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Quiz 2

The YouTube video mainly introduces Heidegger in two aspects: first, he is a brilliant philosopher, and second, he is in nefarious Nazi. I consider the whole video can be separated in to four parts: first, his childhood, and his life before publishing the book, *Being and Time*; second, his work *Being and Time*; third, controversy over his political views, and finally, his life after World War II.

Heidegger was born in 1889 in a small village in Germany. In 1909, he enrolled at the university of Freiburg, and during the university study, his faith in God suddenly began to weaken leading him to change his subject finally to philosophy and became a student of Husserl. He caught up in World War I. After World War I in 1917, he married with Alfreda Petri, and in 1923, he found a job as an associate professor of philosophy in university. In 1926, he finished his most important philosophy work, *Being and Time*, in the video, one philosopher praises this work as a tour de force of philosophical writing(video 13:33).

In this work, Heidegger raised questions about the meaning of “being” and put forward the question of the meaning of being again. His positive philosophy is an endless probing into the meaning of being, by which he means everything that is, not just things or human beings, but most importantly, being itself, which underlies all that is and is referred to with the verb to be and noun being. Besides, *Being and Time* also views historically is the moment in which phenomenology has been the dominant philosophical mode of thinking is called into question, but called into question in such a radical way that it become almost impossible to go back to phenomenology and continue with it.

Although Heidegger has a great contribution on philosophy, he is still a very controversial man, especially in his political views. The video supposes that his reputation is tarnished by embarking on a calamitous political adventure. In May first, 1933, he officially joined Nazi. All his pupils are speechless for his decision. They cannot believe that such a thing is possible, and someone of his students think that Heidegger makes an error. However, the video gives another view to explain Heidegger’s reason why he joins Nazi; part of the explanation seems to lie in the closeted rural culture from he and Hitler both emerged. Nazism claims to offer a preservation of a simpler rural life at the same time as it promises a tempered move into the technological 20th century, and this is a great appeal to Heidegger. Besides, Heidegger shares in the culture anti-Semitism of his nation of that time, and Nazism is also famous for its anti-Semitism. Despite my opposition to Nazism, I show my understanding to Heidegger’s political decision. I think the unveracious publicity of the early Nazism is a very important factor leading Heidegger to support the Nazism. Furthermore, in the First World War, Germany was a defeated country. After the war, Germany was faced with such problems as responsibility and compensation of the war, as well as moving out of the residence of non-Germans, which led to the country's economic difficulties and the frustration of national feelings. Therefore, when Nazis changed nationalism into national revanchism, it was to be expected that Heidegger would accept the Nazism.

Because of his political view, he was censored and prohibited from teaching. However, as a result of his important contributions to existentialism, and his influence on Sartre and other existentialist philosophers, he was allowed to back to teach in 1951. Heidegger died in 1976 and was buried in his hometown.