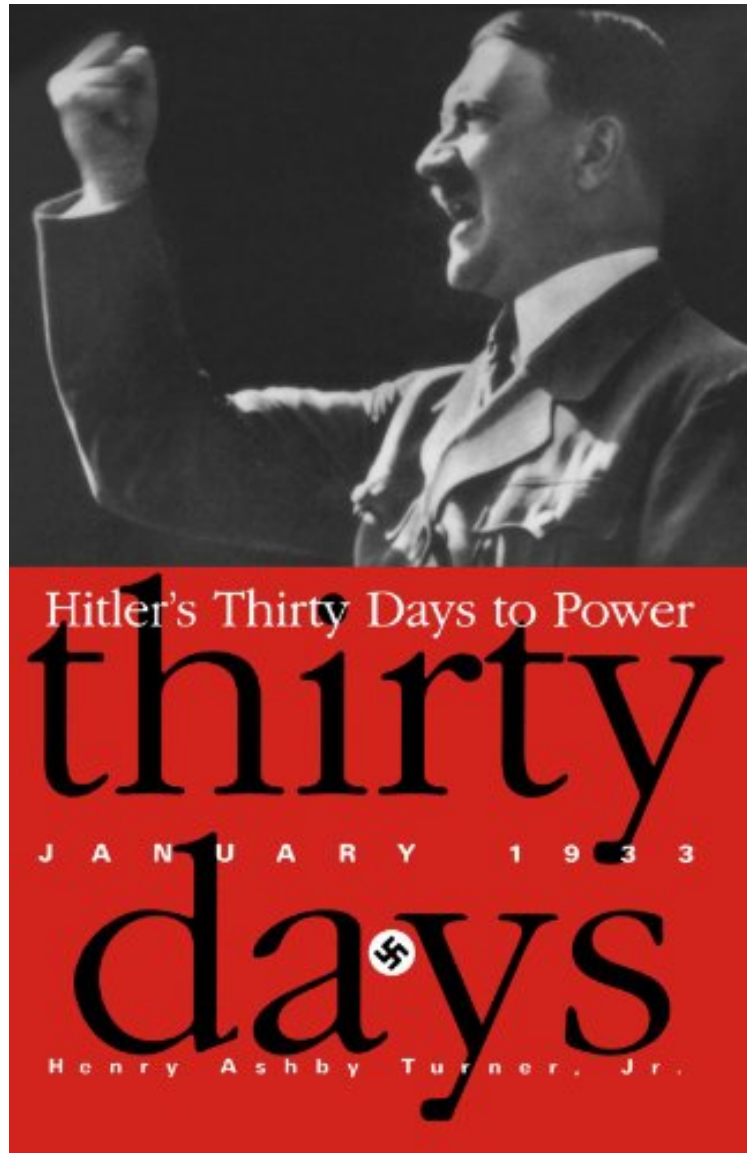


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Hitler's Thirty Days to Power: January 1933

Henry Ashby Turner

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Henry Ashby Turner : Hitler's Thirty Days to Power: January 1933 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler's Thirty Days to Power: January 1933:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. 20th Century Lesson for the 21st CenturyBy Stanley P. SantireTo the big question of how a psychopath achieved power in a highly civilized nation, this book provides the answer.

Hitler did not become Chancellor of Germany as the result of titanic social forces nor because the German people were drawn by his charisma or his grandiose ideas. In the midst of a legislative system frozen by members who placed their narrow ideological ideas above governing, a few individuals put their self interests above those of the practical interests of the nation. As this book shows, Hitler's obstinate egomania played a vital role in achieving power despite never achieving a majority political vote by the German people. Yet, this would not have been possible without the role played by a few individuals consumed by their personal ambitions. During the thirty days covered by the book Hitler would have failed to achieve that power if not for a few individuals who disregarded what he said and who, blinded by their own ambitions, thought they could control him once they made him Chancellor. Aside from a well drafted description of a pivotal moment in the 20th century, we get a glimpse of what can happen to a powerful democracy in the 21st century if we ignore the lessons of history.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Straightforward and Essential History By M. J. Newhouse A common error is to view the present as if it were inevitable--as if all things were tending towards this moment--when, in fact, that we arrived at any particular place is the result of both planning and unplanned contingencies So it was with Hitler's accession to power. Indeed, one of the only reasons that Hitler was brought into the power structure was the common perception, which was erroneous, that he and the Nazis were actually losing ground (they had done so in the last election before Hitler became Chancellor). As this excellent history demonstrates, Hitler's road to the Chancellorship was further paved, to a large extent, by others who misunderstood and underestimated him, or overestimated themselves. In short, as Turner shows us in great detail, there was nothing certain about Hitler's rise to the leadership position in Weimar Germany: at so many points things could have turned out differently. A very well-written and straightforward history. Highly recommended.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hitler played the cards he was dealt By Lewis M. Weinstein A fascinating, day-to-day, person-by-person review of the 30 days that ended with Hitler being appointed Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933. Turner's conclusions in the final chapter pull no punches. He assigns culpability and guilt, making it clear that it was the ignorance, ineptitude, personal grudges, mendacity, and ambition of the characters in power (mainly Hindenburg, Schleicher and Papen) who gave Germany to Hitler and thus Hitler to the world. Those who supported democratic government in Germany simply gave it up without much of a fight, often because they were fighting with each other. It is true, Turner asserts, that Hitler played the weaknesses of the others brilliantly, but he was only playing the cards he was dealt. Important details for several scenes in my new novel-in-progress, tentatively titled "Choosing Hitler."

In *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, distinguished Yale historian Henry Ashby Turner makes an important and influential addition to his life-long study of Nazi Germany. Providing vivid portraits of the main players of the drama of January 1933, and using newly available documents, Turner masterfully recreates the bewildering circumstances surrounding Hitler's unexpected appointment as chancellor of Germany. The result is a work that Booklist calls "first rate ... a gripping, foreboding narrative."

From Publishers Weekly Yale historian Turner (*German Big Business and the Rise of Hitler*) here subjects to microscopic examination the fateful 30 days before Hitler became chancellor of Germany in January 1933. Although many of the facts are known, this study reveals that the Nazi dictator did not come to power as the result of "impersonal forces." The slender, analytical volume indicates that rather, at a time of mortal peril for Germany?and the world?intrigue was the order of the day in Berlin. Turner follows the machinations of the principals?Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher; conspirator with Hitler and former chancellor Franz von Papen; President Paul von Hindenburg?to demonstrate how they all played unwittingly into Hitler's hands, believing they could control him once he took office. Turner concludes that far from being inevitable, there was a "high degree of contingency" and not a little luck in the Fuhrer's ascendancy. Moreover, as Turner points out, the Nazis' standing in the polls had been eroding for months before Hitler's triumph. Students of German history and extremist movements should enjoy this fast-paced narrative. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal These two volumes, both by well-respected scholars, provide short, well-written, thoughtful accounts of why and how Hitler and the Nazis could have come to power in a Western democracy such as Germany. They are aimed at an audience more encompassing than just the circle of professional historians. Mitcham (*Hitler's Field Marshals*, Madison, 1993) deals with the broader aspects of the subject. Beginning with the end of World War I, he draws upon established historical research to cover the social, political, military, economic, and personal forces that contributed to Hitler's rise to power. His short account distills a huge literature into a readable study that covers the main themes effectively and understandably. Turner (editor, *Hitler: Memoirs of a Confidant*, Yale Univ., 1985) focuses on Hitler's actual accession to the chancellorship of Germany during January 1933. He is concerned with the main players in the politics of the takeover and in his final chapter provides an elegant summing-up of some possible answers to the enduring questions. Turner has used a variety of documentary sources, including materials newly available in the Moscow archives, to provide a model of scholarly work. Both books provide valuable insights for any library collection that includes European history; Turner's book is likely to be the definitive study of its subject for years to come.?Barbara L. Walden, Univ. of Minnesota Libs.,

Minneapolis Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Turner's blow-by-blow account of Hindenburg's appointment of Hitler as chancellor of Germany is first-rate. Precisely how the National Socialist leader gained power has always been a bit murky, and a few corners of the affair remain cloudy despite Turner's best effort. Yet his thesis is crystal clear: there was no compelling political reason to put Hitler in charge. In fact, his party was splitting beneath his feet during that fateful January; all Hitler's opponents had to do was string out the constitutional impasse and let Nazi dissension and an improving economy do the work of diminishing the Nazis' popularity. However, two mediocre men, Hindenburg's son and ex-chancellor Franz von Papen, conspired throughout that month to oust the incumbent chancellor, Kurt von Schleicher. Their reasons were petty and personal and shrewdly exploited by the determined Hitler. On the periphery of the plot, Turner recounts how Schleicher and Hindenburg fell out, which opened the door to this, as it turned out, disastrous moment in history. A gripping, foreboding narrative. Gilbert Taylor