

HITLER: FORMATIVE YEARS

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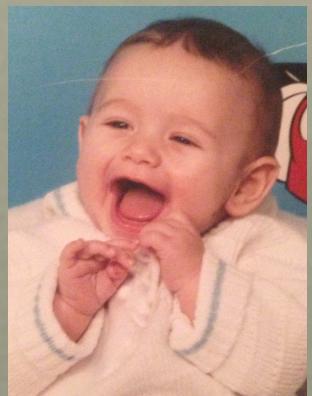
Brian Kaplan



Morgan and Rishabh.



Melissa Levine



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Fynn Minuth

ALAN BULLOCK

- Thesis: Hitler was a “**mountebank**” opportunist with no convictions, but Hitler is at fault for WWII.
Devotion to power during WWII led to downfall



ALOIS HITLER

- Alois Hitler: Hitler's father
 - Illegitimate
 - Married thrice
 - Hitler: 3rd Child of Alois' 3rd marriage (only one to survive thus far)
 - “Hard, unsympathetic, and short-tempered man, and his domestic life suggests a difficult and passionate temperament,” (4)
 - Built himself up a bit from poverty



HITLER: THE CHILD

- Born on April 20, 1889 into a poor family in Branau (between Austria and Bavaria)
 - Lenin at the time was 19
- “Hitler attempted to represent himself as the child of poverty and privation,” (4)
- Reality: Adolf had the chance for a good education
 - Did not perform well in school
 - Dodged school at any occasion
- Did not get on well with Alois
- Preferred his mother



HITLER: THE ARTIST

- In Mein Kampf: AH emphasizes conflict between him and father over ambition to be an artist
- Unlikely that conflict with Alois was about ambitions to attend Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna (5)
- First attempt (1907): unsuccessful
 - Lived the year in solitude
- Second attempt: wasn't even admitted to examination
 - Offended by rejection: chose to live next 5 years in obscurity (7)



HITLER: THE OFFENDED



HITLER: THE FRIEND

- Didn't have many friends
- August Kubizek: basically his only friend
 - Wanted to be a musician
 - Moved in with Hitler between 1907-1908
 - In 1908, Kubizek was ditched by Hitler after he was rejected for the second time from the Academy
- “Apart from Kubizek, Hitler lived a solitary life. Women were attracted to him, but he showed complete indifference to them,” (6)



HITLER: THE FRIEND

- Reinholt Hanisch “for a time knew Hitler well” (8)
 - Joined forces with AH in looking for work
 - AH proposed they start conning people by painting and baking art replicas to make them look like old originals and sell
 - Hanisch talked him out of it— made postcards instead
 - RH sold one of AH’s paintings of Vienna Parliament and kept the money → resulted in lawsuit and end of partnership (9)



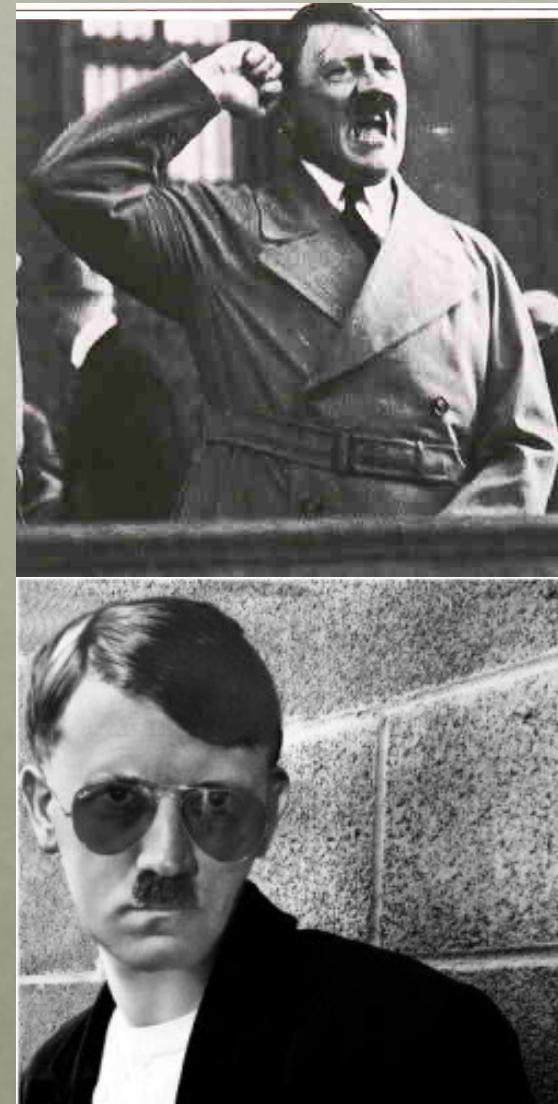
HITLER: THE POOR

- 1907-1908: When pursuing artist ambitions, had orphan's pension to fall back on
- 1909-1910: Described in contradicting ways in Mein Kampf (7)
 - Lived on the streets for periods of time
 - After falling our with Hanisch, AH continued to make money the same way—postcards and artwork
- 1911: Occasionally received financial help from aunt
- “Lazy and moody” (10)
- Quote from Mein Kampf (bottom of 11)



HITLER: THE CHARACTER

- How would you describe Hitler's character?
- “Much of the time he spent dreaming or brooding,” (6)
- Desperately anxious to impress people and full of clever ideas; talked with great ambition, then relapse into a moodiness state and disappear (11)
- Jack of all trades, but couldn't make anything of them
- “He struck people as unbalanced” (11)
- Radical beliefs
- “Never trusted anyone; never committed himself to anyone, never admitted any loyalty” (12)



HITLER: THE LEADER

- Took several of his policies from others (hated democratic institutions)
- “The political ideas and programme which Hitler picked up in Vienna were entirely unoriginal. They were the clichés of Pan-German gutter politics,” (17)
- Social Democrats:
 - Mass party and mass propaganda
 - How to appeal to people
- Georg von Schönerer:
 - Nationalism, anti-Socialism, anti-Semitism, hatred of Hapsburgs, and program of reunion with GER
- Karl Lueger



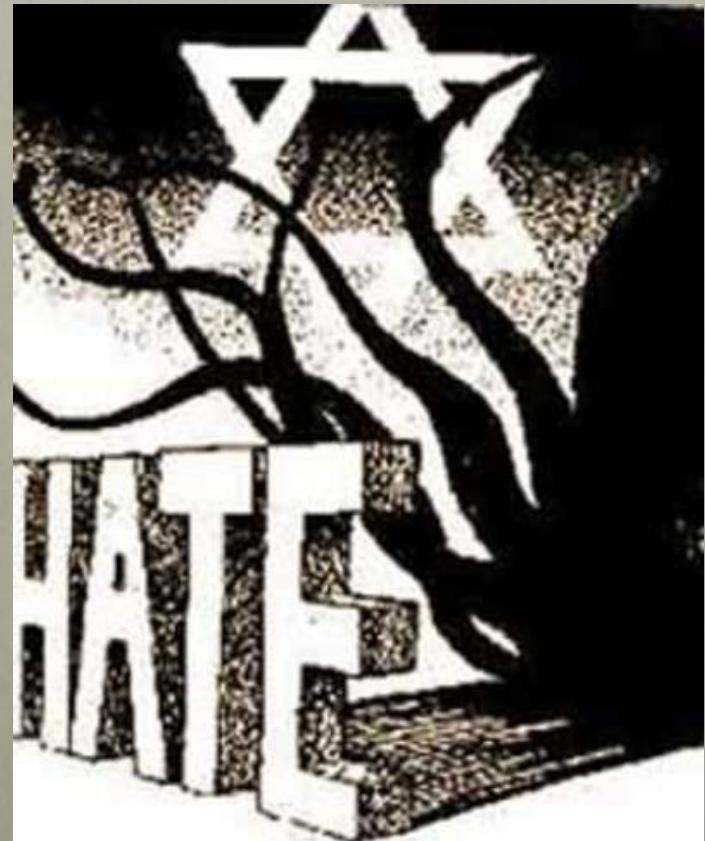
HITLER: THE ANTI-SOCIALIST

- Hates the misery of the Vienna working class and the working class movement
 - “They disparaged the nation, the Fatherland, the law, religion, and morality,” (13)
- Working men were victims of brainwashing organized by the Social Democratic Party’s leaders → the real aim of Socialism
- Karl Lueger: the one Socialist that wasn’t all bad
 - Leader of Christian Socialists
 - AH admired his leadership. Views conflicted, but “Hitler was prepared to overlook even this in his admiration for Lueger’s leadership,” (19) → attention to middle class



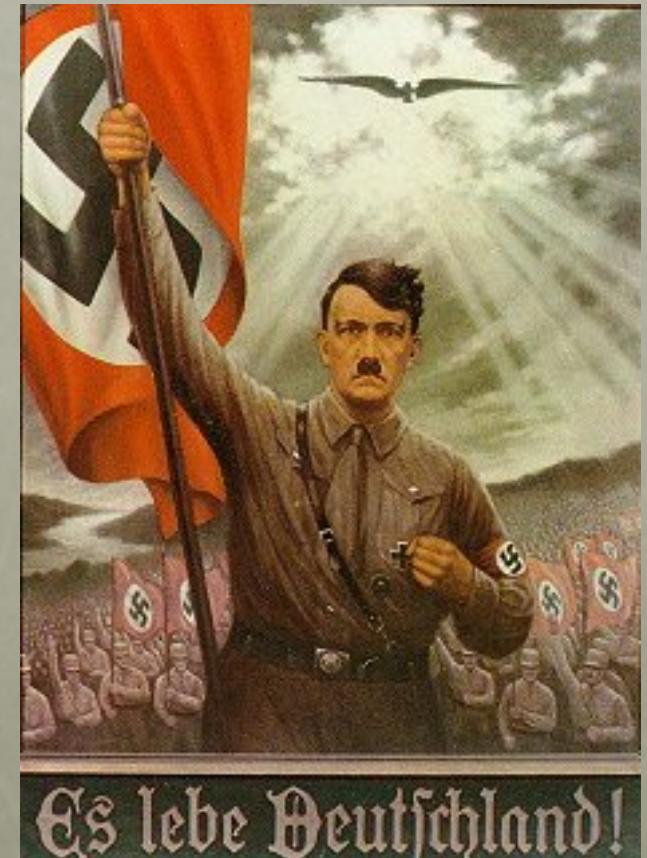
HITLER: THE ANTI-SEMITIC

- Anti-Semitism common in Vienna
- AH first “repelled by violence anti-Semitic Press” (14)
- Mein Kampf: depicts Jews as non-human creatures “into which Hitler projects all that he hates and fears—and desires” (15).
- AH convinced himself that Jews were out to destroy and subdue the Aryan race (15)
- Sees the world as inherently unequal—law of nature



HITLER: THE NATIONALIST

- Ardent GER nationalist
- Reflected on views of equality and hatred of Hapsburgs
- GER should rule the Hapsburg Empire--at least Austrian half of it (17)-- changed his view with onset of WWI
- Believed in national unity
- Hitler was in the crowd to hear GER declaration of war
- Seen in his experiences as soldier





HITLER: THE SOLDIER

- AH leaves Vienna in 1913 → b/c he avoided military service since 1913 (20)
- “War meant to Hitler the opportunity to slough off the frustration, failure, and resentment of the past six years,” (23)
- Volunteered to fight in WWI
- First battle of Ypres— “one of most critical engagements of the war” (24)
- Suffered injury to eyes in 1916 during gas attack
- Given Iron Cross, Second Class in 1914
- Iron Cross, First Class in 1918 – uncommon for corporal
- Mentality was different than other soldiers— more serious (25-26)



SOCRATIC SEMINAR

Rank on a scale of 1-5 which of the following factors prevalent in Adolf Hitler's formative years influenced his policies the most during the 1930s-1940s.

	Most				Least
Anti-Semitism					
Anti-Socialism					
Nationalism					
Desire for Power					
Inherent Inequality					