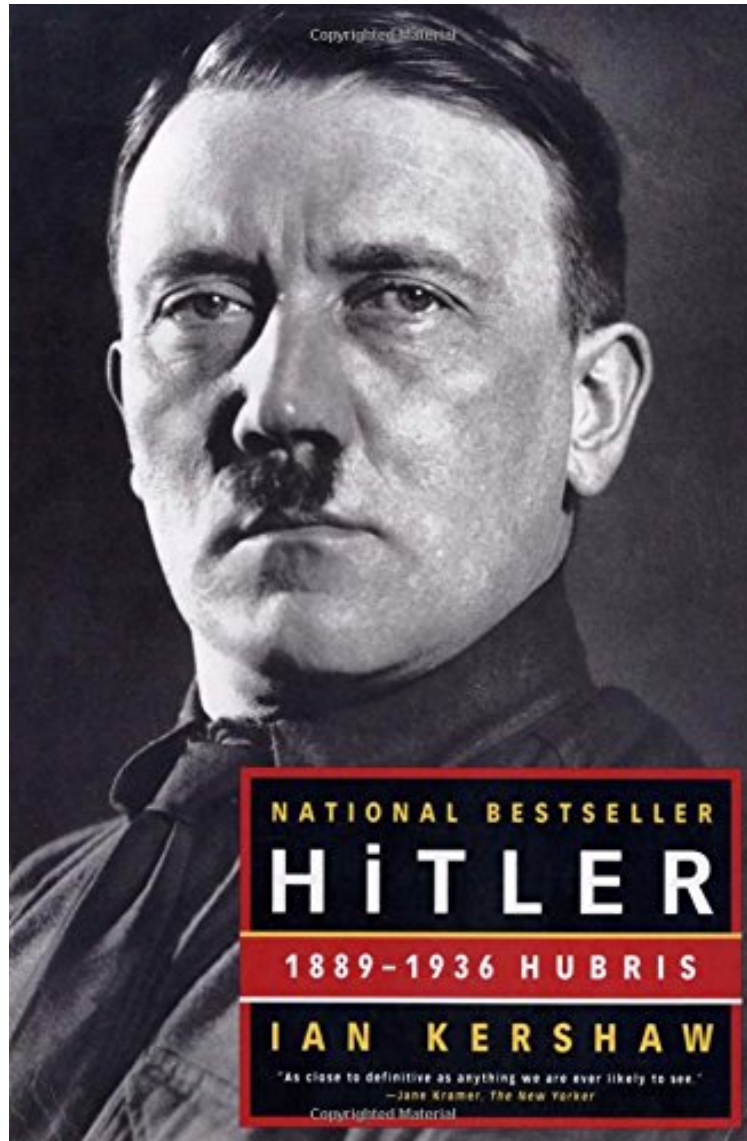


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## Hitler: 1889-1936 Hubris

*Ian Kershaw*

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**Ian Kershaw : Hitler: 1889-1936 Hubris** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler: 1889-1936 Hubris:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. He also gives what is likely the best account of Hitler's early years and how he came ...By J. Karl CummingsVery compelling explanation of the rise of Hitler. Kershaw does an incredible job of explaining how Hitler was able to harness the public emotions of the post-WWI years to become the leader of a fringe political party that eventually was elected into office with mass public support. He also gives what is

likely the best account of Hitler's early years and how he came to develop his "world view". This volume ends with the remilitarization of the Rhineland and shows the culmination of the dictatorial powers that the German public willingly gave to Hitler. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. How could Hitler happen? Start your investigation here By Jason Russell A phenomenal biography in every way. Kershaw is a fantastic writer. I now have four of his volumes on my shelves. One of the most astonishing sections of this book is on page 427. After Hindenburg brought Hitler into the government as Chancellor, Erich von Ludendorff, another World War I legend, wrote to Hindenburg, "You have delivered up our holy German Fatherland to one of the greatest demagogues of all time. I solemnly prophesy that this accursed man will cast our Reich into the abyss and bring our nation to inconceivable misery. Future generations will damn you in your grave for what you have done." 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hitler.....a most terrible tyrant and destroyer of our human values. By Dr. Paul Sneider An excellent study, showing aspects of his life that are generally unknown. Is there a follow up to the end of his life in Kindle? Yet, it still does not solve the mystery of his extreme behavior. Was it perhaps in his ability of public speaking that enthralled his audiences and resulted in his huge success and the blind loyalty of his vast following? His megalomania certainly increased disproportionately as his so called successes increased. Mr. Kershaw is a very astute observer, and his chronicle is a really excellent account of this most terrible and cruel man whose madness nearly destroyed our civilized world. I would dearly love to see if there is a final sequel written by this great authority.

Hailed as the most compelling biography of the German dictator yet written, Ian Kershaw's *Hitler* brings us closer than ever before to the heart of its subject's immense darkness. From his illegitimate birth in a small Austrian village to his fiery death in a bunker under the Reich chancellery in Berlin, Adolf Hitler left a murky trail, strewn with contradictory tales and overgrown with self-created myths. One truth prevails: the sheer scale of the evils that he unleashed on the world has made him a demonic figure without equal in this century. Ian Kershaw's *Hitler* brings us closer than ever before to the character of the bizarre misfit in his thirty-year ascent from a Viennese shelter for the indigent to uncontested rule over the German nation that had tried and rejected democracy in the crippling aftermath of World War I. With extraordinary vividness, Kershaw recreates the settings that made Hitler's rise possible: the virulent anti-Semitism of prewar Vienna, the crucible of a war with immense casualties, the toxic nationalism that gripped Bavaria in the 1920s, the undermining of the Weimar Republic by extremists of the Right and the Left, the hysteria that accompanied Hitler's seizure of power in 1933 and then mounted in brutal attacks by his storm troopers on Jews and others condemned as enemies of the Aryan race. In an account drawing on many previously untapped sources, Hitler metamorphoses from an obscure fantasist, a "drummer" sounding an insistent beat of hatred in Munich beer halls, to the instigator of an infamous failed putsch and, ultimately, to the leadership of a ragtag alliance of right-wing parties fused into a movement that enthralled the German people. This volume, the first of two, ends with the promulgation of the infamous Nuremberg laws that pushed German Jews to the outer fringes of society, and with the march of the German army into the Rhineland, Hitler's initial move toward the abyss of war. Black-and-white photos throughout

.com Noted for his excellent structural explanation of the Third Reich's political culture in *The Hitler Myth*, eminent historian Ian Kershaw shifts approach in this innovative biography of the Nazi tyrant. The first of a two-volume study, *Hubris* is far from a simple rehearsal of "great man" history, impressively exploring the historical forces that transformed a shiftless Austrian daydreamer into a dictator with immense power. In his forthright introduction, Kershaw acknowledges that, as a committed social historian, he did not include biography in his original intellectual plans. However, his "growing preoccupation" with the structures of Nazi domination pushed him toward questions about Hitler's place and considerable authority within that system. He argues that the sources for Hitler's power must be sought not only in the dictator's actions but also (and more importantly) in the social circumstances of a nation that allowed him to overstep all institutional and moral barriers. In a comprehensive treatment of Hitler's life and times up through the remilitarization of the Rhineland in 1936, Kershaw draws from documents recently made available from Russian archives and benefits from a rigorous source criticism that has discredited many records formerly understood to be reliable. *Hubris* thus supplants Alan Bullock's classic *Hitler: A Study in Tyranny* as the definitive account of a man who, with characteristic smugness, indicated that it was a divinely inspired history that made him: "I go with the certainty of a sleep walker along a path laid out for me by Providence." Kershaw's penetrating analysis of how such a certain path could emerge from the dire circumstances of post World War I Germany is the abiding strength of *Hubris*. --James Highfill From Publishers Weekly We surely need books like Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's *Hitler's Willing Executioners* that examine German society as a whole in an effort to understand how Hitler came to power and held it for so long. But we also need classic, political biographies that focus on the dictator himself. Kershaw's book, the first volume of a projected two-part biography, pays some attention to how ripe a demoralized Germany was for demagoguery after the Treaty of Versailles, but the author's focus is on Hitler and his political career? the decisions he made as he rose to power and those he made once he attained it. What distinguishes this effort is the extent of documentation as Kershaw, a professor of history at the University of Sheffield, exploits the full Goebbels diaries and texts of early Hitler speeches only recently made accessible. Also notable is the portrait Kershaw draws of Hitler as

surprisingly remote from the thuggery, greed and corruption of his followers, high and low, even as he actively encouraged the development of a cult of personality. Kershaw closes with an examination of Hitler's remilitarization of the Rhineland, a *fait accompli* made possible by the timidity and disarray of Germany's supine neighbors. Had the French marched, Hitler said later, "we would have had to withdraw... with our tails between our legs." By 1936, Kershaw writes, events had substantiated Hitler's hubris. A "nemesis" (subtitle of the next volume) would in reality not emerge before 1941. Kershaw's massive work (made somewhat too massive by some repetition) is valuable for the rigor with which it portrays Hitler not as some supernatural evil force ejected into history from beyond but as a thoroughly natural figure?evil, surely, but historically evil. Photos. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The first of two volumes from a British biographer. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.