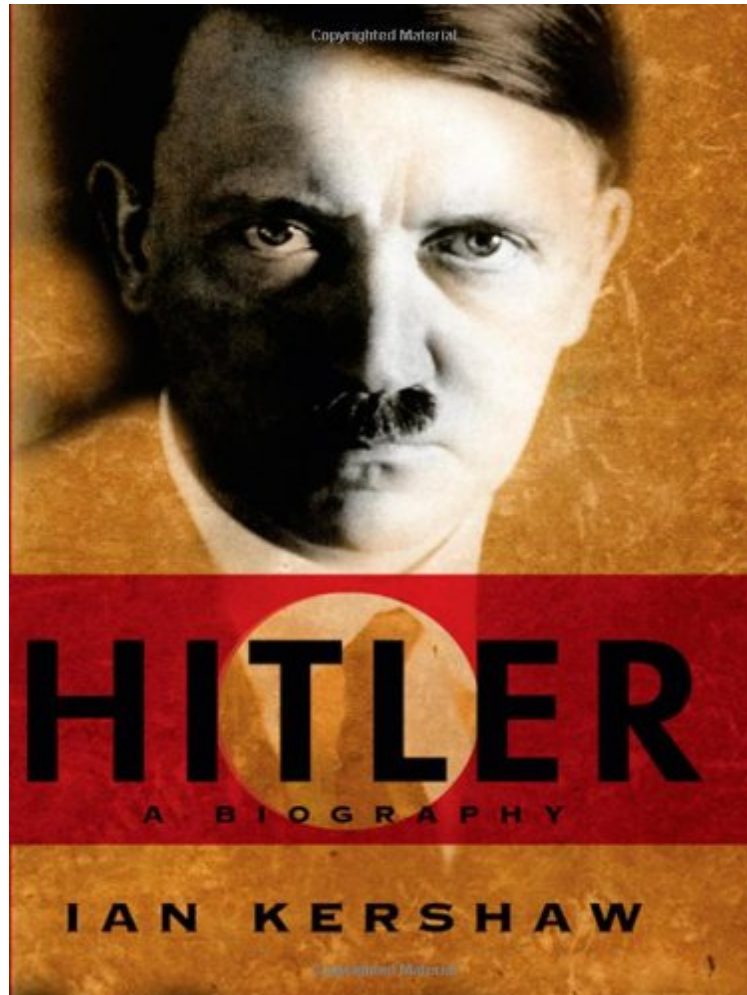


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Hitler: A Biography

Ian Kershaw

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Ian Kershaw : Hitler: A Biography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler: A Biography:

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 hereBy Jason RussellA 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.

"Magisterial . . . anyone who wishes to understand the Third Reich must read Kershaw." Niall Ferguson "The Hitler biography of the twenty-first century" (Richard J. Evans), Ian Kershaw's Hitler is a one-volume masterpiece that will become the standard work. From Hitler's origins as a failed artist in fin-de-siecle Vienna to the terrifying last days in his Berlin bunker, Kershaw's richly illustrated biography is a mesmerizing portrait of how Hitler attained, exercised, and retained power. Drawing on previously untapped sources, such as Goebbels's diaries, Kershaw addresses the crucial questions about the unique nature of Nazi radicalism, about the Holocaust, and about the poisoned European world that allowed Hitler to operate so effectively. 151 photos; 8 maps

From Booklist Kershaw's two-volume biography Hitler, subtitled 1889–1936: Hubris (1999) and 1936–1945: Nemesis (2000), ranks among the most significant of its kind; only biographies by Joachim Fest and Alan Bullock are in Kershaw's league. For this abridgment of his opus, Kershaw stripped out its scholarly apparatus, reduced verbatim quotations from primary sources, and added an essay of reflections on his approach to the study of his infamous subject. With these changes, the abridgment retains two themes of Kershaw's full-scale original: analyzing the political support the demagogue mustered from the populace and key institutional centers of Germany on his ascent to and exercise of power; and the decisive personal role of Hitler in instigating World War II and genocide. The narrative Kershaw constructs on this foundation is a superb organization and expression of Hitler's chronological arc that plummeted the world into catastrophe and moral trauma, a trajectory informed by Kershaw's attention to rationalizations by which people in and outside Germany, whether leaders or led, buried doubts about Hitler until his power was unrestrained, impossible to stop but by war or assassination. Manifestly, Kershaw constitutes core-collection material. --Gilbert Taylor "An achievement of the very highest order." - Michael Burleigh, Financial Times "Kershaw is the indispensable and definitive guide to Hitler, Nazism, and the nation that, for a while, shamefully refracted his evil genius." - Martin Rubin, Los Angeles Times "A superb biography." - Ian Buruma, New York Times Book Review Front Flap In this now classic account, Ian Kershaw takes an innovative approach to the Hitler story. By putting forward the idea of Hitler as a 'charismatic leader' Kershaw tries to find answers to the questions of why Hitler of all the nationalist-racist fanatics with roughly similar views in Germany after the First World War should find such appeal, how such an unlikely figure as Hitler could come to wield such extraordinary personalised power, what his personal role in the shaping of policy amounted to, and whether he was indeed personally directing policy and taking the key decisions down to the very end. Hitler is portrayed by Kershaw as a social product, not a demonic figure. He is depicted as the product of a society at a particular conjuncture - a society gripped by an extraordinary and comprehensive crisis of values, an overwhelming cultural as well as political, social and economic crisis. In the fourteen years that followed the end of the First World War, he gradually emerged as the mouthpiece of the nationalist masses and eventually transformed himself into what over thirteen million Germans saw as the hope of national salvation. Ian Kershaw offers original insights into how Hitler 'became possible' and paints a compelling portrait of dictatorial power. Back Flap Ian Kershaw is Professor of Modern History at the University of Sheffield. He has written widely on Hitler and the Third Reich and is author of the now definitive comprehensive two volume biography Hitler, 1889-1936: Hubris (1998) and Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis (2000). In addition to his publications, he was consultant to the BAFTA-winning BBC TV series The Nazis: A Warning from History, to the BBC2 programme War of the Century, to ZDF's Hitler: eine Bilanz and to ZDF's series in preparation on the Holocaust. Also available from Longman History: The Origins of the Second World War in Europe, 2nd Ed. P.M.H. Bell The Origins of the First World War in Europe, 2nd Ed. James Joll Back of Jacket 'this short book ought to be read by everybody with any interest, whether general or specialized, in Hitler and the Third Reich.' History 'This is a book that contributes far more to our understanding of Hitler's power than any of the sensational biographies that hit the bookshops with such depressing regularity' Jewish Chronicle Hitler was without doubt the most destructively influential figure of the twentieth century. This hugely successful volume is not a conventional biography of Hitler. By looking at the nature and mechanics, the character and exercise, of Hitler's dictatorial power it has become

influential in helping to understand more fully the extraordinary story of how Hitler could emerge from total obscurity to gain such popularity within Germany, unleash a new World War, and instigate the most terrible genocide yet known to mankind.