to supply him with the money his genius deserved and his tastes required. His sense of honor was as tenuous as his promises, and his greed as bottomless as his vanity. He tried to seduce the wives of men who befriended him; he had raped his own wife when she was 15. When given a huge sum of money by mad King Ludwig, he spent it lavishly on himself while his wife, alone and desperately ill, was forced to depend on the charity of friends whom Wagner ridiculed. He was unable to attend his wife's funeral because of an infected finger. 122

Both Hitler and Wagner showed a solicitude for animals they denied to human beings. Hitler fretted about the last moments of lobsters in the cooking pots of German restaurants and issued special orders to protect ravens; Wagner's heart went out to frogs. He thundered against vivisection of frogs as "the curse of our civilization" and hurled anathemas at those—most notably the Jews—who, he said, sought to "truss and torture them." 123

Like Hitler, Wagner remained in many respects a child and showed little capacity for emotional growth. All his life he threw temper tantrums when thwarted. He was furiously jealous and would weep and

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1924 Wagner.

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

sulk when his second wife showed any affection for her father, Wagner's musical rival, Franz Liszt. Like Hitler, he enjoyed playing hide-and-seek with children. A contemporary describes Wagner's childlike reactions in listening to rehearsals for the first performance of *Tristan*:

If a difficult passage went particularly well, he would spring up, embrace or kiss the singer warmly, or out of pure joy stand on his head on the sofa, creep under the piano, jump up onto it, run into the garden and scramble joyously up a tree. . . .¹²⁴

He shared Hitler's enthusiasm for a vegetarian diet and was if anything more confident of its therapeutic powers. An article entitled "Religion and Art" extols the merits of eating vegetables and claims that in American prisons "the most dangerous criminals have been transformed, by a wisely planned diet of vegetables, into the mildest and most upright of men."¹²⁵

Both Hitler and Wagner tried to impress women with their physical prowess. Hitler showed women how long he could hold his arm extended in the Nazi salute. Wagner climbed trees to prove his virility to the beautiful Judith Gautier, who had sent him perfumes in which he bathed and bolts of pale silk in which he wrapped himself.¹²⁶

The mother-love that formed so important a part of Hitler's life was shared by Wagner. As we have noted, Oedipal sex was a theme of his operas, and his private letters to his mother suggest a degree of intimacy which seems excessive, even when one takes into account the author's penchant for emotional prose and his antipathy to understatement. As a young man in his 20s he wrote:

It is you alone, dearest Mother, whom I think of with the most heartfelt love, the deepest emotion. . . . I want to write and speak . . . to you in the tenderest tones of a lover to his beloved. . . . Ah, when I think of these last eight days of our intercourse! It is perfect balm to me, true refreshment to recall to my soul each aspect of your loving kindness! My dear, dear Mother, what a wretch were I if I could ever grow cold towards you!¹²⁷

The story of Wagner's birth and family background shows striking parallels to Hitler's account of his own family. As we shall see, Hitler was never sure of his father's ancestry and feared that he might have been Jewish. He insisted in his memoirs, however, that all his ancestors were of pure German peasant stock. Wagner prefaces his autobiography with the promise of "unadorned veracity"—a promise broken on the very first page, where he gives misinformation about his baptism and the wrong name for his own father. He says that he was christened two days after birth and that his father was Karl Friedrich Wagner, a clerk in the police service at Leipzig.¹²⁸ Wagner was indeed born in Leipzig on 22 May 1813, but he was not baptized until 16 August of that

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The Intellectual World of Ado

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For a century it was t gave it in his memoirs. Thanalist, while checking a v Teplitz, Bohemia, made sc Johanna Rosina Wagner, from distant Leipzig across refuge from her cuckolded Richard to stay with his na Geyer, who was performin Three Pheasants Hotel.¹²⁹

Karl Friedrich Wagner and his widow married Gey known locally as Richard Geyer's death, he readopte seems clear. It was genera was a Jew. Certainly his s physical characteristics wh and they taunted him with several forms. Not only di publicly what he had long was Geyer. Like Hitler, W fort to persuade himself an because he hated the Jews:

All this is not lacking failed to produce a single tree." But that is not the phasize with Hitler: throug themselves might be "par father might have been a J Ludwig Geyer, was Jewish. public insults to Jewish fri anti-Semitism, many peop to be Jewish.¹³⁰

WAGNER'S ANTI-SEMITISM

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IC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

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vout Catholic who saw to it that all her other children were baptized
within a few days of their birth.

For a century it was assumed that Wagner's parentage was as he
gave it in his memoirs. Then, quite by accident in 1933, a Swiss jour-
nalist, while checking a visitors' hotel registry in the little town of
Teplitz, Bohemia, made some surprising discoveries. He learned that
Johanna Rosina Wagner, "wife of police clerk Wagner," had traveled
from distant Leipzig across a war zone in the summer of 1813 to seek
refuge from her cuckolded husband. She had come with her infant son
Richard to stay with his natural father and her lover, the actor Ludwig
Geyer, who was performing in Teplitz. He too had registered at the
Three Pheasants Hotel.¹²⁸

Karl Friedrich Wagner, the legal father, died 22 November 1813,
and his widow married Geyer a few months later. The boy Richard was
known locally as Richard Geyer, but at the age of 14, six years after
Geyer's death, he readopted the name of his legal father. The reason
seems clear. It was generally believed at that time that Ludwig Geyer
was a Jew. Certainly his son's schoolmates thought Richard had those
physical characteristics which prejudice popularly associates with Jews,
and they taunted him with being Jewish. Richard's frenetic denial took
several forms. Not only did he change his name, but he also denied
publicly what he had long suspected in private: that his natural father
was Geyer. Like Hitler, Wagner became a violent anti-Semite in an ef-
fort to persuade himself and others that he could not possibly be Jewish
because he hated the Jews so much.

All this is not lacking in irony, since intensive research has "so far
failed to produce a single demonstrably Jewish ancestor on the Geyer
tree." But that is not the point. The point is the one we shall em-
phasize with Hitler: throughout their lives both men *believed* that they
themselves might be "part Jewish." Hitler suspected that his grand-
father might have been a Jew; Wagner believed that his natural father,
Ludwig Geyer, was Jewish. Hence the shrillness of his denials, and the
public insults to Jewish friends. But despite his persistent and strident
anti-Semitism, many people in his day continued to consider Wagner
to be Jewish.¹³⁰

WAGNER'S ANTI-SEMITISM

Wagner's attitude towards Jews comes through clearly in his pri-
vate correspondence, where, over and over again, he shows that against
the Jews he did indeed bear "a grudge as necessary to my nature as
gall is to blood."¹³¹ But the fullest and most influential statement
of his anti-Semitism appears in a long article entitled *Das Judentum in
der Musik* ("Judaism in Music"), which originally appeared in a musi-
cal periodical of September 1850 above the signature of one "K. Freige-
dank [Freethought]." Wagner revised the piece in 1869 and published
it separately in a widely distributed pamphlet. It is noteworthy that

D.T.'s
copy.

there was no substantial change between the first edition and its revision 20 years later.

Like Hitler, Wagner was physically repelled by Jews and considered them freaks: "We have to explain to ourselves the *involuntary repulsion* possessed for us by the nature and personality of the Jews so as to vindicate that instinctive dislike which we plainly recognize. . . . instinctively we wish to have nothing in common with a man who looks like that . . . an unpleasant freak of nature."¹³² German anti-Semites before Wagner had opposed the Jews on political, religious, economic, or racial grounds. Wagner believed that his contribution was to have proved once and for all that "Jewish blood" was incapable of producing anything of creative value in thought, art, literature, or music. That was to become Hitler's thesis.

When one considers that three of the most seminal minds of the modern era have been Jews, the claim of both Wagner and Hitler that Jews cannot be culturally creative is as silly as it is pernicious. The adherents of Karl Marx now number more than one-third of the people of the earth; Albert Einstein, one of the two greatest physicists in history, revolutionized our thinking about the physical universe; and Sigmund Freud did as much as anyone to expand man's understanding of himself. Wagner's insistence that Jews could never contribute to the world of music is denied by the work of the composers Mahler and Schoenberg and many of their famous pupils; by such instrumentalists as Kreisler, Schnabel, Heifetz, Menuhin, Stern, Milstein, Serkin, Rubinstein, Richter, Solomon, Shainman, and Horowitz; and by such conductors as Klemperer, Szell, Leinsdorf, and Bernstein. In reminding us of the sheer number of creative Jewish musicians, a musicologist has written, "If anyone wants to tell me this is coincidence my reply is that this is simply not creditable. The intellectual and artistic output of Jews in this century relative to their numbers is a phenomenon for which I can think of no parallel in history since Athens five centuries before Christ."¹³³

Wagner, however, simply said flatly that the Jews were incapable of artistic creativity: "Our whole European art and civilization . . . have remained to the Jew a foreign tongue; for, just as he has taken no part in the evolution of the one, so has he taken none in that of the other, but at most this unfortunate homeless wanderer has been a cold and hostile observer. In this Speech and in this Art the Jew can only parrot and fake [*nachsprechen, nachkünsteln*]; he cannot truly speak poetically or create artistically." Wagner, whose own German was atrocious, insisted that no Jew would ever be able to write or speak good German: "The first thing that strikes our ear as really outlandish and unpleasant is the Jew's production of the voice sounds as a creaking, squeaking, snarling snuffle . . . an intolerably jumbled blabber [*zischender, schrillender, sumsender und murksender Lautausdruck . . . eines unerträglich verwirrten Geplappers*]."¹³⁴

It was clear to Wagner—as it was to Hitler—that the Jews had no

religion and that Jesus was explained, was of a peculiar and magical power which was Parsifal.¹³⁵ Wagner and Hitler never wipe out the faults of the Jew must remain "the mos

Like Hitler after him, W same time, both a cowardly Germany. He too spoke of the the Jew" because "the Jew in he rules." Again and again threatened by the cunning ei Jews."¹³⁶

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His essay "Judaism in Mi often, and for obvious reasons, "the evil conscience of our mankind, he concludes:

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What did Wagner mean in the "redemption" of Ahasuerus gang—a word which may be *annihilation*?

The reference to Ahasuer that Wagner did not mean the meant the legendary Wanderer. According to *völkisch* legend, tl being who had infected the Ge

* In the Old Testament, Esth Ahasuerus, who had ordered a massa the order so that Persians, and not J by Jews as the Feast of Purim (Book the German people (like King Ahasu Esther) had insinuated themselves i German people? Was he saying that enemy was by mass murder? Such unlikely.

THE GOD: ADOLF HITLER

The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

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to Hitler—that the Jews had no

religion and that Jesus was not of Jewish blood. His blood, Wagner explained, was of a peculiar sort, a mysterious blood of special potency and magical power which was to be found only in one other person: Parsifal.¹³⁵ Wagner and Hitler also agreed that Christian baptism could never wipe out the faults of Jews. Even after baptism, Wagner wrote, the Jew must remain "the most heartless of all human beings."

Like Hitler after him, Wagner insisted that the Jew was, at the same time, both a cowardly degenerate and a dangerous threat to Germany. He too spoke of the need for "fighting for emancipation from the Jew" because "the Jew in truth is already more than emancipated: he rules." Again and again he warned that the German spirit was threatened by the cunning enemy: "the utterly alien element of the Jews."¹³⁶

What Wagner called "the Jewish problem" was on his mind almost as much as it was on Hitler's. But Wagner was not sure what the solution should be. On one occasion he thought it possible that the Jews could be assimilated. But in a later article he stressed the necessity of a "grand solution" and looked forward to the time when "there will be no longer—any more Jews." He also called for a "war of Liberation" against this "enemy of mankind."¹³⁷

His essay "Judaism in Music" ends with a cryptic entreaty quoted often, and for obvious reasons, by Nazi writers. Having called the Jews "the evil conscience of our modern civilization" and a curse upon mankind, he concludes:

Take ye your part ruthlessly in this regenerative and self-destructive work of redemption. Then are we one and undis severed!

But bethink ye that one thing can redeem you from the curse that burdens you: the redemption of Ahasuerus: Destruction!¹³⁸

What did Wagner mean in this heavy-handed passage? What was the "redemption" of Ahasuerus, and how could it come through *Untergang*—a word which may be translated as *destruction, ruin, fall, or annihilation*?

The reference to Ahasuerus is opaque. It seems likely, however, that Wagner did not mean the Persian king of that name *; rather he meant the legendary Wandering Jew, traditionally called Ahasuerus. According to *völkisch* legend, this Ahasuerus was an evil and insidious being who had infected the German people with cholera and syphilis.

* In the Old Testament, Esther adroitly outmaneuvered the Persian King Ahasuerus, who had ordered a massacre of the Jews. She cajoled him into reversing the order so that Persians, and not Jews, were murdered—a deliverance celebrated by Jews as the Feast of Purim (Book of Esther, 8, 9). Was Wagner suggesting that the German people (like King Ahasuerus) had been conned by the Jew who (like Esther) had insinuated themselves into positions of power in order to destroy the German people? Was he saying that the only way to rid Germany of the Jewish enemy was by mass murder? Such a reading of the passage seems possible, but unlikely.

GOD: ADOLF HITLER

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The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

Parsifal is many things, but one thing it is not: it is not, as has been said, "a profound statement of the Christian message."¹⁴² It blas-
phemes the Christian message; it slanders ethical values. In this opera
Wagner prostitutes Christian symbolism and the Christian message to
extol the virtues of racial power.¹⁴³ To do so, Wagner makes his Teutonic
hero into the very Son of God. In a scene taken directly from the
Gospel of St. John, a woman anoints Parsifal's feet with rare perfume
and dries them with her hair. The Last Supper becomes in the opera
an initiation rite for German knights who bind themselves in a blood
oath not to forgive their enemies but to destroy them:

The Knights

(First half)

Take ye the bread,
change it again
to body's strength and power;
true unto death,
toil to the end
to work as the Savior willeth!

(Second half)

Take ye the wine,
change it anew
to blood within you burning;

(Both halves)

Live all in one,
brothers so true,
to fight with courage holy.

(The Knights have risen; they pace from both sides toward each other and solemnly embrace during the music that follows.)

At the end of the opera, it is Parsifal who is given the power
to absolve mankind of sin. As the whole company gazes at him "in
highest rapture," the Knights of the Holy Grail cry out:

Wonderous great Salvation!
The Redeemer is redeemed!

These are the last lines of the opera, and Wagner's stage instructions
for the finale make his identification of Parsifal with Jesus very clear:

(A ray of light falls; the Grail's glow is at its brightest. A
white dove descends from the dome and hovers over Parsifal's
head.—Kundry, with her eyes uplifted to Parsifal, slowly sinks

III

He sees Parsifal in 1905
1905

1905
At last taken up
surveillance in the
notion that
Wagner was
effeminate
this excites Hitler
to write his opera

(He sees later in
Wagner's opera
hearing of
Wagner's ability
to climb trees
father is rich
he is terrified of
climbing trees

That
is
glorious
talk to
them

a 1907
he is terrified of the sea, of
thunder and of the wind. Many of
our clients reacted so. It was
the presence of had guaranteed away
from them

GOD: ADOLF HITLER

The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

1908

mis.

rest from his wanderings

actual annihilation of the metaphorically and saying only when the Jews them- destructive work of an- could they join with the would Jews and Germans hat Wagner meant, Unter- traction.

Adolf Hitler liked his ideas eply personal and psycho- ed. And he read in order ve found here in Wagner at the only way the "curse lf and from the German ws.

PRIORITY

er Blätter, to disseminate e culture. In this periodical einforced at every turn the h had given to Hitler: all re Aryan; the decline of noble race by Jewish and ood and the coming of a pure society which would f the Volksblud" and the 30 It was consistent with n race that it should treat "quite justified in the nat- xert dominion and exploi-

l crisis which he saw all essays. As a perceptive s the "artistic counterpart" h: lerous prose of "Herodom"

snippets of the mass and he Passion, he set forth a ul- Christian legend. Parsifal struggle, and hope for re- in a sense, black masses and dedicating them to a

Parsifal is many things, but one thing it is not: it is not, as has been said, "a profound statement of the Christian message."¹⁴² It blas- phemes the Christian message; it slanders ethical values. In this opera Wagner prostitutes Christian symbolism and the Christian message to extol the virtues of racial power.¹⁴³ To do so, Wagner makes his Teutonic hero into the very Son of God. In a scene taken directly from the Gospel of St. John, a woman anoints Parsifal's feet with rare perfume and dries them with her hair. The Last Supper becomes in the opera an initiation rite for German knights who bind themselves in a blood oath not to forgive their enemies but to destroy them:

The Knights

(First half)

Take ye the bread,
change it again
to body's strength and power;
true unto death,
toil to the end
to work as the Savior willeth!

(Second half)

Take ye the wine,
change it anew
to blood within you burning;

(Both halves)

Live all in one,
brothers so true,
to fight with courage holy.

(The Knights have risen; they pace from both sides toward each other and solemnly embrace during the music that follows.)

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THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

lifeless to the ground before him. Amfortas and Guernemanz kneel in homage before Parsifal, who waves the Grail in blessing over the worshipping Brotherhood of Knights.)

(The curtain closes slowly.)

In the whole of the New Testament, only once does a white dove descend from heaven. It hovers above the head of only one person: Jesus.

In Wagner the Grail and the spear of Parsifal are not symbols of Christ's blood shed for the redemption of all mankind; they are signs of Aryan racism. The lush incestual sexuality, the racist symbolism, the *völkisch* fetishes of *Parsifal* have nothing whatever to do with the life and teachings of the Jewish carpenter of Nazareth.¹⁴³ Wagner himself pointed out that a main purpose for writing *Parsifal* was to deliver his racial message. In an article published in the *Bayreuther Blätter* for November-December 1882, he explained that in this opera "the Kingship of this Brotherhood" was the elite of the race, "a race chosen to protect the Grail."¹⁴⁴

If later generations were confused by the message of *Parsifal*, Adolf Hitler was not. "If we strip *Parsifal* of every poetic element," he said, "we learn from it that selection and renewal are possible only amidst the continuous tension of a lasting struggle."

CONTEMPT FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Hitler also confirmed his contempt for parliamentary government by reading Wagner, who abhorred the idea of constitutions and had nothing but scorn for democracy, a word he put in quotation marks or labeled pejoratively "Franco-Judaical-German democracy."

In a bitter essay entitled *Was ist Deutsch?* (What is German?), Wagner said of the liberal revolution of 1848 which sought to establish a constitutional government in Germany, "I have no hesitation about styling the . . . revolutions in Germany entirely un-German"; and he dismissed liberal democrats as the "loud-mouthed movement of 1848."¹⁴⁶

After Bismarck founded the Empire, Wagner continued to denigrate and ridicule parliamentary democracy. In an article which appeared in the *Bayreuther Blätter* of May 1879, he commented, "Where our un-German barbarians sit, we know: as the victors of something called universal suffrage we find them in a parliament that knows everything except the seat of German power."¹⁴⁷

One of his reasons for opposing liberal democracy was that it sought peace among nations. Wagner, like Hitler, believed that war is beneficial and that the conquest of lesser breeds is sanctioned by the laws of Darwinian nature. History, he said in words that *Mein Kampf* would echo, proves that man is "a beast of prey, developing through constant progress. The beast of prey conquers countries, founds great

The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

realms by the subjugation of civilizations, in order to and defense, suffering and struggle servitude, all sealed with blood; race. . . ."¹⁴⁸

Wagner called for an end of parliaments and constitution: dictatorship under a heroic lead without actually using the word "Volk-King" or a new "Barbaros Barbarossa was a sort of spirit, and he helped to popularize the deepest distress a magnificent people. In an effort to convey all this "Hero wonderfully become — *Wahn*. As the English translation "absolutely untranslatable, I should not so much mean an 'illusion' or 'ideal aspiration.'" ¹⁴⁹ Like Hitler is a political principle beyond tried and failed to give a rationale. In him the citizen honors unavailing embodiment, of that same *Wahn* and above his common notions ennobles him. . . ."¹⁵⁰ What other readers, it meant to Adolf *Führerprinzip*: the principle that for German society was a dictatorial powers, beyond the ken or control

Chamberlain, Drexler, and I

HOUSTON STEWART CHAMBERLAIN

A contributor to Hitler's *Mein Kampf* (between Wagner and Hitler was 1927). This peculiar Englishman Bayreuth; there he embraced — one of the master's daughter declared that the three greatest figures were Wagner, and Wagner, but the German. In 1899 he produced his chief work (Foundations of the 19th Century), a readable tome somehow went to

The thesis of the book is that Wagner, and Hitler. There are similarities too believed in the racial creativity of the Aryans: "Phy-

Wagner - get the rest of this.

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

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The Intellectual World of Adolf Hitler

1924 mis.
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and defense, suffering and struggle, victory and defeat, domination and
servitude, all sealed with blood; this is the entire history of the human
race. . . ." ¹⁴⁸

Wagner called for an end to "the French and English nonsense"
of parliaments and constitutions and demanded the establishment of a
dictatorship under a heroic leader. Thus he endorsed the *Führerprinzip*
without actually using the word. He preferred to talk of a "Hero" or a
"Volk-King" or a new "Barbarossa." He had a theory that the medieval
Barbarossa was a sort of spiritual reincarnation of Siegfried or Parsifal,
and he helped to popularize the ancient German hope that in times of
deepest distress a magnificent hero would come to save the German
people. In an effort to convey all the mystery, awe, and reverence due to
this "Hero wonderfully become divine," Wagner created a new word
—*Wahn*. As the English translator of Wagner notes, the word is
"absolutely untranslatable, I shall mostly retain it as it stands. It does
not so much mean an 'illusion' or 'delusion' in general as . . . a 'symbol-
ical aspiration.'" ¹⁴⁹ Like Hitler's Führer concept, the idea of *Wahn*
is a political principle beyond explanation and beyond reason. Wagner
tried and failed to give a rational explanation: "This symbol is the King.
In him the citizen honors unaware the visible representative, nay the
live embodiment, of that same *Wahn* which, already bearing him beyond
and above his common notions of the nature of things, inspires and
ennobles him. . . ." ¹⁵⁰ Whatever this prose might have meant to
other readers, it meant to Adolf Hitler a confirmation of his faith in the
Führerprinzip: the principle that the only form of government suitable
for German society was a dictatorship under a leader with godlike
powers, beyond the ken or control of men or institutions.

Chamberlain, Drexler, and Eckart

HOUSTON STEWART CHAMBERLAIN

A contributor to Hitler's racial thinking and an important bridge
between Wagner and Hitler was Houston Stewart Chamberlain (1855-
1927). This peculiar Englishman came to worship at the shrine in
Bayreuth; there he embraced—along with Wagner's political thinking
—one of the master's daughters, whom he married. Chamberlain de-
clared that the three greatest poets of humanity were Homer, Shake-
speare, and Wagner, but the greatest of these was his father-in-law.
In 1899 he produced his chief work, *Grundlagen des XIX. Jahrhunderts*
(Foundations of the 19th Century). This ponderous and virtually un-
readable tome somehow went through ten editions in a dozen years.

The thesis of the book is familiar to readers of Lanz, List, Fritsch,
Wagner, and Hitler. There are shades of difference, but basically Cham-
berlain too believed in the racial theory of history and extolled the
creativity of the Aryans: "Physically and spiritually they stand out

IC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

The Child As Father to the Man

prove Adolf's health by forced feeding and that she continued to do so throughout his childhood. Schmidt recalled in an interview that his Aunt Klara, after her husband's death, brought her children to spend summers on the farm in Spital. He remembers that Adolf was never obliged to work in the fields and that during the summer of 1905, when he did not feel well, his mother brought "a large cup of warm cow's milk into his room every single morning" and insisted that he drink it.⁴⁶

Hitler's oral habits and fixations in adulthood invite the conclusion that there were serious disturbances in the infant feeding process, to which the well-meaning Klara contributed. We are reminded of the adult Hitler's inordinate craving for candy, particularly in moments of crisis; the sucking of his fingers in times of excitement; his violent rages; his poor appetite; the many books in his library on food fads; his constant comment about diet. Most significant for history was his basic mistrust of others and the oral aggression of his demagoguery.

Adolf was a compulsive and aggressive talker even as a youth. As his boyhood friend recalled, Hitler was friendly only with those whom he could dominate verbally:

A painful moment
 Soon I came to understand that our friendship endured largely for the reason that I was a patient listener. . . . He just HAD TO TALK and needed somebody who would listen to him. I was often startled when he would make a speech to me, accompanied by vivid gestures, for my benefit alone. . . . He was never worried by the fact that I was the sole audience. . . . These speeches, usually delivered somewhere in the open, seemed to be like a volcano erupting. . . .

A close associate of his adult years shows the continuity of this oral aggression. The Führer, in one of his famous rages, sought almost literally to destroy opposition with his mouth:

The fury raged itself out in a hurricane [Orkan] of words which contradiction only lashed to a greater intensity. At such times he would crush all objection simply by raising his voice. These fury-scenes occurred over both major and minor matters.⁴⁷

During one of his beer-hall speeches of 1920, when a heckler tried to embarrass him by asking pointedly if, during the civil war in Bavaria, he had ever joined the civil guards, Hitler retorted: "I am not a member of the Einwohnerwehr. . . . You can also fight with your mouth! [Mit dem Maul kann man auch kämpfen!]"⁴⁸

In a classic account of adult patients who had suffered feeding problems during the oral stage of infancy, Karl Abraham might have been

With one's mouth, one can also fight!

1892

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

describing one of Hitler's nightly monologues when he wrote that the desire to expel words "results in an obstinate urge to talk, connected in most cases with a feeling of overflowing. Persons of this kind have the impression that the fund of thought is inexhaustible, and they ascribe a special power or some unusual value to what they say. Their principal relation to other people is effected by the way of oral discharge."⁴⁰

Melanie Klein has shown that adults who exhibit oral sadism—the need to command, subdue, and conquer opposition—are reverting to a much earlier stage of oral hatred: "In my analysis of boys and adult men I have found that when strong oral-sucking impulses have combined with strong oral-sadistic ones, the infant has turned away from his mother's breast with hatred. . . ." Such people, she notes, have an everlasting concern with diets and food fads; they worry about potency in their heterosexual relations or become deeply concerned about homosexuality. As we shall see, Hitler had similar worries.⁵⁰

Anal Stage

Psychoanalysts from Freud to Erikson have also emphasized the importance of the "anal stage" in human development, or, in Erikson's terms, the period in which the conflict of autonomy versus shame and doubt takes place. Failing to achieve a sense of autonomy, accomplishment, and self-control, the child may feel humiliated, frustrated, and ashamed. In adulthood his behavior will be marked by indecisiveness and a desire to humiliate others. Feelings of guilt and shame may also be present.⁵¹

The anal period (ages two to three) is important because this is the first opportunity the child has to show a degree of mastery and control over others, especially his mother. And to a certain extent, she becomes "dependent on the will of the child."⁵² This period in Adolf's life must have put excessive strain on the mother-child relationship. For it was precisely at this time, as we shall see, that little Adolf believed that his mother had betrayed him by following his father-rival to master her sexually. Retention and control of feces could have been his childish way of showing his capacity to force her to pay attention to him. His temptation then—as in later life—was to retain his feces.

It seems likely that Klara, with the best of intentions, contributed to little Adolf's difficulties. We know that she was a fastidious and compulsively clean woman, and it may be assumed that she was particularly rigorous in the toilet training of her children. That Hitler experienced difficulties in this period which further strained the mother-infant relationship is manifested in his adult behavior. We should note first how often he used anal imagery thereby showing an unconscious fixation on feces, filth, manure and odor. Let us consider a few examples:

148

*D.T. has to give an
explanation on toilet training*

*from the point of view
of the 3 yr old.*

mis.

The Child As Father to the Man

You don't understand:
heap and then we wi
there is and how much

And when he [the Jew
are transformed into d

Charity is sometimes
is spread on the field
precaution for one's ov

Hitler even used an a
midnight reverie in the Wo
ing himself, once again, to
that Frederick was outnuml
while he, Hitler, actually
front. He concluded that in
like a shithead." It was one

One of his most vivid
both to his secretaries and
preoccupation with anality.
he got drunk as a teenager
defecation with the school
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both at the time and years
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quently took enemas, whic

According to Otto Fen
shows certain distinctive
point of passive aggression
excessive concern about ti
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thinks of Hitler and his tr
own tie, yet he could squ
alysts have also found a c
Patients are particularly n
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GOD: ADOLF HITLER

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sumed that she was par-
er children. That Hitler
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ilt behavior. We should
reby showing an uncon-
r. Let us consider a few

The Child As Father to the Man

You don't understand: we are just passing a magnet over a *manure* heap and then we will see how much iron in the *manure* pile there is and how much will cling to the magnet.

And when he [the Jew] turns the treasures over in his hand they are transformed into *dirt and dung*.

Charity is sometimes actually comparable to the *manure* which is spread on the field, not out of love for the latter, but out of precaution for one's own benefits later on.

Hitler even used an anal imagery to describe himself. During a midnight reverie in the Wolfschanze, in January 1942, he was comparing himself, once again, to Frederick the Great. But this time he noted that Frederick was outnumbered 12 to one during the Seven Years' War while he, Hitler, actually had a numerical majority on the Eastern front. He concluded that in comparison to Frederick, he, Hitler, "looked like a shithead." It was one of his favorite words.⁵³

One of his most vivid memories of childhood, which he repeated both to his secretaries and to his military entourage, illustrates Hitler's preoccupation with anality. He recalled that for the only time in his life he got drunk as a teenager on Heuriger wine and wiped himself after defecation with the school certificate that he had intended to show proudly to his mother. He was overwhelmed with embarrassment both at the time and years later, when he confessed, "I am still humiliated, even from here." That he kept on telling the humiliating story indicates anal fixation. It is also consistent with a particular form of masochism which will be discussed later.⁵⁴

As we have noted, Hitler was chronically concerned about personal body odor and flatulence. He also worried a good deal about his feces and examined them often, as his doctors reported to U.S. intelligence officers after the war. To alleviate chronic constipation, he frequently took enemas, which he insisted upon administering himself.⁵⁵

According to Otto Fenichel and Karl Abraham, the "anal character" shows certain distinctive traits: obstinacy and stubbornness to the point of passive aggression; constant pitting of his will against others; excessive concern about time. As Abraham has noted, "Patients often save time in small amounts and squander it in large ones."⁵⁶ One thinks of Hitler and his troubles with time—he had no time to tie his own tie, yet he could squander hours in empty soliloquies. Psychoanalysts have also found a clear connection between anality and sadism. Patients are particularly noted for rigidity, stubbornness, and refusal to yield. A tendency toward compulsive repetition is also present. All patients are meticulously and compulsively clean. And so, not surprisingly, was Adolf Hitler.

* (the source of fertility and richness betrayed)
later, when he was in power
he would use that image
at Wolfsschanze table talk.)

a theme for 1892-1903

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

(1892)

THE CASE OF THE MISSING TESTICLE

tie-in to toilet training

* Klara Hitler was not only worried about her son's feeding and toilet training. While cajoling or forcing him to eat more food, to move his bowels regularly and on schedule, and to control his bladder, she also could have fretted about an anatomical defect she may have detected in her son: one of his testicles was missing. One can speculate that she periodically felt the little boy's scrotum, checking anxiously to see if the testis had descended. Such solicitous concern would have heightened Adolf's infantile sexual feelings and increased the difficulty of a healthy mother-son relationship.

Since the matter is of considerable importance to the psychological development of Hitler from infancy onward, let us pause here and come to grips with the problem of the Führer's testicles.

It can now be affirmed that the British Tommies were right all along in the first line of their version of the *Colonel Bogey March*—they were manifestly mistaken in the last:

Hitler has only got one ball,
Göring has two, but very small;
Himmler is very sim'lar,
And Goebbels has no balls at all.

Ribald speculation yielded to medical evidence only after World War II, when the Soviet government released the report of an autopsy performed by Red Army pathologists on Adolf Hitler's body, whose partially burned remains were found in May 1945 in a shallow grave outside the Führer's Berlin air raid shelter.* The relevant medical findings are clear:

The left testicle could not be found either in the scrotum or on the spermatic cord inside the inguinal canal, or in the small pelvis. . . .

Before pursuing the matter any further, it would be well to establish the identity of the corpse the Russians examined. Positive identification could be made only after comparing Soviet evidence of the teeth of their cadaver with the X rays, diagrams, and pictures of Hitler's head and teeth which were found after the war by U.S. authorities in the files of Hitler's doctors and his dentist, a 1911 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Dental School named Hugo Johannes Blaschke. Werner Maser, who is sometimes considered the world's lead-

* Although the autopsy was performed on 8 May 1945, the report was not released until 1968, in a book published in both German and English. See Lev Bezymenski, *The Death of Adolf Hitler: Unknown Documents from Soviet Archives* (New York, 1968).

* *A decision must be made
He is either possessed of
2 testicles or one. See pp 151-160
in White.*

mis.

The Child As Father to the

ing authority on details knowledge of the dental was fraudulent. Hugh I its findings.⁵⁷ But after Germany's distinguished Maser and Trevor-Rope correct: the teeth of Hitler.⁵⁸

That conclusion has Norwegian specialists in nals, they set forth the represented the facts, as to Hitler. An American Army, and who had ac Dr. Blaschke in 1945—the present Russian story successfully made on the

The most authoritative, however, has been made in odontology. With over all the extant records documents from Hitler's compared these data "to matic, and descriptive findings are clear and in

The individual identified by the U.S. National Archives autopsy report [as] ously unknown docu

Two conclusions of the Soviet pathologists in and in that body the left

Nevertheless, there sexual apparatus was : doubted fact that Hitler doctors, Morell and Gie: unusual about Hitler's t are of dubious value on he never allowed them t had had an opportunity been adequate to the ta of his scrotum.

No doubt Doctors physical examination.) not persuasive. Morell

IC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

and academic troubles noted through the years when he at school record was excellent. In the little elementary school of ages of six to eight, remarkable in every subject. . . . "Lively." Similar reports have (ages 8-9). Here he was an ex-chor of the local monastery. Realschule in Leonding, which

in Linz in September 1900 at in his behavior. He now on his studies. His first year "standard" that he was obliged rather better—since he was in year (1902-1903) he failed "variable." By 1904 he was on the condition that he leave ed to send him to the school where she rented a room for (1905) is still in existence. satisfactory, 4 adequate, and the following grades:

num standard in two required would have been obliged to out of school. His failure in have read *Mein Kampf* or any rks in history and geography is that "by far my best work old history, my two favorite of the form." 76

longer the obedient star pupil

The Child As Father to the Man

of previous years. Indeed, Dr. Huemer, one of his teachers during this period, described him as having been lazy, lacking in self-control, "argumentative, self-opinionated, willful, arrogant and bad-tempered. He had obvious difficulty in fitting in at the school. . . . He demanded of his fellow pupils their unqualified subservience, fancying himself in the role of leader. . . ." Another instructor at the Linz Realschule, Dr. Gissinger, reported strange activity on the part of his pupil. Gissinger said emphatically that he was not drawing on his own imagination but distinctly remembered "Hitler holding dialogue with trees stirring in the wind." One of Hitler's friends in Leonding confirmed this picture. He said his friends all considered Adolf quite strange and remembered that he liked to climb a hill to make speeches at night to nonexistent audiences. Many other examples of Hitler's exaggerations and florid fantasies (including belief in his own magical powers, so typical of monorchids) are recorded by his admirers both in adolescence and during his mature years.

The age of 11-12, a time of resurgent sexual impulses and genital awareness, produces great anxiety in monorchid boys—an anxiety which in Adolf was almost certainly increased by the worries his oversolicitous mother had expressed through the years. Hitler's concern about his sexual development is indicated in a drawing he did at the age of 11 or 12 of a frightened Realschule teacher apparently caught in the act of masturbation. It seems likely that Adolf has projected his own anxiety and fears onto the teacher. (The cartoon is now in the Federal Government Archives in Coblenz.) A German biographer who reprints it thinks that the teacher is depicted as "overbearing," "suspicious," and "arrogant," and that he is holding an ice cream cone in his hand. But that cannot be an ice cream cone, since they made their first appearance at the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904—four years after Adolf drew the picture (p. 158) of his teacher.⁷⁸

In order to help master the anxiety engendered by the anatomical defect, disturbed monorchid boys favor symbolic substitutes for the missing testicle. In addition to breasts, patients may be excessively concerned about eyes. Hitler's eyes were particularly important to him, and others began to notice them in early adolescence. His secondary school teacher, Dr. Gissinger, described Adolf's eyes as "shining," when Kubizek first met him, he was particularly struck by Hitler's strangely compelling eyes and recalls that his mother was frightened by them. As we have noted, the adult Hitler was aware of their power and practiced "piercing stares" in front of the mirror. He also played games with his eyes. He would slowly cross them in looking at people, or he would stare them down. In effect, he may have been saying to them and to himself, "See, I do have two powerful (potent) testicles, and I can penetrate and dominate others." He was intoxicated with the Medusa of the piercing eyes that could render others impotent. One might also consider Hitler's use of the extended, stiff-arm salute as a substitute for flawed genitalia. We have seen earlier how he boasted

of him to hold his arm up for hours—a boon substitute

for the flaccidity of his erections.

does it for ten minutes at a time
In excess ulterior void void
in doing it for hours.

Note - all the boon could convey
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arm edensan, Calaw Kubogsh to lanta

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1905

making
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157

1902

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1934

mis.

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

of this fury over the mere suggestion that a cherished wish might not be fulfilled may have derived ultimately from one all-important infantile hope: that his missing testicle would descend.

Predictably, boys who have genital defects as well as Oedipal problems develop castration anxieties of extraordinary dimensions. Hitler, we have noted, was beset by such fears. As Führer, the kind of punishment he chose to mete out reflects castration anxieties. Anyone found guilty of "causing ridicule of the Führer" was *beheaded*; artists who displeased him by using the wrong colors for skies and meadows were to be *castrated*.⁸³

Hitler also showed his apprehension about his sexual adequacy in other ways. He was actually frightened by stallions and bulls, traditional symbols of masculinity. But he liked very much to gaze at statues or pictures of them, "enviously admiring their strength and yet actually afraid of the animals themselves, who possessed those qualities which he lacked but most desired." From the pictures he seems to have derived vicarious "sexual strength—satisfactory substitute—until faced with the real thing, when the satisfaction turned to hate and fear."⁸⁴

For his new Chancellery, Hitler chose statues of stallions. Facing the garden and at either end of a colossal stretch of Egyptian-style columns were two gigantic prancing stallions by Josef Thorak; and the dominant statue in the cavernous "Marble Gallery" was a huge statue of a rearing stallion by Arnold Breker, the artist who also did the two heroic uncircumcised male nudes at the main entrance, symbolizing the Party and the Wehrmacht.

An American journalist who toured the building noted that stallions also figured prominently in the hall, whose enormous length contained 14 magnificent Gobelin tapestries, all personally selected by Hitler and all but four showing horses. If the sexual parts of the animals in the tapestries were covered by foliage or other objects, Hitler privately called in experts to determine the sex from the animal's mane, nostrils, bone formation, or musculature. Then, in entertaining guests, Hitler would point to a partially hidden horse and ask a visitor its sex. If the guest could not answer, Hitler pointed out the reasons why he knew it was a stallion, concluding, "But you don't know anything about horses."⁸⁵ By playing this game, was Hitler trying to reassure himself by saying, in effect, that as with horses, a man could be very masculine without revealing his sexual equipment?

Bulls were also a favorite virility substitute. As a boy in Vienna, we recall, Hitler had written a dramatic sketch involving a bull being held by the horns. When he decorated his new Chancellery he saw to it that the garden was dominated by a heroic uncircumcised Nordic nude wrestling a bull by the horns. Apparently Hitler thought that bulls helped him overcome fears of sexual impotence, for one of the



*The eyes are
always
incredible.*

A schoolmate's
sketch of Hitler
at age sixteen.

GOD: ADOLF HITLER

Child As Father to the Man

philical. If it is, we can speculate that Hitler may have developed profound guilt feelings for having once whipped his own mother. In the passage, he is continuing his description of the "worker's son," now 15, and how he stays out to all hours of the night, showing total disdain for parental authority—a description, as we shall see, that fits Adolf's own behavior after the death of his father: "He loiters about, and God only knows when he comes home; for a change he may even visit the poor creature who was once his mother, curses God and the world..." (after a cold night waiting for Stephanie)

Key events of Adolf's later childhood appear to revolve around the birth and death of his brother Edmund. When, at the age of six, young Adolf saw the arrival of Edmund, it may be imagined that he resented his rival deeply and harbored death wishes towards him. If so, the wishes were fulfilled. For when Adolf was 11, his little brother died at the age of six. During the intervening years the two brothers seem to have grown close to each other, and it seems likely that Edmund's sudden death awakened guilt feelings in Adolf. Certainly the strange way of the little boy's funeral reinforced Adolf's belief that his mother could not be completely trusted. Like the little Goddess of Fate, she abandoned her sons in their direst need.

Neighbors of the Hitlers still alive in the village of Leonding in the 1950s shook their heads in incredulity when they recalled that when little Edmund Hitler died of complications following measles in March 1900 and was buried in the church graveyard, neither his mother nor father attended the funeral. They spent the day in Linz. Not even old Josef Mayrhofer, the usually outspoken village mayor and friend of Alois Hitler, could explain the curious behavior of the parents.

Neighbors suggested one possible explanation, but admitted that it was not very persuasive. They recalled that the anticlerical Alois Hitler had no liking for the village priest, whom he considered too "political." For example, the priest and a schoolteacher had the idea of organizing a soup kitchen for indigent wanderers and migrant farm laborers. Alois Hitler, the retired imperial official as the most prestigious person in the village, became the leader of an anticlerical opposition which considered this church-school alliance to be "socialization and interference in local politics." If this were so, it would help explain why the mayor sided with Hitler *pere* and was later so embarrassed about his absence from Edmund's funeral that he refused to talk about the matter. At any rate, it does seem possible that Alois could have become so furious with the local priest that he thumped the tavern *Stammtisch* and swore, in one of his fits of temper, that he would never enter the church of his enemy again, that he would be damned if he would ever hear that priest pray over his dead son. And so the stubborn old man refused to go to the funeral. Perhaps. But how explain Klara's absence? She was a devoted mother and a devout Catholic. And even if she were not, it seems passing strange that a mother would not attend her own son's burial. The only explanation that comes to mind, if valid,

* if he would strike his

mother once, it would

account for his devoted

attention to her. (A punch

to the breast?) It could come

in part from a feeling that he

was secretly infatuated with Stephanie and that was Klara's fault for marrying Alois

\$ This is going to be a long pondering

Strikes his mother when his father is not around

separation

The Child As Father to the Man

to fail; the outwardly cocky, hyperactive ringleader of robust neighborhood games became the morose, self-absorbed, withdrawn preadolescent who talked to trees on lonely hills, orated to the winds, fought with his parents, caricatured his teachers, and hated the world. We can only guess at the reasons for these apparent changes. But we can be quite sure that they were not unrelated to his earlier life. For we know that the traumatic experiences of infancy have lasting repercussions. During Adolf's earliest years, attitudes of mistrust, shame, guilt, hatred, and fear had sent down deep and noxious roots. They were nourished during this bitter year by more baneful experiences: the sudden death and tragic funeral of his brother, with attendant feelings of guilt about his own survival; a reinforcement of his conflicting feelings about his mother; the transition from the familiar local school to the strange urban *Realschule*. And all these unsettling events took place at precisely the age when disturbed monorchids experience their most difficult period of development. It was a bad year. But with the death of his father, things began to look up.

"NEGATIVE IDENTITY": THE LINZ DANDY

Hitler remembered the years just after his father died in 1903, when his mother lived in a comfortable apartment in Linz, as the freest and happiest time of his life. The authoritarian old man could no longer whistle for him like a dog, demand obedient silence, or ask his infernal questions about schoolwork and plans for a career in the civil service. His doting mother drew on her comfortable pension and the profits from the sale of her house in Leonding to indulge Adolf's every wish. Glorifying in a life of leisure as critic and patron of the arts in the provincial capital, he joined the local museum and library and rarely missed a performance of the Linz opera. He dressed immaculately in white shirts, flowing cravats with stickpins, a broad-brimmed black hat set at a confident angle, and well-cut tweed suits which were the envy of the young men of the town. In winter, he donned a silk-lined black overcoat. For the opera, he affected black kid gloves, an ivory-handled walking stick, and a top hat.¹¹⁷

Thus did Adolf assume what Erik Erikson has called a "negative identity"—that is, he took on a role which was the very opposite of what he knew his father would have considered "proper." In so doing, he showed active contempt for his father's ideals and values. Such role playing, as Erikson has shown, is not only a vindictive attack on the father but also a kind of personal defense. For it is much easier to fantasize one's self by assuming a negative identity than it is to struggle painfully for genuine self-definition and realization.¹¹⁸

5) He would push this identity for as long as it would hold up. By 1908, it was in serious disrepair.

By 1909 he feels harassed by his father.
It was useful to us because it kept him
from giving up, and is, in terms of suicide
but is afraid of meeting his father.

Order from M
No suicide
Definitely not

ADOLF HITLER

The Child As Father to the Man

his new role, how-
burden of educa-
—according to his
father's plans for
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ks settled the per-
rom "a severe pul-
very little disguise,
nged for in secret,

fact ill in 1905 or
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ives in Linz—that
the family doctor,
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My records show

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alls clearly that in
by a Dr. Karl Keiss
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fatigable archivist
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home in Linz. But,
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n, she let him quit

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This happened with uncanny regularity, as though the fifteen-year-old had taken it for granted that one day he would possess the necessary power and means. . . . The plans which that unknown boy had drawn up for the rebuilding of his home town . . . are identical to the last detail with the town planning scheme which was inaugurated after 1938. I am almost afraid of giving, in the following pages, my account of these early plans, lest my veracity should be suspected. And yet every single syllable of what I am going to recount is true. . . . His belief that one day he would carry out all his tremendous projects was unshakeable. . . . This absolute faith was too much for my rational way of thinking. . . .

To young Hitler reality and fantasy were so interwoven that time and again he would go and visit the buildings which existed only in his mind's eye.¹²³

During the evenings, often until past midnight, Adolf would attend the opera or go with his friend on long walks in which he would plan and replan more buildings or hold forth on the ills of the arts and society. He showed that his capacity for projection was already well developed. One day the two friends strolled by the Cafe Baumgartner and saw young men idly chatting as they sipped white wine at its marble-topped tables. Adolf was furious with those "stupid parasites" who wasted their time in idle chatter and gossip.¹²⁴ But as he vented his anger on these "parasites," he probably had his own life-style in mind, and he may have been angry with himself for being so dependent on his widowed mother. Such feelings would have increased his ambivalence toward her: he loved and needed her, but the very dependence made him feel guilty and resentful.

Yet he continued to let his mother indulge him. Thus, when Adolf decided that he might enjoy playing the piano, his mother bought him a Heitzmann grand and sent him to an expensive teacher, Josef Prevratsky-Wendt, who remembered him as a desultory pupil bored by finger exercises. After four months Adolf decided his talents lay elsewhere. It also seems likely that his mother financed him briefly in Munich, where, sometime during 1905, he took a few art lessons from a Professor Gröber in the Blütenstrasse in Schwabing.¹²⁵

In the spring of 1906, Adolf thought it would be nice to visit Vienna, where he spent a fortnight attending the opera and examining critically the new buildings of the Ring. He was not pleased by the interior of the Imperial Opera, he wrote in a postcard he sent back to Linz. Another card told of attending *Tristan* one night, *The Flying Dutchman* the next, the municipal theater the next. Since it is unlikely that Klara could have financed these trips from her pension, she must have drawn heavily on the capital from the sale of her house.¹²⁶

While such diversions were pleasant enough, Adolf's ripening tastes

175

*The mother gives the artist
to him as a gift - later*

*money in effect from
Cengela & Rosala*

ADOLF HITLER

The Child As Father to the Man

his new role, how-
burden of educa-
-according to his
father's plans for
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While such diversions were pleasant enough, Adolf's ripening tastes

Two weeks

*Dr. T. Passer 175
over other
Alfred Mann's
The Maestro has*

*sent him elsewhere
Russo-Japanese war?
It was just a short
short chapter.*

*Klara & son
death of
pension taken
from Paula.*

1905-6

24

?

~~He has Kubizek's father's~~

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

The Child As Father to the Man

Boyhood Plans for a New Reich

During their long evening hills, castles and monasteries minably to his young friend about his new Reich. The concept was to profane by definition. But he would be established under his its very incantation sufficient to aesthetic problem. Dissatisfied v they had seen in Linz, Adolf assu "Reich Stage Designer" would throughout the vast extent of his health, education, housing, and priate official of the Reich. "When alley and was at a loss how to 'This problem will be solved by tl

One day in 1939 the Führ many pilgrimages to the shrine o he told Frau Wagner that his laid open before him one night performance of Wagner's *Rienzi* said.

The hour had struck one bl unlike the raw March morning si the burial of his young brother Destiny upon him. Now at the ag to Wagner's music and watched i his people, who had been goad young brother killed by the plebe

The long opera was not over two friends went out into the gave a long and excited disquisi stage setting, and the genius of he trudged along the cold and d collar pulled up against the chi silence with a leading question al a hostile glance and told him to two friends took the road west reached the top, the mist broke a moodily at the distant heaven grabbed his friend by both hanc

* After he came to power, Hitler Albert Speer recalls being present whi production with Benno von Arent, tl *The Secret Diaries* (New York, 1976),

really required more financial support than his mother was able to provide. Having decided to win a very large amount of money in the national lottery, he made one of the many "great decisions" of his life and purchased one lottery ticket. There is of course nothing particularly unusual about a boy of 16 buying a lottery ticket and dreaming of how he would spend his vast winnings. What is striking about young Hitler is his absolute conviction that he would win. He therefore planned carefully how all the money would be spent. He decided that it probably would not be prudent to invest too much of the money on a new villa. Rather, he would rent a large flat and adapt it to his purposes. After extensive house hunting, Adolf and his friend "Gustl" Kubizek found a suitable apartment at 2 Kirchengasse in Urfahr, a suburb of Linz. Adolf made elaborate plans to furnish each room carefully and fastidiously. He would create an artistic salon in which the cultural elite of Linz might gather. Gustl would supply musical entertainment; Adolf would recite poetry and expound his views on aesthetics, culture, and history. The coterie would be presided over by a refined, dignified, and elderly gray-haired lady who would be decorative, charming, and witty—but not too clever. For, as Hitler later observed, women didn't need brains, since he could supply enough for any social gathering. During the summer, Adolf decided, he and his friend would make an extensive tour of Germany; he vowed to make an annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Wagner at Bayreuth, the source of his greatest ideas.

Once again one is struck by the way fantasy and reality mingled in Hitler's mind. It is also noteworthy that the woman who was to preside over his salon may have been a mother substitute; it was certainly not Klara Hitler, who died without a gray hair on her head. With all the money and with all his plans, his mother was not once mentioned. Nor did Adolf fantasize a beautiful and cultured wife to complement his artistic circle. Rather, he would have his friend Gustl live in celibacy with him.¹²⁷

Adolf awaited the day of the lottery drawing with complete assurance. He simply could not believe that he had lost. In blind fury he rushed into the upholstery workshop of Kubizek's father:

I have rarely heard him rage so madly as then. First he fumed over the State Lottery, this officially organized exploitation of human credibility, this open fraud at the expense of docile citizens. Then his fury turned against the State itself, this patchwork of ten or twelve or God knows how many nations, this monster built up by Hapsburg marriage. ~~Replaced by Nazis~~ Could one expect other than that two poor devils should be cheated out of their last few crowns?

Kubizek is perceptive in noting that this apparently silly incident was shattering to Adolf because "he had been deserted by his willpower" and was unable through the force of his will to get his way, to make fantasy become reality.¹²⁸

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It is interesting that he felt no fear of the possible attendant on the adolescent's plan to join together and grow a new society

1968
on the other hand, it was the first step in a long process that would lead to his death



1: ADOLF HITLER

itectural challenges.
re. He also went to

... I too hoped to
et fifty years earlier.

: good in the capital.
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9 November 1921 to
who had asked for a

t seventeen and left
t the time of the trip
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as a not yet eighteen
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if at first scantily. I
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1 February 1904 at
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He also received an
hus, far from being
bread as a common
neither the need nor
income exceeded 85
ge schoolteacher or

sing odd jobs, but in
ienna he earned no
ell postcards during
with him [February
suspect that after he
his pleasure in paint-
period and indeed
re were together." 170

The Child As Father to the Man

1908 mis
1908
In Vienna, Adolf found a room in the Sixth District in the Mariahilfe, at Stumpergasse 29, in a building which later became a small linoleum factory. He invited his friend Kubizek, who had been accepted at the Conservatory of Music, to live with him. "Gusti" was greeted at the railway station by a dashing and debonair Adolf in dark overcoat, kid gloves, and ivory-handled walking stick. Since his quarters were too small for two, Hitler managed to inveigle the landlady into moving out of her own room, and the two young men moved in. There was now room for Gusti's piano and, most important to Hitler, space for him to stride diagonally back and forth across the room, as he had in the Blütengasse in Urfuhr and as he would during his conferences as the Führer.¹⁷⁷

Normally Adolf slept until noon. His afternoons depended on the weather. If it was rainy or cold he would either go to the *Hofbibliothek* to read or stay home to work on outlines for plays or plots for operas. But normally, since Kubizek had to practice, Adolf would storm out. On pleasant days he would examine the buildings he planned to rebuild or sit reading in the Schoenbrunn. His favorite spot was a stone bench in the woods to the left of the Gloriette. But he would not go there on Sundays. He didn't like big crowds, and he despised the officers and carefree, stupid citizens.

Every evening the two young artists went to the theater. Kubizek insisted on this point in a later conversation with the archivist Jetzinger:

How often?

Every day!

O come, nobody will believe that!

We went out every evening almost without exception, usually to the Burgtheater or the Opera and sometimes to concerts when as a music student I got free tickets.¹⁷⁸

They did not miss a performance of Wagner. Since Adolf would not go to the gallery of the opera because of the women, they stood in the pit where women were not admitted.

For several weeks, day and night, Adolf's energies were taken up with plans for a "Mobile Reichs Orchestra" which he would establish when he founded his new Reich. This huge orchestra would bring music to the remotest city of Hitler's vast empire. In these plans, as in all others, Hitler brought together sweeping ideas and minute detail. He thought of everything. The first cellist would not leave his seating arrangements to chance. His chair would travel with him. Should the dress be formal, or perhaps a type of uniform? Adolf decided on dark suits, "distinguished but not obtrusive." Where would the orchestra perform? Few town halls could accommodate 100 musicians and large audiences. He thought of outdoor performances—Wagner was magnificent under the stars—but it might rain, and acoustics were always difficult. His

1908
HITLER'S VIENNA

1908 also
late 30s-44

THEORETICIANS OF R.

Members of the inferior mixed races are ruled by the law for foreigners and cannot attain any civil master privileges."¹⁸ And: "Members of inferior races are ineligible for land ownership and leading positions, and prohibited from establishing their own enterprises and receiving any higher education."¹⁹

List wrote: "Yes, the immense pressure weighing on the racially pure German who is conscious of his nature seems to have had some unexpected consequences. A complete awakening of the Aryo-German mind is about to take place, if for the time being only in a minority of people." This minority, List argued, had to actively work toward the promulgation of old ideals, toward "racial awareness, the command to keep one's blood pure—in short, the most sacrosanct element of Germanic marriage, the breeding of the noble Aryan." This would—just in time, before the fall into the abyss—open up the path "toward the ancient heights of pure-blooded German heroism, toward the Holy Grail, toward Aryo-Germandom." Yet his goal could be achieved only in combat and "after a new period of heroism": "no one should spare one's body." Rebirth was certain.²⁰

According to List, the master race's worst enemies were the "internationalists": the Catholic church, Jews, and Freemasons, who were waging a war of extermination against the Aryan race. "Through lies and acts of violence," List said, "the clerics in Rome and the aristocracy they rule have suppressed and destroyed German customs, the German way of thinking, and German law." List predicted an "Aryo-German world war in the future," which had to be waged "in order to establish order and to regain the master privileges which were cunningly taken away from the *herrenmensch*, and also so that the herdman will again live in an orderly situation where he will find his happiness too."²¹ At issue was nothing less than world dominance and—as a first step—a "pan-Germanic Germany," consisting "of Germans, the British, Dutch, Netherlanders, Danes, Swedes, and Norwegians."²² List wanted a "Germanic agriculture," new settlements in border areas by organized, cooperative German farmers' families, as the basis for the renewal. The Aryans were supposed to regain their health by working the soil, but should always be on the lookout for enemy nomads—the Jews. According to List, the Jews were so dangerous because they were spoiling the Aryan "noble race" by way of mixed marriages. Therefore they had to be fought: "If a people lets the parasitic nomad live with them and if it makes him even a judge, a teacher, or the leader of an army, then he will turn his host's cultivated land into a desert. Therefore, let's get rid of nomadism!" And: "To be sure, they don't tell you they are nomads, they disguise themselves by wearing

clothes of your own kind in your property from you. They was a pest and enemy who desert and you personally in

In List's work, "serving the belonging to that people to founded secret societies mod in order to prepare for the u 1907 the mystical association ed, whose members were per the Armanen were the pre-Chu noble ones" as a result of y. Order's brethren were actual do men who generously sup, difficult to ignore the fact that In 1911 the organization HA barung" (High Armanen's Reve

These secret societies w various ways, particularly afte tions with the secret order su benfels, with the Artamans, v with the Bayreuth circle, the several others.

The swastika gradually be of recognition, and by and by circles. The swastika can be tra it was not generally known. 2 standard encyclopedia of the tence: "The swastika can be fo also a religious symbol of the E

Early books by List contain the "strong one from above," t folkish circles adopted the sym plers around Lanz von Liebenfe the first time on the tower of h "as a sign of battle and victory however, were blue and silver.

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Himmler will

→ AH reads List in 1908
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AH debates whether to study genetics in order to resolve this problem for himself, & then decides it is a question to be answered by the God-given forces—instinct. The answer: Take 4 generations to be safe. Reason: *

* When the underlying will is giving much more power than the will of the intellect. Therefore, every act of 1907 was dangerous.

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GOD: ADOLF HITLER

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The Child As Father to the Man

earliest years. The combination of monorchism and primal scene trauma had given Adolf Hitler a lifelong fear and abhorrence of genital sexual intercourse. He saw it as dangerous, evil, depraved, something that must be avoided. He could avoid genital intercourse by redirecting his sexual energies in deviate ways.³²²

As with other issues raised in this book, we cannot be absolutely certain that Hitler had the perversion described here. It must be admitted that traditional historians who reject this hypothesis are correct in saying that they can find evidence to support their assertions that he was sexually normal. But that conclusion is also based on fragmentary evidence of uncertain reliability. And it simply does not fit the psychological data.

In short, we conclude that Adolf Hitler, upon occasion, had young ladies urinate or defecate on his head. We are persuaded that he had this perversion not because the traditional type of evidence is completely convincing but because it is reinforced by psychological evidence. The perversion fits all that we know about Hitler's private life and public performance. It was an expression of the fetid underside of his grandiose, moralistic public image, it expressed the degraded, guilt-ridden self which pleaded for punishment and humiliation. This impulse for self-punishment, we shall suggest in the concluding chapter, was to have historic consequences.

Thus did the evils done in childhood visit themselves upon the man. We leave him now to look at the larger historical picture, the conditions which helped bring him to power. For no historical leader can achieve a political goal without the assistance of forces congenial to his personality, time, and place. No man or nation can escape history, and none can be understood apart from it.

In following the course of German history as it moved toward its fateful meeting with Adolf Hitler in 1933, we shall want to know what there was in the past that he could bend to his purposes; and how, in the context of his times, the very pathology of this flawed and unbalanced man became a political asset.

* D.T. gives an exposition
of the alpha + Omega in
Hitler - a palace and a
slut-house side by side.

1936, 1941, 1924

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

lands, and Luxembourg were inhabited by German-speaking people, even though "they are now detached almost entirely from the old German Reich to which they once belonged." The acquisition of Alsace-Lorraine in 1871 and the prospects of adding Belgium and the Netherlands to the new Reich were defended on the grounds that they had all been a part of the "Old German Empire."⁵

The most memorable Holy Roman Emperors were not lawgivers and statesmen like their contemporaries, William I, Henry II, and Edward I of England or Louis IX and Philip Augustus of France. The greatest German hero of the period was the emperor, crusader, knight errant, and warrior with that splendid sobriquet, Friedrich Barbarossa. The legend of Barbarossa, alive in generation after generation of memories, was that of the heroic leader who never died. Even now, it was said, he still sits at a huge oaken—or is it marble?—table in a secret cave, deep in enchanted slumber. While Germany is troubled, disunited, despised, his red beard keeps growing. But one day, when the beard has encircled the entire table—and when Germany needs him most—the great leader will shake off the sleep of the centuries, arise in glory, and establish a magnificent, all-powerful Reich. Some said the cavern was located in the Kyffhäuser at the edge of the Harz Mountains. Others said that it was in the Bavarian Alps near Berchtesgaden. Hitler preferred the second alternative.

The Führer was so taken with both the successes and failures of the medieval hero that he would call his most important military campaign, the invasion of Russia, "Operation Barbarossa."

A Legacy of Luther

The outstanding event of our history is still Martin Luther.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Side by side with Frederick the Great stands Martin Luther as well as Richard Wagner.

—Adolf Hitler

The towering figure of Martin Luther dominates the period known as the German Reformation and casts a shadow across the following centuries. Popular German history tends to neglect his theological achievements and remembers him as the national hero who broke the universality of the Western church, almost single-handedly established the German language, insisted on obedience to the state, and demanded that the Jews be harried from the land.

Heinrich Heine called Luther "the most German man of our history." He was typical of his countrymen, Heine thought, in being a man of striking contrasts:

He was at the same time a visionary mystic and a practical man of action. His thoughts not only had wings; they had hands. . . . The

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man who could curse virgin. After spending tinctions, he took up and reflection among that uproots oaks, d violets. He could becc his was the motto, 'W fool his whole life lon most magnificent way

Few thinkers have be called a forerunner of N have it, Martin Luther—E umny. A spiritual univer racist demagogue. Luther v with magnificent moral c the Antichrist incarnate; b by the Gestapo. Yet havin religious reformer did unv and foremost he himself p tors echoed his words—the state, "whether it does : obedience to those in autl toward the state). His resp the common people is:

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ADOLF HITLER

The Past As Prologue: Hitler and History

1924

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man who could curse like a fishwife could be tender as a young
virgin. After spending a day working out rigorous scholastic dis-
tinctions, he took up his flute at night and lost himself in melody
and reflection among the stars. Often he was as wild as the storm
that uproots oaks, then gentle as the zephyr that strokes the
violets. He could become completely absorbed by spirituality; . . .
his was the motto, 'Who loves not wine, women, song/ Remains a
fool his whole life long.' In his character was combined, in the
most magnificent way, all the virtues and vices of the Germans.⁹

Few thinkers have been so revered and so maligned. He has been
called a forerunner of Nazism or, as the title of a war book would
have it, *Martin Luther—Hitler's Spiritual Ancestor*. The title is a cal-
umny. A spiritual universe separates the Christian leader from the
racist demagogue. Luther would have been appalled by the Third Reich;
with magnificent moral courage, he would have denounced Hitler as
the Antichrist incarnate; he would have been among the first executed
by the Gestapo. Yet having said that, we must also say that the great
religious reformer did unwittingly help pave the way for Hitler. First
and foremost he himself preached—and generations of Lutheran pas-
tors echoed his words—that the Christian owes absolute obedience to
the state, "whether it does right or wrong." Luther demanded not merely
obedience to those in authority but Staatsfrömmigkeit (literally, piety
toward the state). His respect for rulers was increased by his distrust of
the common people:

our history is still Mar-
—Friedrich Nietzsche
the Great stands Mar-
ard Wagner.
—Adolf Hitler

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←

The princes of this world are gods, the common people are Satan,
through whom God sometimes does what at other times he does
directly through Satan that is, makes rebellion as a punishment
for the people's sin. . . . I would rather suffer a prince doing wrong
than a people doing right.⁷

The inevitable corollary to such obedience to the state was the belief that
individuals had no political rights, only political duties.

Luther's anti-Semitism also had lasting consequences. It was set
forth most notably in a scurrilous pamphlet entitled *On the Jews and
Their Lies*. Virtually unknown to the English-speaking world until 1971,
the tract was widely circulated in Germany and quoted, through the
centuries, in dozens of anti-Semitic pamphlets, typically by such influ-
ential Jew-baiters as Theodor Fritsch, Guido von List, and Richard
Wagner. The American editors of Luther's collected works are under-
standably disconcerted by the essay. Before presenting their dutiful and
accurate translation, they comment regretfully: "One hardly knows
whether to be more astonished at the crudity of Luther's language or at
the cruelty of his proposals."

Centuries before Hitler, Luther was convinced that the Jews were
pernicious parasites who exploited and enslaved honest Germans. While

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THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

principles of free government and accomplished a peaceful Revolution still remembered as Glorious. It was an age graced by the buildings of Sir Christopher Wren, the genius of Newton, the letters of Milton and John Donne, and the political theory of Halifax and Locke—which, by the end of the century, was pointing the way to contractual government, and inspiring the constitution makers of the New World.

Across the Channel and the Rhine, the political legacy of the 17th century was sharply different.* The Thirty Years War had left the German middle class politically ineffective and the petty princes enconced in arbitrary power, unrestricted by constitutions and preoccupied with divisive feuds.

The war served to increase the longing for a mighty Leader who would bring stability and order to a devastated land. Articulation of these hopes was provided by Germany's enormously popular writer, Hans Jakob Christoffel von Grimmelshausen (1625?-1676). His stories and picaresque novels went through dozens of editions and sold thousands upon thousands of copies through subsequent centuries. His novella, *Die Landstörzerin Courasche* (The Vagabond, Courage) inspired both Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage* and Jerzy Kosinski's *Painted Bird*, the searing adventures and sufferings of a young boy who wandered through the same lands of Central Europe during a later period of holocaust and terror—the Nazi occupation of World War II.

Grimmelshausen's most famous work, *The Adventurous Life of Simplicius Simplicissimus* (1669), describes graphically and with bawdy humor scenes of pillage, whoring, torture, and death—scenes which the author himself had witnessed as a boy. Through it all, the hero, the abysmally ignorant Simplicius, is sustained by the faith that one day the tortures and travail of Germany will end. The day of deliverance will come only with the arrival of a national leader:

I will awaken a German Hero who will consummate all this with the strength of his sword; he will slay all wicked men and protect and exalt the good.

In this version of the Barbarossa legend, Grimmelshausen made an important contribution to the Führer mystique. His German Hero was a man of charisma who would bend the world to his will. "Every

* It is true that during these and subsequent years influential Germans wrote eloquently about individual and natural rights. But such writers as Samuel Pufendorf, Christian Thomasius, and Christian Wolff were disinterested in developing constitutional institutions to protect those rights. Indeed, they believed that freedom could be attained only through subservience to the state to which they assigned absolute power. Immanuel Kant disliked tyranny but he disdained democracy. He was unable to reconcile his concern for individual liberty with his commitment to royal absolutism. A very great philosopher, his political thinking ended in virtual "political paralysis." (See especially Leonard Krieger, *The German Idea of Freedom: History of a Political Tradition* (Boston), 1957, 50-53, 65-66, 87-90, 124).

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great city shall tremble before the ruler of the world and refuse obedience to this C [ausrotten]. . . ." He was the people of German blood and v schaft. His Greater Reich beyond the borders of queror. All of Central and control. Western lands w land, Sweden and Denmark their crown and kingdom date his vast dominion, new capital of Germania than Manoaah in America of Solomon." 11

A British authority of a time when the German fantasies of Grimmelshausen were quite diverting. "One can find countries as vassals of have found the prospects

The Contributions of I

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GOD: ADOLF HITLER

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binette (Berlin, 1924), 4: 306.

The Past As Prologue: Hitler and History

In 1933 Oswald
Spengler called the King the first national socialist. The Nazis accepted
him and his son as their spiritual ancestors and proclaimed them "the
conscience" of National Socialism.¹⁵

Frederick II, called Frederick the Great (1712–1786), had an even
greater impact than his father upon Germany history and upon Adolf
Hitler. Certainly no one in German history—before the advent of the
Austrian—was hailed with such panegyric. He was *Friedrich der Einzige*
(Frederick the Unique), who was "not merely the patron saint of Ger-
many but the greatest monarch in modern history, with an honored
place in the German Valhalla beside Luther and Goethe, Kant, Beethoven
and Bismarck." Neubauer's *Lehrbuch*, a popular textbook which went
through many editions between 1890–1914, taught German children
to honor him as the ideal leader—a veritable paragon standing "on a
solitary height above his people: the war lord and statesman, the
philosopher and historian, the most powerful example of unqualified
and complete devotion to the State."¹⁶

The reign of the famous son saw the continuation and intensifi-
cation of attitudes and institutions associated with his father. Under
Frederick the Great, the army and the bureaucracy, if anything, in-
creased in social importance. But there was a notable difference. Un-
like his father, the son exulted in war. In 1740 the father had signed
a document giving the "sacred word of Prussia" that his country would
not invade young Maria Theresa's province of Silesia. With the old
man barely in his grave, Frederick attacked. His justification for the
unprovoked assault on a neighbor's land was worthy of Adolf Hitler:

Let the ignorant and envious babble; they shall never form the
compass by which I shall steer. . . . My object is glory; of this I
am more enamoured than ever.¹⁷

This "rape of Silesia" helped to produce the Seven Years War, a
war that would give Frederick an imperishable reputation as a field
commander. His brilliant victories at Rossbach, Zorndorf, and Leuthen
would be studied in the principal military academies of the world as
examples of superb generalship. Napoleon called Leuthen an absolute
"masterpiece . . . which would alone have sufficed to make Frederick
immortal." Popular history added more accolades. He was remembered
as the intrepid national hero who, although outnumbered 12-to-1 and
surrounded by "those damn women" (Maria Theresa, Elizabeth of
Russia, and Madame de Pompadour), proved that he could still conquer
though half the world opposed him.

This is the memory that sustained Adolf Hitler in his last des-
perate days in the Berlin air raid shelter during the darkening spring
of 1945, as he sat before the candlelit portrait of Frederick the Great
frantically reading the German translation of Carlyle's multivolume bio-
graphy hoping to find inspiration and waiting for a sign of deliverance.

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Ellen xerox pp 253+254
from marked copy
p 254 is important

Ellen pp 256-279

are not in this
batch. I assume
they are in other places. Do you remember?

Look up
Carlyle
for quotes.

1924
THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

That He suffered and bore the sins of man.
But I rejoice over great sin as my great comfort . . .

Thus spake Zarathustra.⁶⁹

Nietzsche's emphasis on negation fit the mood of disillusionment which swept postwar Germany. His slashing attacks on all systems of politics and morality continued to make him far and away the most widely read philosopher among the youth of Germany during the decade prior to Hitler's accession to power. Nietzsche did as much as any single writer to destroy a moderate alternative to political extremism. For he would tolerate no half-measures; he demanded totality—total destruction and total creation. He despised Heinrich Heine's "subduing talisman of the Cross"; he rejected Goethe's sense of restraint and limitation; he ridiculed political moderation; he trumpeted "the magic power of extremes." His invitation to live dangerously—"Build your cities under Vesuvius! . . . Live at war! . . . Be robbers and conquerors!"—was taken up with enthusiasm by those who would come of age in 1933.

Nietzsche also made a positive contribution to Hitler's receptibility. His most persuasive call had been the power of the will and the Will to Power—a will that was self-justifying, with no reference to any recognizable external standard. The last sentences of his notes, collected as *Will to Power*, took on an ominous sound as they reverberated in the Third Reich. After talking of his "mystery world of . . . voluptuous delight," of a world "beyond good and evil . . . without goal," Nietzsche concludes:

Do you want a *name* for this world? A *solution* for all its riddles? A *light* for you, too, you best-concealed, strongest, most intrepid, most midnightly men?—*This world is the will to power—and nothing besides!* And you yourself are also this will to power—and nothing besides!⁷⁰

The single principle to which he reduced life was the irrational Will to Power, a slogan he did not mean politically but one which was easily distorted and appropriated by Hitler's brutalizing politics. So was the final commandment Zarathustra gave to his followers: "This new tablet oh my brothers, I place over you: *become hard!*"⁷¹

There can be no doubt that, using the same words, Nietzsche and Hitler meant quite different things. But the words *were* the same. On occasion, Nietzsche could seem to glory in brutality with the relish of an SS officer. Again, it may be said that he did not really mean what he wrote. But if he was misinterpreted by the Nazis, he had no one but himself to blame:

1924
To witness suffering is pleasant, to inflict it even more so. . . .
There is no festivity without cruelty; so teaches the longest, old-

The Past As Prologue: Hitler a

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very festive!

Nietzsche, like the Nazis, systems of morality and was thinking in neither racial "inferiors" would not have Nietzsche's Superman had perspective, the inferior belied up to his standards. They felt the same way about Pole

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Predictably, the Nazi "philosophy" to demonstrate his thesis to brothers."⁷⁴

It cannot be emphasized Nietzsche sought was to be that his enemy was not the mean racist biology. Never terminology in setting forth demanded that his follower of people he considered to accused of conspiring to higher breed of men.

The greatest irony of Nietzsche of his most distinguished essays, entitled "Nietzsche's story," Mann summarized Nietzsche. He first recalled how the people held their traditions in asked,

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mood of disillusionment attacks on all systems of far and away the most many during the decade as much as any single ical extremism. For he d totality—total destruc- Heine's "subduing talis- of restraint and limita- peted "the magic power /—"Build your cities un- and conquerors!"—was ome of age in 1933. on to Hitler's receptibil- r of the will and the Will th no reference to any es of his notes, collected they reverberated in the orld of . . . voluptuous without goal," Nietzsche

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The Past As Prologue: Hitler and History

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Nietzsche, like the Nazis, talked of two "species" of men with two systems of morality and modes of conduct: masters and slaves. True, he was thinking in neither racial nor social terms, but his attitude toward "inferiors" would not have seemed strange to a guard at Auschwitz. Nietzsche's Superman had elitist contempt for "Undermen." From his perspective, the inferior beings were simply those who did not measure up to his standards. They were to be treated like chattel.⁷² Hitler felt the same way about Poles, Russians, Gypsies, and Jews.

There is one arresting paragraph in Nietzsche's notebooks, posthumously published, which demands commentary. Anyone who admires Nietzsche must find the thought appalling, but if words mean anything, these words mean that this sensitive poet and philosopher sometimes thought in patterns not dissimilar from the brutal demagogue and dictator. In contemplating a new order of society Nietzsche wrote:

The Great Politics [*Die grosse Politik*] intends to make physiology the mistress over all other questions. She will create a power strong enough to breed [*züchten*] a more complete and higher form of humanity with merciless hardness [*schonungsloser Härte*] against the degenerate and parasitic in life—against that which corrupts, poisons, defames, and destroys . . . and which sees in the annihilation of life the mark of a higher form of the soul.⁷³

Predictably, the Nazi "philosopher" Alfred Rosenberg quoted this passage to demonstrate his thesis that the Nazis and Nietzsche were "spiritual brothers."⁷⁴

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that the "New Order" which Nietzsche sought was to be directed by a philosopher, not a demagogue; that his enemy was not the Jewish people; that by physiology he did not mean racist biology. Nevertheless, Hitler would use *precisely the same terminology* in setting forth his ideology for the Third Reich: he too demanded that his followers be "mercilessly hard" in crushing a group of people he considered to be "degenerate and parasitic"—those he accused of conspiring to "corrupt, poison, defame, and destroy" a higher breed of men.

The greatest irony of Nietzsche's life and thought was noted by one of his most distinguished admirers, Thomas Mann. In one of his last essays, entitled "Nietzsche's Philosophy in the Light of Recent History," Mann summarized Nietzsche's contribution to Hitler's Germany. He first recalled how the philosopher had criticized his fellow Germans and held their traditions in contempt. "But who, in the end," Mann then asked,

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

was more German than he; who served the Germans as still another model for those traits which made them a disaster and terror to the world, and led them ultimately to ruin themselves: romantic passion; the drive to eternal expansion of the self into space, without any fixed object; will which is free because it has no goal and aspires to the infinite. . . . In more than one sense Nietzsche has become historic. He made history, frightful history, and did not exaggerate when he called himself "a nemesis." 75

We are left with the question posed by Karl Jaspers: "Is he the one who wanted the highest, who yearned for the impossible, who against his will became a power which unleashed among us all the devils of hell?" 76

Regrettably, the answer is yes, he was such a one.

OTHER ANTIDEMOCRATIC INTELLECTUALS

Even those intellectuals who were critical of Imperial Germany had nothing but scorn for parliamentary democracy. Priding themselves on being "unpolitical," they forfeited the political game to others. Many called explicitly for a Führer to rescue Germany from the confusions which their disdain for democracy had done little to alleviate. When the young Thomas Mann professed his admiration for Lagarde, Nietzsche, and Wagner, it was because, Mann said, they had performed the service of proving that "democracy is alien to us."

The attitude of German intellectuals during the Second Reich was given classic expression in a long and important essay written by Mann and proudly entitled *Betrachtungen eines Unpolitischen* (Reflections of an Unpolitical Man). In this influential book, Mann urged his fellow Germans to be nonpolitical because politics was associated with democracy and democracy was deeply un-German. Freedom from politics, he argued, constituted the basic foundation stone of German Kultur. A typical passage reads:

I declare my deep conviction that the German people will never be able to love political democracy for the simple reason that they cannot love politics and that the much decried *Obrighetsstaat* is and will remain the form of government suited to, deserved, and basically desired by the German people. 77

In fairness to the memory of the great novelist and humanist, it must be reported that Mann later regretted having written the essay. When he recognized the menace of Hitler, he urged his countrymen to participate in politics and to support the Weimar Republic. But the hour was then very late. His influential statement, widely publicized at the birth of the republic, expressed the sentiments of most German intellectuals of the pre-Hitler period.

Another seminal thinker, Max Weber, provides an additional exam-

The Past As Prologue: Hitler

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Anti-Semitism in the Se

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GOD: ADOLF HITLER

the Germans as still another disaster and terror to ruin themselves: expansion of the self into which is free because it has. In more than one sense history, frightful history, itself "a nemesis."¹⁵

arl Jaspers: "Is he the one impossible, who against among us all the devils of

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of Imperial Germany had cy. Priding themselves on al game to others. Many any from the confusions title to alleviate. When the n for Lagarde, Nietzsche, had performed the service

ng the Second Reich was portant essay written by es *Unpolitischen* (Reflec- al book, Mann urged his itics was associated with man. Freedom from poli- lation stone of German

erman people will never simple reason that they leered *Obrigkeitsstaat* is suited to, deserved, and

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ides an additional exam-

The Past As Prologue: Hitler and History

1918

ple of the forces that stunted the growth of German democracy. The noted sociologist often spoke in favor of democracy; indeed, he would help to establish the Democratic Party just after the war. But his understanding of the term was peculiar. When it was clear in 1918 that Germany would be defeated, he spoke directly to General Ludendorff urging that he sign a peace treaty and establish a democratic government. The following conversation took place:

Ludendorff: Then what do you mean by democracy?

Weber: In a democracy, the people choose a leader in whom they trust. Then the chosen leader says, "Shut up and obey me." The masses and political parties are then no longer free to interfere with the leader.

Ludendorff: I could like such a democracy.

That Weber meant what he said in this conversation became apparent when, after the Weimar democracy was established, he used his very considerable influence to undercut its effectiveness because it failed to produce the "chosen leader" he had mentioned to Ludendorff. In a lecture to Munich students in 1919 on the subject of politics as a profession, Weber paid special tribute to government that demanded the devotion of the masses to a "charismatic leader." He concluded his lecture by saying that Germans had a choice between an effective Führer and the present leaderless democracy, which had created "a carnival," not a true German government.¹⁶

Anti-Semitism in the Second Reich

In plain words, the Jew has always been an element of national decomposition. . . . The Jews are our misfortune.

—Heinrich Treitschke (c. 1875)

Fundamentally, only the complete disappearance of the Hebrew can be called a worthy solution to the Jewish Problem.

—Eugen Dühring (1880)

Something of the long and tragic history of German anti-Semitism is caught in the following vignette from the 18th century:

In October 1743, a boy stood at the gates of the city of Berlin, asking permission to enter. He was only 14 and a hunchback, and he had to ask permission to enter because he was a Jew. Jews not only were required to enter cities through a designated gate, but they had to have a permit to travel the country's roads. This hunchback Jewish boy had grown up in the restricted circumstances of the ghetto, and he knew only a few words of German. One of them was "Dessau," the city from which he had walked, alone to Berlin; the other word was "lernen"—the reason for his trip—"to learn,"

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about life-styles in the German family can have shown that German those of other countries over a longer period of interviews with many childhood, variously, concluded that "the basic significant difference during

was constantly impressed upon me in forceful terms that I must obey promptly the wishes and commands of my parents, teachers, and priests. . . . Whatever they said was always right. . . . These basic principles on which I was brought up became part of my flesh and blood. . . . From my earliest youth I was brought up with a strong awareness of duty. In my parents' house it was insisted that every task be exactly and conscientiously carried out. . . . My father took particular care to see that I obeyed all his instructions and wishes with the greatest meticulousness.

Hoess has provided statistical proof on his capacity to obey instructions:

I personally arranged for . . . the gassing of 2,000,000 persons between June-July 1941 and the end of 1943, during which time I was Commandant of Auschwitz.¹¹⁷

ress the proper and tradi-ly, is normally translated it, for it combines, quite the idea is suggested by s dictatorship, 73 percent greed with the following : an inflexible law in the

ote her life to her "three for her children, but she ive of determining family ld War II, 70 percent of " as the best way of coms when a father is punish-

le should be noted. There o feel uncomfortable when ken. The German father yield a point in discussion. (effeminate). The father g that the children live up d was afraid of failure, he ion and compulsive thot-

e family, but it was also a n child learned that com-ith his parents. Hence he uthority and uneasy when obedience in family train-nder Hitler, became com-also spoke for many of his aliness:

. . . this passion for water; brought up by my parents all grown-up people . . . it

Respect for *Ordnung*—a favorite German word—was taught, not only by threat of punishment but also by ritual: the child learned to keep his hands on the table, never indecently in his lap; to go to sleep lying on his back with hands outside the covers. Closely associated with order was cleanliness, which the child was taught to associate with purity. Indeed the German word *rein* is applicable to both. He learned that to be dirty (*schmutzig*) was to be bad. Thus the association: order and cleanliness, dirt and evil. It was not a difficult transition to believe that the blond and white-skinned Germans were cleaner and purer than other people—hence better than those of "mixed" races, who were impure-dirty-inferior-bad.

The family experience put heavy emphasis on status and rank. Respect for hierarchical order was strengthened by the military tradition, but it started very early in family life. A child attained status in the home not just on the basis of age, complexion, or physical size but on whether he had earned the title of *Lieblingskind* (favorite child). When he went to school he was seated in order of his performance, starting at the top in the back seats and proceeding methodically downward in rank toward the front. At the age of ten a major status decision in his life was made: either he would become a member of the elite group bound for the university and a profession—perhaps with a coveted doctorate—or he would join the "masses" who terminated their academic career with the *Volksschule* certificate.

It seems likely that one of the reasons German consciousness of rank was so prevalent was because it was comforting. A father knew what he could demand from his family merely because he was the father. A wife and son and daughter knew exactly what their duties were, simply because they were wife and son and daughter.

Strong feelings, both passive and aggressive, were developed in the family. A son's attitude toward his father necessarily was passive,

* Bring into A. H.'s thoughts while masturbating.

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must be somewhere else.

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

responsible officials recognized the danger of Hitler, their superiors refused to take any action against him. In 1924, for example, the Bavarian police recommended that Hitler be deported as a dangerous alien. Their report was prophetic:

The moment he is set free, Hitler will . . . again become the driving force of the new, serious public riots and a continual menace to the security of the State.

As a result of this report, the Bavarian state attorney filed formal complaints protesting Hitler's parole, but the Bavarian minister of justice, Franz Guertner, intervened and ordered the withdrawal of all complaints. Hitler was released on parole and was not deported. Guertner was later made Reichminister of Justice in 1933 and served until his death in 1942.¹⁰¹

The bureaucracy that had helped Hitler into power proved indispensable in establishing his dictatorship. He could never have consolidated his control over Germany "without the technical help of tens of thousands of civil servants and the acquiescence of millions . . . complicity and silence, not refusal and dissent" characterized the German bureaucracy in the crucial early years of Hitler's dictatorship.¹⁰²

Religious institutions were also helpful to Hitler. The Protestant hierarchy was generally hostile to the Republic, and its pastors thundered from a thousand pulpits against the "Treaty of Shame," which only the coming of a strong national leader could abolish. With the advent of Hitler, they continued their tradition of limiting religious statements to narrowly defined personal faith, with emphasis on the obligations of the "inner man," drawing their inspiration from Luther's famous, and fateful, pronouncement, "Politics are not the concern of the Church." Many Protestants came to accept without question Hitler's claim that his movement was the only alternative to Communism. Pastor Breuer spoke for many of his brethren in Christ when he said that he had joined the Nazi Party because the Church needed a powerful ally against "atheistic Communism and materialism," and that he "supported Nazism wholeheartedly" until 1943—that is, until the defeat at Stalingrad.¹⁰³ Lutherans generally found it difficult to take exception to Hitler's anti-Semitism, since it paralleled so closely Martin Luther's explicit statements about the Jews.

Like their Protestant counterparts, Catholic leaders were also basically conservative, largely monarchist, and distrustful of liberal democracy. And like the Protestants, they were unable to recognize the menace of Hitler and were ineffective in dealing with him. Let Father Falkan, a Catholic parish priest, speak for his colleagues:

I must admit that I was glad to see the Nazis come into power, because at that time I felt that Hitler as a Catholic was a God-

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The Past As Prologue: Hitler a

fearing individual who . . . The anti-Semitism appealed to the Church had developed after 19

It must be emphasized that many individual Churchmen—opposed Nazi barbarism. But the role played by the consolidation of power forms history of religion.

With a few notable exceptions, public and welcomed Hitler who by all odds was the most. Alfred Hugenberg, who kept tack on every position taken had been Krupp's general in German League. During the aggressive war plans; after organizational ability to chase a leading Berlin newspaper which sent out stories and: In one way or another, he with millions of readers. His influential film corporation, which controlled distribution when Hitler's fortunes were and. In the crisis of 1933, His promise to serve in a cabinet by the "Bohemian coronation" and a reluctant President Hitler.

Other influential journalists, publisher of the *Leipziger Allgemeine Zeitung* impressed with Hitler after confident that any "rough edges" like Hindenburg, von Papen, "reason." The *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* a foe of socialism, and urged of his energy and enthusiasm his anti-Semitism too serious alternative to the Weimar Republic rule by party bosses."¹⁰⁰

Germany's educational system and unreconciled to democracy

1892?

THE PSYCHOPATHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

distraught Himmler summoned him to his office one day in 1942. After demanding absolute secrecy, he asked Kersten to interpret a "blue manuscript of 26 pages" which Himmler had taken from a secret Gestapo file. Purportedly, it contained Adolf Hitler's medical record dating from his hospitalization at Pasewalk during World War I. The records convinced Kersten "beyond any shadow of doubt" that Hitler was suffering from progressive paralysis associated with neurosyphilis.¹⁹ Support for the theory that Hitler had once contracted syphilis may be found in the rather curious fact that he chose as his personal physician a specialist in venereal disease, "Professor" Theodor Morell. Hitler's fascination with syphilis, manifested in page after page of his memoirs, is also pertinent. Then, too, rumors were rife in German medical circles that Hitler had been treated during 1932 in a Jena clinic by a Dr. Bodo Spiethoff for mental disorders associated with syphilis. Certainly the symptoms of advanced neurosyphilis correspond to some of the descriptions we have of Hitler in the last months of his life. Syphilis can produce tremors, insomnia, difficulties in walking, and personality changes. Patients may become irritable, their conscience dulled, memory weakened. They may be alternately depressed and exuberant with grandiose fantasies; paranoid tendencies are not uncommon.²⁰

It is conceivable that Hitler, at one time or another, may have contracted syphilis. But it is unlikely. The mysterious blue pages which Kersten insists prove the case have never appeared, and Kersten was neither a medical doctor nor an unimpeachable witness. It is also possible that Hitler was treated for syphilis in a Jena clinic in 1932. But in correspondence, Jena medical authorities state emphatically that they can find no evidence that Hitler was ever treated there. Further, the fact that Hitler's medical records show a negative Wassermann test for 15 January 1940 does not argue in support of syphilis.²¹

Recent studies of the human brain have suggested yet another approach to Hitler's physical and emotional problems. Neurologists have now reached conclusions that raise disturbing questions about the personality of Hitler—and of everyone else. Until the last few years, we have taken it for granted that each individual has one brain, one consciousness, one personality. But the ancient and comforting assumption may be an illusion. We may all be two people. For split-brain research with patients who have had the connections severed between their cerebral hemispheres has demonstrated unequivocally that the two spheres of the human brain (unlike the brains of other animals) operate separately. Further, it has been shown that "each of the two halves is independently conscious. That is, there exist two separate, conscious minds in every individual. People can live quite effectively with either one or the other or both of these minds operating.

The two independent cerebral hemispheres exhibit two quite different modes of mental activity. The left half specializes in the specific. It is adept at manipulating separate, isolated elements and

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Kerast P 355

D.T. could argue with
the conclusions.
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the first presentation
of Alpha + Omega

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From Private Neurosis

has little or no capacity with a badly impaired rational and intelligent. Most notably, the form and language. By dealing with disparation. It sees the whole emphasizes intuition. While the specialists "do not yet know get along with each other.

In an article of a team of university psychologists discoveries about behavior. They argue that they are mentally active because they point to evidence of weakness and trembling family history of ear the possibility of Hitler's mental activation: he was impossibly trusted intuition and instructions. Further, effect on history, actual policies derived from Jews. Both "can be seen. For the dominant right huge spaces and see characteristics reject sought to conquer Russia.

The hypothesis of his left cerebral hemisphere and inconclusive—as a of neurological confirmation from the theory of a particularly of Hitler's with detail, his astor weakness and trembling abilities in his right which the theory requires.

The difficulty increased by the fact of symptoms. Involuntary concentration, personalities ascribed to Paul and generalized artistic

ed by Morell's irresponsible

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al psychiatry at the Albert
s devoted to borderline per-
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1938 mis.

Borderline patients characteristically show paranoid tendencies. They distrust and are highly suspicious of other people; they consider themselves "especially privileged persons"; they fantasize about their "magical omnipotence"; they believe that they have a right to exploit others for their own gratification.²⁶ All borderlines have unreconciled Oedipal problems—which, in Hitler's case, were intensified by monorchism and the "primal scene trauma." * An impulse to self-destruction—a problem we must deal with later—and some forms of mutilation have also been reported.

Patients tend to be infantile. They show "childlike, oral-aggressive demandingness." Selfish and narcissistic, they often display "a contradiction between an inflated concept of themselves and an inordinate need for tribute from others." Typically, while they express fantasies of omnipotence, their behavior may also reveal deep-seated uncertainty, self-doubt, and insecurity. Borderline patients also tend to have phobias about dirt, feces, and contamination. Significantly, they are prone to gross forms of sexual perversion involving filth: "Primitive replacement of genital aims by eliminatory ones (urination, defecation) are . . . indicative of an underlying borderline personality."²⁷ We are reminded of Hitler's reported perversion involving urine and feces.

Typical of borderline patients is a confused sense of self-identity. Since they are not able fully to integrate their ego, they have what Erikson calls "identity diffusion." One of their defenses against anxiety generated by such uncertainty is to act as if they were someone else, to "reenact partial identification." (The political consequences of Hitler's propensity for acting out various roles will be discussed below.)

The most basic characteristic of borderline personalities is a "splitting of the ego." Patients exhibit dramatically opposing personality traits: they are cruel and kind, sentimental and hard, creative and destructive; they swing violently between excessive protestations of love and wild outbursts of hate. It often appears, Dr. Kernberg has noted, as if there were in each patient "two distinct selves . . . equally strong, completely separated from each other." His description corresponds closely with Albert Speer's picture of Hitler as a person who was "cruel, unjust, cold, capricious, self-pitying and vulgar," but who was also "the exact opposite of almost all those things . . . a generous superior, amiable, self-controlled, capable of enthusiasm for beauty and greatness."²⁸

When a therapist comments on contradictions in a borderline patient's behavior, his first reaction is to deny any contradiction or inconsistency. If the doctor persists, the patient becomes extremely anxious. Apparently, borderline personalities do not want to reconcile their two "equally strong" selves. Kernberg concluded in italics: "*Splitting, then, appears to be not only a defect of the ego, but also an*

* The symptoms associated with these experiences are consistent with those of the borderline and would serve to intensify them (see Chapter 3, pp. 150-168).

GOD: ADOLF HITLER

²⁹ The main reason for that the ego of a border-f reconciling violent ex-protect itself from the epting both images. But problem, for it serves to diffusion.

fering "tormenting self-pughtout his life. A con-dity, coupled with doubts tions about self-control him to insist, over and at he was always com-ertions about his "iron ry cool under pressure. thers. Indeed, his whole ominating other people. ly reinforce splitting d is introjected by the introjected and claimed good: Aryan toughness, all the bad onto others, softness. Projection pro-line patients—a terrify-ween good and bad, with the good. He felt com-iquitous enemy before it in his own image was served as an important enabled him to extern-could have led to mental

sonality helps to explain otic episodes, he never as. He was able to pro-lize them, and proclaim al policy.

have suffered neurologi-res does not invalidate ality with a deeply split at diagnosis. At some e physiological basis for ecific behavior of such ysician, trained in both lit-brain research: "We generalization about the es." Certainly a person's

From Private Neurosis to Public Policy

entire personality and life history cannot be "explained" by neurol-ogy.³⁰

The theory that Adolf Hitler had a hyperactive right cerebral hemisphere does not explain why he hated the Jews with such incandescent fury; why he wanted to kill them all; why he needed aggressive war; why he was so fond of wolves, ravens, and lobsters or so infatuated with decapitation; why he was frightened by horses and terrified by the thought of sexual intercourse. Split-brain research cannot explain why the splitting of his ego took the specific forms and patterns which it did. Neurological findings, in short, may deepen and complement psychohistorical understanding; they cannot replace it.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ROOTS OF HITLER'S IDEOLOGY

My beliefs are my Movement

My faith is my Weapon

—Hitler, notes for a speech, (c. 1928)

Hitler's fantastic view of the world, it has often been pointed out, bore very little relationship to external reality. But it did correspond very closely to his own psychic needs. In this respect his fantasies were not unlike those of thousands of other mentally disturbed people. What was different about Hitler was that he was not given psychological treatment; he was granted the political power which enabled him to transform his private fantasies into objective reality.

Hitler's distinctive political ideas cast him as the heroic leader called by destiny to save the Motherland from the Jewish menace. His political theory institutionalized distrust and hatred; it preached aggressive warfare as the rule of life; it exalted brutality and demanded total obedience to a racist dictator.

There were many reasons why Hitler adopted such an ideology. But a primary reason was that it helped him meet personal psychological needs deeply rooted in infantile and childhood experience: bitter memories of conflict with parents; a primal scene trauma; resentment over childhood beatings and desertion; inadequacy felt as a monorchid; the suspicion that his father might have been "tainted" with Jewish blood and had thus corrupted his children; and the searing memory of his beloved mother's last illness and death while under the care of a Jewish doctor.

Mother and Motherland

Basic to Hitler's ideology was the idea that Germany was a living organism. Of course, the concept of social Organismus was not new—it was at least as old as the Romantics. But Hitler's unusual meta-

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we need 360 + 361, 362 363, 364, 365, 366, 367.
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lems which Erikson finds characteristic of later stages of development: autonomy, identity and integrity.

Hitler's childhood, we have found, was plagued by feelings of suspicion, resentment, and mistrust. These attitudes—so typical of borderline personalities—remained throughout his life. They helped shape political decisions, and they contributed to the atmosphere of distrust that permeated his Reich.

The Führer could never open himself to another person. He had no friends. His closest associates, men who had been with him for years, never really knew him. He lied to them all, he said, and the closer they seemed to come to him, the more he lied.

1938 Distrust of others entered into the routines of his life. "Always at his desk were three pencils," his valet recalled, "one red, one green, one blue." The colors were used to make notes or to mark documents or letters, not in accordance with their intrinsic importance but to remind himself whether he trusted or distrusted the person involved. He explained the system: "I use the red one when I write about or to an enemy; the green one when I make notes about friends; the blue when I have a feeling that I should be cautious [about someone]." 54

Mistrust became the hallmark of his government and set the tone for the society. "The Third Reich," an anonymous official observed, "is a system wherein no one trusts anyone else." One of the consequences was governmental confusion. Western observers, impressed with gigantic displays of Nazi pomp and propaganda such as the Olympic Games of 1936, the great Party rallies at Nuremberg, and the Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe maneuvers, concluded that Hitler's Reich was operated with machine-like efficiency. They were mistaken. His government was shot through with corruption and inefficiency. It was a chaos of competing and overlapping jurisdictions jealously guarded by leaders who did not trust their colleagues.

When, after four years of war, Albert Speer became Reichsminister for munitions in 1942, there existed four separate "Supreme Reich Authorities," each with independent power over German war production: the Four-Year Plan, the Armed Forces Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Labor, and Speer's own Munitions Ministry. "Only slightly lower in rank and essentially as independent were at least eight more: the Ordnances Offices of the Army, Navy and Air Force and five plenipotentiaries under the Four-Year Plan. (Iron and Steel, Construction, Chemical Industry, Machinery and Water Power.)" In addition, "Himmler had been building an economic empire of his own through the SS main office of Economics and Administration, which ran all its own business enterprises free of all outside control."

Hitler refused to adjudicate serious disputes over war production and allocation of resources which developed between Göring and Speer, or between the Gauleiter and Goebbels, or between Himmler and Bormann. He could not choose among them, for he could trust no man with too much power. True, Speer's influence over the economy became

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extensive, but it alwa:
"a process of attritio
Hitler." 54

The same problem, where Hitler also were the military *Abwehr* dienst of the SS; R espionage system; Him the enemy but also to Ministry of Propaganda; Himmler; Rosenberg i ganization to spy on l archy. The Führer's mi

Nor was there an Greater Reich. In Cze either the first "Protect Frank—and they coul humane; Frank was bri In the end he tried to s to live with both parts c

Literally dozens o important disputes cry judgment. The result w with some exaggeratio anarchy." 56 The obvio fusion and refusal to m —the ancient method But Hitler had already, subordinates long after established the princip authority in the Reich.

A monographic stu notes his refusal to de choose among them. Th concludes that "This w would help to explain him." 57

A political leader i irreconcilable policies, person who is external psychological makeup.

These personal co had far-reaching conseq cause Hitler distrusted avaricious, incapable o revolt. The masses, he trustworthy. That was c

ETHIC GOD: ADOLF HITLER

broughtout his life: he had often emphasized that to the masochist, it is a twisted sort of trial experience with masochism, since of the masochist's attitude words: "Victory through Defeat" person as an obvious admission d and triumphant.²²¹ of hostility and aggression. One flict punishment on others. The or spouse and anyone else who ly Hitler felt that he had been in rubble, the Führer's thoughts he lamented on 26 April 1945. d up to . . . no betrayals I have . Every wrong has already been

rent facet of the problem which r's personality. Menninger has fear of examination and feelings themselves unique, who refuse to ir beliefs questioned, may find ptence. "To kill oneself instead ininger has written, "is to retain otient since one is, even by and nd death." Thus, paradoxically, igh death.²²⁴ ough the primitive act of suicide, . . . it is another method of r-tality." Such fantasy, according ncy.²²⁵ life Hitler—like other borderline fantasizing. In his boyhood he trees on lonely hills near Leon-ing lottery sweepstakes, rebuild-ew Reich; as an adult, he was siah to whom it was proper that ometimes he thought of himself was one of the immortals who mpian gods. a different kind of deity. He was e serene and radiant company her, he was a darkly brooding he shadowed hall of the dead. ker, he may have reverted to a dread ruler of the universe. The ears in German mythology as a

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deeply split deity, the god both of creation and of destruction. A magic worker who—like Hitler—appeared in different forms to different people, he was the all-knowing god, source of inspiration, inventor of the runes. But he was also the god of desolation and death, insatiable in demanding human sacrifices.

Wotan was also the Wild Huntsman who rode forth to lead the ravaging horde of the Furious Host (*wütendes Heer*). Hitler, we have said, saw himself in precisely that role as depicted in the painting *Die wilde Jagd*, by his favorite artist, von Stuck. Indeed, he may have identified so completely with this Wotan figure, and found the resemblance to himself so striking, that it does not seem too fanciful to suggest that he would see in this painting of 1889 a miraculous portrait of himself: "Hitler as Wotan, the Wild Huntsman." He was also convinced that the "Hand of Wotan" had miraculously appeared at his own Eagle's Nest in the Obersalzberg. He preserved it as his personal talisman.

Hitler and Wotan also shared similar tastes in animals. The reader will recall the curious fact of Hitler's special fondness for ravens and wolves, but these were the emblems of Wotan, Two ravens, Hugin and Munin, perched on his shoulders; the great grey wolf, Fenrir, symbol of chaos and destruction, crouched lettered at his feet, eating food from his hand alone. (In his last days, Hitler permitted no one but himself to touch or feed Blondi's pup "Wolf.") When Wotan orders the time of *Ragnarok*, the end of the world, there will be cataclysmic battle and "appalling deeds of murder and incest . . . The wolf Fenrir advances, his great gaping jaws filled the gap between earth and sky" . . . relentlessly, hideously, he devours gods and men.²²⁶

In ordering the *Götterdämmerung* for his world, we are suggesting, Hitler envisaged himself as Teutonic god fulfilling ancient myth. We know that one of his most precious boyhood possessions, a treasure "with which he never parted," was a book of German mythology.²²⁷ We know, also, of his lifelong infatuation with the ancient legends as recast by Richard Wagner. These myths foretold the inevitable destruction of the world in a tremendous holocaust, with gods and men consumed by flames. Hitler was familiar with Wagner's conception of Wotan as "rising to the tragic height of willing his own destruction".²²⁸ It seems likely that in the end he was drawn once again to Wagner, his ever-present refuge and strength in time of trouble, the fellow artist and creative genius who had inspired his Reich. He had said that "it all began" with Wagner. And thus it would end.

Fantasy was often confused with reality in the mind of "the greatest actor in Europe." For his own death scene he may have created a role of Wotan-Siegfried, a commanding Wagnerian hero who would

²²⁸ He may have reinforced this image by recalling another boyhood hero of Nordic legend who, though vanquished, yet triumphed over his foes by laughing in splendid defiance as they cut his heart from the living flesh. See Edith Hamilton, *Mythology* (New York, 1942), 444.

p 424 Wotan - old ruler of the universe - a deeply split deity
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65 of p 425 ←