

## Lesson 5: Adolf Hitler

Source: Erwin W. Lutzer, *Hitler's Cross: How the Cross Was Used to Promote the Nazi Agenda* (1995, 2016).

### Introduction

*What led a nation to willingly adopt such a dictator?*

Video footage: Unlike other dictators who are hated for their killings to rise to the top!

*What led a nation to become conscientious "desk murderers" (Marrus)?*

John Marshall, "Euthanasia – Its Ominous Pedigree" (*The Banner of Truth Trust* [April 1996], 17-19).

*What led a nation to lose its youth?*

Abolition of private education (144-45), but Hitler Youth: "Hitler youth, you are my youth..."

I believe in you and I claim you, for you are the Germany of tomorrow, my Germany of tomorrow."

Illus. *Hansi* – would not believe Hitler was losing until the Russians came to her village

Every newlywed couple in Nazi Germany was given *Mein Kampf*—teachers had it on their nightstand.

"I want to raise a generation of young people devoid of conscience – imperious, relentless, and cruel."

Illus. SS elite troops defiled conscience (114-7), oath: "The will of the Führer remains our faith" (101).

*What led a nation to Adolf Hitler?*

Ans. Two external *occasioning* factors, two internal *causative* factors.

### External Factors

**State** – *the bruised pride of the German people*

First Reich (800-1806)—Second Reich (1871-1918)—Third Reich (1933-1945) (27ff)

Weimar Republic – the wheelbarrow of money, but the wheelbarrow is stolen!

Crisis (41-42) – Nazis lack majority, appointed Chancellor, Reichstag burns, SA disbands (Long Knives)

July 14, 1933 – the will of the Führer is constitutionally the sole law in Germany

*Beware! In a crisis, people will sell their freedom for protection and provision—a return to Egypt.*

**Church** – *the salt of the earth is no longer salty*

Heinrich Heine: Only the cross restrains the German lust for war, but it is about to be broken (1834) (73).

Liberalism – a denial of the deity of Christ, an deification of civilization

The Confessing Church – largely failed to confess and gives an oath of loyalty to the Führer (188-9).

*Beware! Watch and pray that you may have strength to escape what is coming (Luke 21:34-36).*

### Internal Factors

**Philosophy**

Darwinism – "Blood and Soil" (Frankl, 35) – the film on psychiatric asylums (Marshall 19)

Nietzsche – the will to believe and the "superman" (p. 34 – beasts, cf. Daniel 7:1ff)

Wagner – racist anti-Semitism, mythic operas with gods, Aryan Christ (98)

*Beware! If liberalism is effete, the reaction of Nazism is brutal—neither is Christianity and its cross.*

These ideas pre-date Weimar and fueled the "blood and iron" (Bismarck) of WWI:

R. A. Torrey, *What the War Teaches or The Greatest Lessons of 1917* – quotes from WWI Germany

**Sum:** Blood and Soil, Blood and Iron

**Personal Destiny**

WWI bravery – blind with mustard gas, but has a vision

Vienna sword – stares for five hours, then returns for it in the Austrian annexation

Failed "Putsch" and almost takes his life – but *Mein Kampf* and spared many times: "Fate" (52).

*Beware! Providence may say that you are being spared, but not why, even if a "good guy" (Reagan).*

Three occultic teachers:

e.g. Guido von List – swastika ("broken cross" from India), "Heil!" and Karma (74-75)

Result: "a thoroughly demonized being whose body was but the shell for the spirit that inhabited him" (62).

**Sum:** Beyond the politics, the culture, the philosophy—here was the Satanic power of Adolf Hitler.

### Biblical Pattern

Daniel – the kingdom of God and the Antichrist (e.g. Pharaoh, Caesar, Kim Jong Un) – bestial and cruel!

Antichrist – sets himself up as a god, comes in the power of Satan, etc. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12).

*Therefore, what led a nation to Adolf Hitler?*

Ans. "God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

in order that they may all be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness" (v. 11).