

hitler a study in tyranny

****Hitler: A Study in Tyranny****

hitler a study in tyranny opens a window into one of the darkest chapters in human history. Adolf Hitler, the infamous dictator of Nazi Germany, exemplifies how absolute power, when wielded without restraint, can lead to catastrophic consequences. His rise to power, authoritarian control, and the devastating impact of his regime continue to be analyzed by historians, political scientists, and scholars seeking to understand the mechanisms of tyranny and totalitarianism. This exploration delves into the nature of Hitler's rule, the factors that enabled his dictatorship, and the lessons that emerge from studying his tyrannical reign.

The Rise of Hitler: Foundations of a Tyrant

Understanding Hitler's tyranny requires examining the context in which he came to power. Post-World War I Germany was a nation in turmoil—crippled by the Treaty of Versailles, burdened by economic hardship, and politically fragmented. The social unrest and national humiliation created fertile ground for extremist ideologies to take root.

Hitler's early years as a political agitator with the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party) showcased his skill in propaganda and charismatic oratory. His ability to tap into widespread resentment, fear, and nationalism helped him gain a devoted following. It was this volatile mix of social and economic factors, combined with Hitler's manipulative tactics, that paved the way for his eventual dictatorship.

The Role of Propaganda and Mass Manipulation

Central to Hitler's tyrannical rule was his mastery of propaganda. The Nazi regime controlled all forms of media, from newspapers to radio broadcasts, ensuring that only their narrative was heard. Joseph Goebbels, as Minister of Propaganda, orchestrated campaigns that glorified Hitler's image and demonized enemies, particularly Jews and communists.

This propaganda machine not only bolstered Hitler's popularity but also desensitized the population to the regime's increasingly brutal policies. It's a stark reminder of how controlling information can consolidate power and suppress dissent in a tyranny.

The Mechanisms of Tyranny Under Hitler

Hitler's governance was characterized by a systematic dismantling of democratic institutions and the establishment of a totalitarian state. His regime replaced the Weimar Republic's fragile democracy with a police state where opposition was crushed ruthlessly.

Elimination of Political Opposition

Soon after becoming Chancellor in 1933, Hitler moved quickly to neutralize political rivals. The Reichstag Fire Decree and the Enabling Act gave him sweeping powers to suspend civil liberties and pass laws without parliamentary consent. Political parties other than the Nazis were banned, and opponents were imprisoned or executed.

The Gestapo and the Culture of Fear

The secret police, known as the Gestapo, became a critical instrument of terror. This organization monitored citizens, infiltrated communities, and eliminated any perceived threats to the regime. The pervasive atmosphere of fear ensured compliance and discouraged resistance, making Hitler's tyranny nearly absolute.

The Role of the SS and Concentration Camps

The Schutzstaffel (SS), initially Hitler's personal bodyguard, evolved into a powerful paramilitary force responsible for enforcing racial policies and conducting mass atrocities. Concentration camps were established to imprison political dissidents, Jews, Roma, and other groups targeted by Nazi ideology. These camps became symbols of the regime's brutality and genocidal ambitions.

Hitler's Ideology: The Core of His Tyranny

At the heart of Hitler's tyranny was a radical and destructive ideology. His beliefs, outlined in **Mein Kampf**, combined extreme nationalism, racism, and anti-Semitism. This toxic worldview justified the persecution of entire communities and the pursuit of aggressive expansionism.

Racial Purity and the Holocaust

Hitler's obsession with racial purity led to the systematic genocide now known as the Holocaust. Six million Jews, along with millions of others deemed undesirable, were murdered in an orchestrated campaign of extermination. This genocidal policy marked the darkest extremity of his tyrannical rule, illustrating how ideology can fuel unimaginable cruelty.

Lebensraum and Militarism

Hitler's concept of **Lebensraum** (living space) justified territorial expansion into Eastern

Europe. This aggressive militarism not only triggered World War II but also involved the subjugation and exploitation of millions. His tyranny was not confined within Germany's borders; it spread devastation across continents.

Lessons from Hitler: Understanding Tyranny Today

Studying Hitler as a case of tyranny offers vital insights into the dangers of unchecked power and extremist ideologies. His regime highlights several warning signs that are relevant in any era:

- **Economic instability and social unrest** can create openings for authoritarian figures.
- **Manipulation of media and information** is a powerful tool to control public opinion.
- **Weak democratic institutions** are vulnerable to being dismantled by determined tyrants.
- **Dehumanizing ideologies** can justify horrific abuses and crimes against humanity.

By recognizing these patterns, societies can develop safeguards to prevent the rise of similar tyrannical rulers.

The Importance of Vigilance and Education

One of the most effective defenses against tyranny is an informed and engaged citizenry. Education about history, critical thinking skills, and the promotion of democratic values are essential to counteract propaganda and extremist rhetoric. Encouraging open dialogue and protecting freedoms of speech and assembly are also crucial in maintaining a healthy political environment.

Hitler's Tyranny in Historical Perspective

While Hitler's regime was unique in its scale and horror, it shares characteristics with other authoritarian governments throughout history. Comparing these regimes helps deepen our understanding of how tyranny functions and adapts.

For example, like Stalin's Soviet Union, Hitler's Germany relied on a cult of personality, centralized control, and brutal repression. Yet, Hitler's particular focus on racial ideology

distinguishes his form of tyranny and underscores the catastrophic consequences of racial hatred when combined with absolute power.

Exploring such parallels enriches the study of tyranny and informs current efforts to promote human rights and prevent future atrocities.

The story of Hitler as a study in tyranny is a sobering reminder of how fragile freedom can be. His rise and reign demonstrate the devastating impact of charismatic leadership gone unchecked and the importance of vigilance in protecting democratic institutions. As history continues to be a mirror reflecting our past mistakes, the lessons drawn from Hitler's tyranny remain crucial in guiding current and future generations toward a more just and humane world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'Hitler: A Study in Tyranny'?

The book examines Adolf Hitler's rise to power, his methods of establishing and maintaining a totalitarian regime, and the impact of his dictatorship on Germany and the world.

Who is the author of 'Hitler: A Study in Tyranny'?

The book is authored by Alan Bullock, a renowned historian known for his works on 20th-century history.

When was 'Hitler: A Study in Tyranny' first published?

It was first published in 1952.

How does the book explain Hitler's rise to power?

The book explores Hitler's early life, political strategies, the socio-economic conditions of post-World War I Germany, and the failures of the Weimar Republic that enabled his ascent.

What aspects of Hitler's rule does the book analyze?

The book analyzes Hitler's use of propaganda, political repression, militarization, and the implementation of policies that led to World War II and the Holocaust.

Is 'Hitler: A Study in Tyranny' considered a reliable historical source?

Yes, it is widely regarded as a seminal and authoritative biography that provides a comprehensive and well-researched analysis of Hitler's dictatorship.

Does the book cover Hitler's personal life?

While the main focus is on his political career and tyranny, the book also touches upon aspects of Hitler's personal background to provide context.

How does 'Hitler: A Study in Tyranny' contribute to understanding totalitarian regimes?

The book offers insights into the mechanisms of totalitarian control, the role of ideology, and the dangers of dictatorship, making it a valuable resource for studying authoritarianism.

Has 'Hitler: A Study in Tyranny' been influential in historical studies?

Yes, it has influenced generations of historians and scholars and remains a foundational text for understanding Adolf Hitler and the nature of tyranny.

Additional Resources

****Hitler: A Study in Tyranny****

hitler a study in tyranny offers an in-depth exploration of one of history's most infamous figures, whose rise and reign epitomize the devastating impact of totalitarian rule. Adolf Hitler's dictatorship not only reshaped Germany but also altered the course of the 20th century through unprecedented brutality and ideological extremism. Analyzing Hitler's leadership provides critical insight into the mechanics of tyranny, the manipulation of mass psychology, and the catastrophic consequences of unchecked power.

The Rise of Tyranny: Context and Conditions

The emergence of Hitler as a tyrant cannot be understood without examining the socio-economic and political turmoil post-World War I Germany faced. The Treaty of Versailles left the nation humiliated and economically crippled, setting fertile ground for extremist ideologies. Hitler capitalized on widespread resentment, hyperinflation, and unemployment by promoting nationalist rhetoric and promising restoration of German pride and prosperity.

His ascent was marked by a strategic blend of charismatic oratory and ruthless political maneuvering. Hitler's ability to galvanize the masses hinged on exploiting fears and prejudices, particularly anti-Semitism and anti-communism. This manipulation of public sentiment underscores a critical feature in any study of tyranny: the use of propaganda and mass media to consolidate power.

The Mechanisms of Control

Hitler's regime exemplified how tyranny thrives on eliminating opposition and controlling narrative. The Nazi state employed a combination of legal and extralegal measures to entrench its authority:

- **Legal Instruments:** The Enabling Act of 1933 effectively dismantled parliamentary democracy, allowing Hitler to enact laws without Reichstag approval.
- **Secret Police and Surveillance:** The Gestapo and SS enforced conformity through intimidation, arrests, and disappearances.
- **Censorship and Propaganda:** Joseph Goebbels' Ministry of Propaganda manipulated culture, education, and media to maintain ideological dominance.

This multi-faceted approach ensured that dissent was not only suppressed but also delegitimized, creating an atmosphere where resistance was perilous and public compliance became the norm.

Psychological and Ideological Foundations

Understanding Hitler's tyranny also involves delving into the psychological and ideological dimensions that sustained his dictatorship. His personal conviction in racial purity and Aryan supremacy formed the bedrock of Nazi ideology, which permeated every aspect of governance and society.

The Cult of Personality

Hitler's image was meticulously crafted to project strength, infallibility, and destiny. The Führer cult transformed him from a political leader into a near-mythic figurehead. This phenomenon contributed significantly to the regime's stability, as loyalty to the individual leader often superseded institutional or ideological loyalty. The psychological manipulation fostered a collective identity centered around obedience and sacrifice.

System

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hitler a study in tyranny: Hitler Alan Bullock, 1962

hitler a study in tyranny: Hitler: a Study in Tyranny Alan Louis Charles Bullock, 1952

hitler a study in tyranny: *Der Hitler-Mythos* Ian Kershaw, 2010-10-01 Bei der historischen Deutung der nationalsozialistischen Epoche bildet die Zentralfigur Hitlers noch immer den Gegenstand kontroverser Erklärungen. Die Flut neuer Hitlerbiographien vermochte wenig beizutragen zur Klärung der Frage, wie es kommen konnte, dass ein Mann solchen persönlichen und ideologischen Zuschnitts von breiten Schichten des deutschen Volkes mit fast religiöser Inbrunst als Führer verehrt wurde. Die im engen Kontakt mit dem Institut für Zeitgeschichte entstandene Schrift des britischen Historikers Ian Kershaw ist wohl der erste systematische Versuch, nicht die Person Hitlers, sondern den sie umgebenden überdimensionalen Nimbus, von seiner Entstehung in der Weimarer Zeit bis zu seiner allmählichen Aufzehrung am Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges, zu dokumentieren. Der Autor konnte sich dabei auf eine breite Überlieferung von Berichten über die Volksmeinung in der NS-Zeit stützen. Er verdeutlicht überzeugend, dass der hypertrophe Hitler-Mythos des Dritten Reiches nicht nur von einer perfektionierten Propaganda täglich neu erzeugt wurde, sondern in hohem Maße auch von naiven Volkserwartungen getragen und perfektioniert worden ist. Am Beispiel einzelner Ereigniskomplexe, z.B. die Röhm-Affäre 1934, wird exemplarisch veranschaulicht, wie weit sich die populäre Vorstellung von Hitler von dem wirklichen Denken und Handeln dieses Mannes entfernen konnte. Erst der zunehmend verselbständigte und introvertierte irrationale Führerglaube, hervorgegangen aus schweren nationalen und sozialen Krisen der deutschen Gesellschaft, vermittelte als Resonanzboden und soziale Integrationskraft des Dritten Reiches die von der Person Hitlers her allein unmöglich erklärbare enorme politische Wirkung des Führers.

hitler a study in tyranny: *Geschichtsschreibung in der Emigration* Birte Meinschien, 2020-11-23 Die Arbeit untersucht Leben, Werk und Wirken von emigrierten Historiker/-innen in Großbritannien in Form einer Kollektivbiographie. 4 große Themenkomplexe werden untersucht: die Emigration und Integration der Historiker/-innen, ihre universitären Karrieren, ihre Forschungsthemen und -methoden sowie ihre Position in der britischen und deutschen Historikerschaft.

hitler a study in tyranny: *Der Hitler-Stalin-Pakt in der Propaganda des Leitmediums* Moritz Florin, 2009

hitler a study in tyranny: *Human Nature and the Causes of War* John David Orme, 2018-04-07 What are the causes of war? Wars are generally begun by a revisionist state seeking to take territory. The psychological root of revisionism is the yearning for glory, honor and power. Human nature is the primary cause of war, but political regimes can temper or intensify these passions. This book examines the effects of six types of regime on foreign policy: monarchy, republic and sultanistic, charismatic, and military and totalitarian dictatorship. Dictatorships encourage and unleash human ambition, and are thus the governments most likely to begin ill-considered wars. Classical realism, modified to incorporate the impact of regimes and beliefs, provides a more convincing explanation of war than neo-realism.

hitler a study in tyranny: Hitler Alan Bullock, 1962

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hitler a study in tyranny: *Wenn Hitler 13 Minuten länger geblieben wäre* Heiner Welter, 2017-10-16 Wie lange mochte der Gauleiter mit seinen Helfern gesucht haben, bis ein gellender Schrei über den Hof des Bürgerbräukellers schallte: Der Führer ist tot! Ich fuhr vom Boden hoch. Was soll nun aus uns werden? Der Krieg, der Lebensraum im Osten? Nein, nein, nein, alles

umsonst!, stammelte ich vor mich hin. Weshalb sind über 40 Attentate auf Hitler gescheitert? Selbst der nahezu perfekte Anschlag des Widerstandskämpfers Georg Elser im Münchner Bürgerbräukeller scheiterte. Was, wenn Hitler 13 Minuten länger dort geblieben und der Angriff geglückt wäre? Dieser Frage spürt Heiner Welter in seinem neuen Buch nach. Nach der Trauerfeier übernimmt Hermann Göring die Führung des Landes. Er reist nach Schweden und schließt dort Frieden mit den Briten. Doch kann er sich seiner neuen Macht wirklich sicher sein?

hitler a study in tyranny: Wilson's War Jim Powell, 2007-12-18 The fateful blunder that radically altered the course of the twentieth century—and led to some of the most murderous dictators in history President Woodrow Wilson famously rallied the United States to enter World War I by saying the nation had a duty to make “the world safe for democracy.” But as historian Jim Powell demonstrates in this shocking reappraisal, Wilson actually made a horrible blunder by committing the United States to fight. Far from making the world safe for democracy, America’s entry into the war opened the door to murderous tyrants and Communist rulers. No other president has had a hand—however unintentional—in so much destruction. That’s why, Powell declares, “Wilson surely ranks as the worst president in American history.” Wilson’s War reveals the horrifying consequences of our twenty-eighth president’s fateful decision to enter the fray in Europe. It led to millions of additional casualties in a war that had ground to a stalemate. And even more disturbing were the long-term consequences—consequences that played out well after Wilson’s death. Powell convincingly demonstrates that America’s armed forces enabled the Allies to win a decisive victory they would not otherwise have won—thus enabling them to impose the draconian surrender terms on Germany that paved the way for Adolf Hitler’s rise to power. Powell also shows how Wilson’s naiveté and poor strategy allowed the Bolsheviks to seize power in Russia. Given a boost by Woodrow Wilson, Lenin embarked on a reign of terror that continued under Joseph Stalin. The result of Wilson’s blunder was seventy years of Soviet Communism, during which time the Communist government murdered some sixty million people. Just as Powell’s FDR’s Folly exploded the myths about Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, Wilson’s War destroys the conventional image of Woodrow Wilson as a great “progressive” who showed how the United States can do good by intervening in the affairs of other nations. Jim Powell delivers a stunning reminder that we should focus less on a president’s high-minded ideals and good intentions than on the consequences of his actions. A selection of the Conservative Book Club and American Compass

hitler a study in tyranny: The Second World War Bradley Lightbody, 2004 An accessible history of the Second World War in its global context for A-level students.

hitler a study in tyranny: Der Lebensraum im Osten in den Schriften von Adolf Hitler Christoph Kohls, 2013-07-03 Studienarbeit aus dem Jahr 2013 im Fachbereich Geschichte Deutschlands - Nationalsozialismus, Zweiter Weltkrieg, Note: 1,3, Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Historische Fakultät), Veranstaltung: Der deutsche Drang nach Osten - Geschichte, Entwicklung, Folgen (1845-1945) , Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: Innerhalb der Forschung gibt es eine breite Debatte über die Art der außenpolitischen Politik des Nationalsozialismus. Auf der einen Seite stehen die Strukturalisten, die die These vertreten, dass es keine klar zu erkennende außenpolitische Linie gab. Diese sind der Ansicht, dass sich das außenpolitische Streben Deutschlands planlos entwickelt habe und Begriffe wie „Lebensraum“ vor allem zu propagandistischen Zwecken genutzt wurden. Die radikale Entwicklung sei eine Folge der Eigendynamik und würde keinem konkreten Programm entspringen. Auf der anderen Seite gibt es die Richtung der Funktionalisten, die sich vor allem auf die Position von Adolf Hitler konzentrieren, sowie auf seine beiden Werke Mein Kampf und sein Zweites Buch. In diesen sehen sie einen Plan, der der späteren Politik zu Grunde lag.¹ Um diese Debatte soll es innerhalb der Arbeit gehen. Zuerst wird der Aufstieg Adolf Hitlers und die Veränderung der Partei bis 1924 skizziert, um die Situation darzulegen, in welcher Adolf Hitler sich befand, als er Mein Kampf geschrieben hat. Daraufhin wird eine Quellenkritik von Mein Kampf vorgenommen. Daran anschließend wird die Entwicklung bis 1928 dargestellt, als Hitler sein Zweites Buch schrieb, welches ebenfalls einer Quellenkritik

vorgenommen. In der Analyse werden diese beiden Schriften auf ihrer Aussagen bezüglich des Ostens hin untersucht. Die daraus entstehenden Sachzusammenhänge werden in die Forschungsdiskussion zwischen Funktionalisten und Strukturalisten eingebettet. Dabei geht es zum einen um die Frage, wie der Ostraum in Adolf Hitlers Schriften dargelegt wird. Zum anderen soll die Forschungsfrage erörtert werden, ob es sich bei Hitler um einen „[...] ideologischen[n] Visionär mit einem aggressiven „Programm“ oder bloß ein[en] zutiefst „prinzipienlose[n] Opportunisten“ [...]“ handelte.² Abschließend wird ein Fazit bezüglich der Darstellung des Ostraums und der beiden gegensätzlichen Thesen gezogen.

hitler a study in tyranny: Hitler Alan Bullock, 1991-06-01 Carefully examines Hitler's career and ultimate defeat in light of the social, economic, and psychological conditions in which he prospered

hitler a study in tyranny: Übersetzung als Erinnerung Georg Felix Harsch, 2021-03-15 In den 1950er-Jahren spielten übersetzte Sachbücher eine Schlüsselrolle bei der Etablierung von Diskursräumen zu den NS-Verbrechen in der BRD und in der DDR. Die Übersetzung war für eine kleine Gruppe von Akteur*innen ein wichtiges Instrument, mit dem sie explizites Wissen in den deutschen Diskurs einschreiben wollten. Georg Felix Harsch beschreibt, wie dieser Sprachtransfer nicht-nationalsozialistische deutsche Sprachformen zum NS-Massenmord entwickelte, wie diese Sprache marginalisiert wurde und wie Übersetzer*innen dennoch Grundlagen für einen ehrlich erinnernden Diskurs schafften, der sich überwiegend erst Jahrzehnte später entfalten konnte.

hitler a study in tyranny: Hitler Redux Mikael Nilsson, 2020-09-15 After Hitler's death, several posthumous books were published which purported to be the verbatim words of the Nazi leader – two of the most important of these documents were Hitler's Table Talk and The Testament of Adolf Hitler. This ground-breaking book provides the first in-depth analysis and critical study of Hitler's so-called table talks and their history, provenance, translation, reception, and usage. Based on research in public and private archives in four countries, the book shows when, why, where, how, by and for whom the table talks were written, how reliable the texts are, and how historians should approach and use them. It reveals the crucial role of the mysterious Swiss Nazi Francois Genoud, as well as some very poor judgement from several famous historians in giving these dubious sources more credibility than they deserved. The book sets the record straight regarding the nature of these volumes as historical sources – proving inter alia The Testament to be a clever forgery – and aims to establish a new consensus on their meaning and impact on historical research into Hitler and the Third Reich. This path-breaking historical investigation will be of considerable interest to all researchers and historians of the Nazi era.

hitler a study in tyranny: Ein faschistischer Diktator. Adolf Hitler – Biografie Wolfgang Schieder, 2023-02-27 Hitler und kein Ende Kein Zweifel, Adolf Hitler war ein verbohrter Ideologe, dessen politisches Handeln von Rassismus und extremem Judenhass geprägt war. Zugleich aber konnte der faschistische Diktator durchaus anpassungsfähig sein und realpolitisch handeln. Tatsächlich handelte der Versager aus Österreich oft strategisch. Er kopierte das faschistische System seines Vorbildes Benito Mussolini in entscheidenden Punkten, bevor er es freilich zu einem totalitären Faschismus ausbaute und das Dritte Reich in den Holocaust und den Zweiten Weltkrieg führte. Wolfgang Schieder, der große Historiker des deutschen Nationalsozialismus und italienischen Faschismus, gewinnt dem Rätsel Hitler in dieser neuen Biografie überraschend neue Akzente ab und zeigt, dass manche von Adolf Hitlers Entscheidungen in einem anderen Licht zu sehen sind. - Eine knappe Biografie Adolf Hitlers auf höchstem Niveau und mit neuen Akzenten - Der deutsche Diktator so tiefgründig und verständlich wie noch nie dargestellt - Die dunkelste Zeit und der verhängnisvollste Akteur der deutschen Geschichte im Brennpunkt - Von einem der erfahrensten Historiker des deutschen und italienischen Faschismus - Wolfgang Schieder ist Ehrendoktor der Universität Bologna und Träger des Verdienstkreuzes 1. Klasse der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Die Hitler-Biografie für die Zukunft Adolf Hitler muss als Extremausbildung des faschistischen Diktators gesehen werden. Das Interesse an neuen Antworten auf die Fragen, wie sein Aufstieg möglich war

und wie er die wohl verhängnisvollste Diktatur der europäischen Geschichte errichten konnte, wird nicht aufhören. Je umfangreicher die Biografien über Hitler jedoch wurden, desto weniger können sie mit ihrer enormen Materialfülle noch wirklich rezipiert werden. Eine knappe Biografie, getragen von der ganzen Erfahrung eines langen Forscherlebens und auf dem allerneuesten Stand der Forschung, war deshalb überfällig. Eine Meisterleistung, an der in Zukunft keiner vorbeikommt.

hitler a study in tyranny: A Military Leadership Analysis Of Adolf Hitler Major Paul A. Braunbeck Jr., 2014-08-15 "Before the war, and still more during the conquest of the West, Hitler came to appear a gigantic figure, combining the strategy of a Napoleon with the cunning of a Machiavelli and the fanatical fervour of a Mohomet. After his first check in Russia, his figure began to shrink, and towards the end he was regarded as a blundering amateur in the military field, whose crazy orders and crass ignorance had been the Allies' greatest asset. All the disasters of the German Army were attributed to Hitler; all its successes were credited to the German General Staff." - B. H. Liddell Hart Liddell Hart goes on to say that while this description of Adolf Hitler may not be entirely true, there is certainly some truth to it. While conducting the research for this project, it became increasingly apparent that in the late 1930s Hitler was indeed a successful military leader. The impetus behind this success was partly due to Hitler's political decision making process which, in effect, laid the foundation for World War II. However, as his success continued to mount, he became more and more involved in the intricacies of battlefield tactics and strategy. This is where Hitler's and Germany's eventual downfall for the conquest of Europe began. Upon examining Hitler's strengths, weaknesses, and decision making processes as a military leader one can begin to fully appreciate how the infamous "stop" order at Dunkirk and his "no retreat" policy at Stalingrad are often referred to as Hitler's greatest blunders of World War II.

hitler a study in tyranny: Hitler Alan Louis Charles Bullock (ed.), 1962

hitler a study in tyranny: Anatomie der menschlichen Destruktivität Erich Fromm, 2015-03-24 Dass der Mensch (auch) ein aggressives Wesen ist und als einziges Lebewesen eine Lust am Zerstören entwickeln kann, zeigt der Blick in die Nachrichten, wo Berichte über Kriege, Folter und Terror an der Tagesordnung sind. Doch wo liegen die Ursachen für diese Art der Aggressivität beim Menschen – einem Wesen, das doch eigentlich die Liebe als sein höchstes Ideal ansieht? Tatsächlich versucht Fromm auf der einen Seite, anhand von zahlreichen wissenschaftlichen Erkenntnissen seinen humanistischen Glauben an den Menschen gegenüber allen Verteufelungen des Menschen durch einen angeborenen Destruktionstrieb zu verteidigen. Andererseits ist es ihm wichtig, bei der Diskussion um die menschliche Aggression auf eine Besonderheit hinzuweisen: nur beim Menschen gibt es eine charakterbedingte Grausamkeit und Nekrophilie, deren Entstehungs- und Wirkungsweise Fromm im einzelnen darlegt. Das Buch analysiert nicht nur diese besonderen Arten der Destruktivität, sondern illustriert sie auch an einzelnen Menschen. So enthält das Buch ein Kapitel über Stalin, Himmler und Hitler, wobei ihm Hitler als Fallbeispiel für einen nekrophil-destruktiven Charakter dient. Darüber hinaus macht dieses Buch wie kein anderes deutlich, wie Fromm sich das Zusammenspiel von individuellen und sozialpsychologischen Faktoren bei der Genese des Charakters konkret vorstellt und wie er zu klinischen Urteilen kommt, ohne dabei auf die Freudsche Triebtheorie zurück zu greifen.

hitler a study in tyranny: Hitler Brendan Simms, 2020-03-09 Ein radikal neuer Blick auf Hitlers Leben, Denken und Handeln Die wichtigsten Dinge, die wir über Adolf Hitler zu wissen glauben, sind falsch, das zeigt Brendan Simms in dieser umfassend recherchierten und thesenstark argumentierten Biographie. So kreiste Hitlers Denken nicht etwa, wie allgemein angenommen, um den »Bolschewismus«, sein wichtigster Bezugspunkt war vielmehr »Anglo-Amerika«, so Simms. Die Vereinigten Staaten und das Britische Empire galten Hitler als Vorbilder für ein deutsches Weltreich, das sich ebenfalls auf Landgewinn, Rassismus und Gewalt gründen sollte. Der renommierte Historiker zeichnet in seinem Buch nicht nur ein völlig neues Bild von Hitlers Weltanschauung, er zeigt zugleich, warum diese zwangsläufig zu einem Krieg globalen Ausmaßes führen musste: Um zu überleben, musste das deutsche Volk eine mindestens ebenso starke

Machtposition erringen wie »Anglo-Amerika«. Und für kurze Zeit schien es sogar möglich, dass Hitler die Herrschaft über die gesamte Welt erringen würde.

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