***Selections from* MEIN KAMPF, *by Adolf Hitler***

**Objectives:**

* Explain Hitler’s ideological beliefs as they relate to the state of Germany after the First World War.

**Tasks:**

1. Read the following selections, which cover a variety of key topics. Read for general understanding of Hitler’s main themes.
2. Be able to discuss the following things in a class discussion:
3. How did Hitler view the current state of Germany (at the time of writing)? What factors contributed to this?
4. How can Germany achieve greatness? Why does it need to do so?
5. Provide at least **three evidence-backed claims** for each of these questions.
6. FUN: write a short “Dear Diary” entry in the voice of Hitler on any topic contained within these readings. Winner (as voted by staff and students) gets either some Kinder chocolate or Toffifee.

*Most readings have questions afterwards. Use these questions as guides for your reading and interpretation. You are not required to write these answers out. You should, however, read and consider them.*

**WWI and Treaty of Versailles**

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| “The question of the causes of the German collapse is, therefore, of decisive importance, particularly for a political movement whose very goal is supposed to be to quell the defeat. But, in such research into the past, we must be very careful not to confuse the more conspicuous effects with the less visible causes. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe easiest and hence most widespread explanation of the present misfortune is that it was brought about by the consequences of the lost War and that therefore the War is the cause of the present evil. There may be many who will seriously believe this nonsense but there are still more from whose mouth such an explanation can only be a lie and conscious falsehood. This last applies to all those who today feed at the government's cribs. For didn't the prophets of the revolution[[1]](#footnote-1) again and again point out most urgently to the people that it was a matter of complete indifference to the broad masses how this War turned out? Did they not, on the contrary, gravely assure us that at most the 'big capitalist' could have an interest in a victorious end of the gigantic struggle of nations, but never the German people as such, let alone the German worker? Indeed, didn't these apostles of world conciliation maintain the exact opposite: didn't they say that by a German defeat 'militarism' would be destroyed, but that the German nation would celebrate its most glorious resurrection? Didn't these circles glorify the benevolence of the Entente[[2]](#footnote-2), and didn't they shove the blame for the whole bloody struggle on Germany? And could they have done this without declaring that even military defeat would be without special consequences for the nation? Wasn't the whole revolution embroidered with the phrase that it would prevent the victory of the German flag, but that through it the German people would at last begin advancing toward freedom at home and abroad? http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifWill you claim that this was not so, you wretched, lying scoundrels? http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifIt takes a truly Jewish effrontery[[3]](#footnote-3) to attribute the blame for the collapse solely to the military defeat when the central organ of all traitors to the nation, the Berlin Vorwarts[[4]](#footnote-4), wrote that this time the German people must not bring its banner home victorious! http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifAnd now this is supposed to be the cause of our collapse? http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gif[W]e have the following to say to the assertion that the lost War is responsible for the German collapse: http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifCertainly the loss of the War was of terrible importance for the future of our fatherland; however, its loss is not a cause, but itself only a consequence of causes. It was perfectly clear to everyone with insight and without malice that an unfortunate end of this struggle for life and death would inevitably lead to extremely devastating consequences. But unfortunately there were also people who seemed to lack this insight at the right time or who, contrary to their better knowledge, contested and denied this truth. Such for the most part were those who, after the fulfillment of their secret wish, suddenly and belatedly became aware of the catastrophe which had been brought about by themselves among others. They are guilty of the collapse-not the lost War as it suddenly pleases them to say and believe. For its loss was, after all, only the consequence of their activity and not, as they now try to say, the result of 'bad' leadership. The foe did not consist of cowards either; he, too, knew how to die. His number from the first day was greater than that of the German army for he could draw on the technical armament and the arsenals of the whole world; hence the German victories, won for four years against a whole world, must regardless of all heroic courage and 'organization,' be attributed solely to superior leadership, and this IS a fact which cannot be denied out of existence. The organization and leadership of the German army were the mightiest that the earth had ever seen. Their deficiencies lay in the limits of all human adequacy in general. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe collapse of this army was not the cause of our present-day misfortune, but only the consequence of other crimes, a consequence which itself again, it must be admitted, ushered in the beginning of a further and this time visible collapse. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifIt required the whole bottomless falsehood of the Jews and their Marxist fighting organization to lay the blame for the collapse on that very man [Ludendorf] who alone, with superhuman energy and will power, tried to prevent the catastrophe he foresaw and save the nation from its time of deepest humiliation and disgrace. By branding Ludendorff as guilty for the loss of the World War they took the weapon of moral right from the one dangerous accuser who could have risen against the traitors to the fatherland.  http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe foremost connoisseurs of this truth regarding the possibilities in the use of falsehood and slander have always been the Jews; for after all, their whole existence is based on one single great lie… that they are a religious community while actually they are a race-and what a race!” |

1. According to Hitler, what is the easiest explanation for Germany’s misfortune?
2. Although “militarism would be destroyed”, what would Germany celebrate?
3. How does Hitler characterize the soldiers and leadership of the German army?
4. Who does Hitler blame for Germany’s downfall? What, ultimately, is his argument?

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| “Seven years after November, 1918, the Treaty of Locarno[[5]](#footnote-5) was signed. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe course of events was that indicated above: Once the disgraceful armistice had been signed, neither the energy nor the courage could be summoned suddenly to oppose resistance to our foes' repressive measures, which subsequently were repeated over and over. Our enemies were too shrewd to demand too much at once. They always limit their extortions to the amount which, in their opinion-and that of the German leadership- would at the moment be bearable enough so that an explosion of popular feeling need not be feared. But the more of these individual dictates had been signed, the less justified it seemed… and which gradually becomes the foulest heritage, burdening every future decision. It can become a terrible lead weight, a weight which a nation is not likely to shake off, but which finally drags it down into the existence of a slave race. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThus, in Germany edicts of disarmament alternated with edicts of enslavement, political emasculation with economic pillage, and finally created that moral spirit which can regard the Dawes Plan[[6]](#footnote-6) as a stroke of good fortune and the Treaty of Locarno as a success. Viewing all this from a higher vantagepoint, we can speak of one single piece of good fortune in all this misery, which is that, though men can be befuddled, the heavens cannot be bribed. For their blessing remained absent: since then hardship and care have been the constant companions of our people, and our one faithful ally has been misery. Destiny made no exception in this case, but gave us what we deserved. Since we no longer know how to value honor, it teaches us at least to appreciate freedom in the matter of bread. By now people have learned to cry out for bread, but one of these days they will pray for freedom.” |

1. What is Hitler’s view of the “spirit of Locarno” and movement towards peaceful diplomacy between 1924-30? Why does he say one day Germans will “pray for freedom”?

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| “If we pass all the causes of the German collapse in review, the ultimate and most decisive remains the failure to recognize the racial problem and especially the Jewish menace. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe defeats on the battlefield in August, 1918, would have been child's play to bear. They stood in no proportion to the victories of our people. It was not they that caused our downfall; no, it was brought about by that power which prepared these defeats by systematically over many decades robbing our people of the political and moral instincts and forces which alone make nations capable and hence worthy of existence. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifIn heedlessly ignoring -the question of the preservation of the racial foundations of our nation, the old Reich disregarded the sole right which gives life in this world. Peoples which bastardize themselves, or let themselves be bastardized, sin against the will of eternal Providence, and when their ruin is encompassed by a stronger enemy it is not an injustice done to them, but only the restoration of justice. If a people no longer wants to respect the Nature-given qualities of its being which root in its blood, it has no further right to complain over the loss of its earthly existence.” |

1. According to Hitler, how is the “racial problem” and the “Jewish menace” the underlying cause of Germany’s downfall?

**Democracy and the Weimar Republic**

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| “It must never be forgotten that nothing really great in this world has ever been achieved through coalitions, but that such achievements have always been due to the triumph of the individual. Successes achieved through coalitions, owing to the very nature of their source, carry the germs of future disintegration in them from the very start; so much so that they have already forfeited what has been achieved. The great revolutions which have taken place in human thought and have veritably transformed the aspect of the world would have been inconceivable and impossible to carry out except through titanic struggles waged between individual natures, but never as the enterprises of coalitions.  http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifAnd, above all things, the People's State will never be created by the desire for compromise inherent in a patriotic coalition, but only by the iron will of a single movement which has successfully come through in the struggle with all the others.” |

1. How does Hitler compare parliamentary coalitions with strong individual leaders?

***Lebensraum[[7]](#footnote-7)***

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| “If under foreign policy we must understand the regulation of a nation's relations with the rest of the world, the manner of this regulation will be determined by certain definite facts. As National Socialists we can, furthermore, establish the following principle concerning the nature of the foreign policy of a folkish[[8]](#footnote-8) state: http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe foreign policy of the folkish state must safeguard the existence on this planet of the race embodied in the state, by creating a healthy, viable natural relation between the nation's population and growth on the one hand and the quantity and quality of its soil on the other hand. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifAs a healthy relation we may regard only that condition which assures the sustenance of a people on its own soil. Every other condition, even if it endures for hundreds, nay, thousands of years, is nevertheless unhealthy and will sooner or later lead to the injury if not annihilation of the people in question. Only an adequately large space on this earth assures a nation of freedom of existence. Moreover, the necessary size of the territory to be settled cannot be judged exclusively on the basis of present requirements, not even in fact on the basis of the yield of the soil compared to the population.…  [T]he German nation can defend its future only as a world power. For more than two thousand years the defense of our people's interests, as we should designate our more or less fortunate activity in the field of foreign affairs, was world history. We ourselves were witnesses to this fact: for the gigantic struggle of the nations in the years 1914-1918 was only the struggle of the German people for its existence on the globe….  From the purely territorial point of view, the area of the German Reich vanishes completely as compared with that of the so-called world powers. Let no one cite England as a proof to the contrary, for England in reality is merely the great capital of the British world empire which calls nearly a quarter of the earth's surface its own. In addition, we must regard as giant states, first of all the American Union, then Russia and China. All are spatial formations having in part an area more than ten times greater than the present German Reich. And even France must be counted among these states. Not only that she complements her army to an ever-increasing degree from her enormous empire's reservoir of colored humanity, but racially as well, she is making such great progress in negrification[[9]](#footnote-9) that we can actually speak of an African state arising on European soil. The colonial policy of present-day France cannot be compared with that of Germany in the past. If the development of France in the present style were to be continued for three hundred years, the last remnants of Frankish[[10]](#footnote-10) blood would be submerged in the developing European-African mulatto[[11]](#footnote-11) state. An immense self-contained area of settlement from the Rhine to the Congo, filled with a lower race gradually produced from continuous bastardization.” |

1. What does Germany need in order to ensure its (racially pure) existence?
2. How does Hitler compare Germany to other major empires…
3. In terms of territory?
4. In terms of racial purity?

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| “And so we National Socialists consciously draw a line beneath the foreign policy tendency of our pre-War period. We take up where we broke off six hundred years ago. We stop the endless German movement to the south and west, and turn our gaze toward the land in the east. At long last we break of the colonial and commercial policy of the pre-War period and shift to the soil policy of the future. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifIf we speak of soil in Europe today, we can primarily have in mind only Russia and her vassal border states. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifHere Fate itself seems desirous of giving us a sign. By handing Russia to Bolshevism[[12]](#footnote-12), it robbed the Russian nation of that intelligentsia[[13]](#footnote-13) which previously brought about and guaranteed its existence as a state. For the organization of a Russian state formation was not the result of the political abilities of the Slavs in Russia, but only a wonderful example of the state-forming [ability] of the German element in an inferior race. Numerous mighty empires on earth have been created in this way. Lower nations led by Germanic organizers and overlords have more than once grown to be mighty state formations and have endured as long… the creative state race maintained itself. For centuries Russia drew nourishment from this Germanic nucleus of its upper leading strata. Today it can be regarded as almost totally exterminated and extinguished. It has been replaced by the Jew. Impossible as it is for the Russian by himself to shake off the yoke of the Jew by his own resources, it is equally impossible for the Jew to maintain the mighty empire forever. He himself is no element of organization, but a ferment of decomposition. [T]he end of Jewish rule in Russia will also be the end of Russia as a state. We have been chosen by Fate as witnesses of a catastrophe which will be the mightiest confirmation of the soundness of the folkish theory. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifOur task, the mission of the National Socialist movement, is to bring our own people to such political insight that they will not see their goal for the future in the breath-taking sensation of a new Alexander's conquest[[14]](#footnote-14), but in the industrious work of the German plow, to which the sword need only give soil.” |

1. What is the inherent weakness of the new communist state in Russia?
2. Germany “will not see their goal for the future in… conquest, but in the industrious work of the German plow,”. What does Hitler mean by this?

**Volkisch and Aryan Racial Supremacy**

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| “No more than Nature desires the mating of weaker with stronger individuals, even less does she desire the blending of a higher with a lower race, since, if she did, her whole work of higher breeding, over perhaps hundreds of thousands of years, night be ruined with one blow. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifHistorical experience offers countless proofs of this. It shows with terrifying clarity that in every mingling of Aryan blood with that of lower peoples the result was the end of the cultured people. North America, whose population consists in by far the largest part of Germanic elements who mixed but little with the lower colored peoples, shows a different humanity and culture from Central and South America, where the predominantly Latin immigrants often mixed with the aborigines on a large scale. By this one example, we can clearly and distinctly recognize the effect of racial mixture. The Germanic inhabitant of the American continent, who has remained racially pure and unmixed, rose to be master of the continent; he will remain the master as long as he does not fall a victim to defilement of the blood. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe result of all racial crossing is therefore in brief always the following:   * Lowering of the level of the higher race; * Physical and intellectual regression and hence the beginning of a slowly but surely progressing sickness.   To bring about such a development is, then, nothing else but to sin against the will of the eternal creator….  If we were to divide mankind into three groups, the founders of culture, the bearers of culture, the destroyers of culture, only the Aryan could be considered as the representative of the first group. From him originate the foundations and walls of all human creation, and only the outward form and color are determined by the changing traits of character of the various peoples. He provides the mightiest building stones and plans for all human progress and only the execution corresponds to the nature of the varying men and races. In a few decades, for example, the entire east of Asia will possess a culture whose ultimate foundation will be Hellenic[[15]](#footnote-15) spirit and Germanic technology, just as much as in Europe. Only the outward form-in part at least-will bear the features of Asiatic character. It is not true, as some people think, that Japan adds European technology to its culture; no, European science and technology are trimmed with Japanese characteristics. The foundation of actual life is no longer the special Japanese culture, although it determines the color of life-because outwardly, in consequence of its inner difference, it is more conspicuous to the European-but the gigantic scientific-technical achievements of Europe and America; that is, of Aryan peoples. Only on the basis of these achievements can the Orient follow general human progress. They furnish the basis of the struggle for daily bread, create weapons and implements for it, and only the outward form is gradually adapted to Japanese character. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifIf beginning today all further Aryan influence on Japan should stop, assuming that Europe and America should perish, Japan's present rise in science and technology might continue for a short time; but even in a few years the well would dry up, the Japanese special character would gain, but the present culture would freeze and sink back into the slumber from which it was awakened seven decades ago by the wave of Aryan culture. Therefore, just as the present Japanese development owes its life to Aryan origin, long ago in the gray past foreign influence and foreign spirit awakened the Japanese culture of that time….  http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThus cultures and empires collapsed to make place for new formations. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifBlood mixture and the resultant drop in the racial level is the sole cause of the dying out of old cultures; for men do not perish as a result of lost wars, but by the loss of that force of resistance which is contained only in pure blood. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifAll who are not of good race in this world are chaff. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifAnd all occurrences in world history are only the expression of the races' instinct of self-preservation, in the good or bad sense.” |

1. What does Hitler believe the “Aryan race” has contributed to the world?
2. Why does he believe “pure blood” is important for a civilization?

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| “What I have said about the word 'religious' can also be applied to the term völkisch. This word also implies certain fundamental ideas. Though these ideas are very important indeed, they assume such vague and indefinite forms that they cannot be estimated as having a greater value than mere opinions, until they become constituent elements in the structure of a political party. For in order to give practical force to the ideals that grow out of philosophical ideals and to answer the demands which are a logical consequence of such ideals, mere sentiment and inner longing are of no practical assistance, just as freedom cannot be won by a universal yearning for it. Only when the idealistic longing for independence is organized in such a way that it can fight for its ideal with military force, only then can the urgent wish of a people be transformed into a potent reality…. Every philosophy of life, even if it is a thousand times correct and of the highest benefit to mankind, will be of no practical service for the maintenance of a people as long as its principles have not yet become the rallying point of a militant movement… Out of the army of millions who feel the truth of these ideas, and even may understand them to some extent, *one* man must arise. This man must have the gift of being able to expound general ideas in a clear and definite form, and, from the world of vague ideas shimmering before the minds of the masses, he must formulate principles that will be as clear-cut and firm as granite. He must fight for these principles as the only true ones, until a solid rock of common faith and common will emerges above the troubled waves of vagrant ideas….  The völkisch concept of the world recognizes that the primordial racial elements are of the greatest significance for mankind. In principle, the State is looked upon only as a means to an end and this end is the conservation of the racial characteristics of mankind. Therefore on the völkisch principle we cannot admit that one race is equal to another. By recognizing that they are different, the völkisch concept separates mankind into races of superior and inferior quality. On the basis of this recognition it feels bound in conformity with the eternal Will that dominates the universe, to postulate the victory of the better and stronger and the subordination of the inferior and weaker. And so it pays homage to the truth that the principle underlying all Nature's operations is the aristocratic principle and it believes that this law holds good even down to the last individual organism. It selects individual values from the mass and thus operates as an organizing principle, whereas Marxism acts as a disintegrating solvent. The völkisch belief holds that humanity must have its ideals, because ideals are a necessary condition of human existence itself. But, on the other hand, it denies that an ethical ideal has the right to prevail if it endangers the existence of a race that is the standard-bearer of a higher ethical ideal. For in a world which would be composed of mongrels and negroids all ideals of human beauty and nobility and all hopes of an idealized future for our humanity would be lost forever.  http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifOn this planet of ours human culture and civilization are indissolubly bound up with the presence of the Aryan. If he should be exterminated or subjugated, then the dark shroud of a new barbarian era would enfold the earth.  http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifWe all feel that in the distant future many may be faced with problems which can be solved only by a superior race of human beings, a race destined to become master of all the other peoples and which will have at its disposal the means and resources of the whole world.” |

1. According to Hitler, what does religion and belief need to become reality?
2. How is *volkisch* presented as the “ideal” for humanity?

**Jews and Communists**

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| “Never forget that the rulers of present-day Russia are common blood-stained criminals; that they are the scum of humanity which, favored by circumstances, overran a great state in a tragic hour, slaughtered and wiped out thousands of her leading intelligentsia in wild blood lust, and now for almost ten years have been carrying on the most cruel and tyrannical regime of all time. Furthermore, do not forget that these rulers belong to a race which combines, in a rare mixture, bestial cruelty and an inconceivable gift for lying, and which today more than ever is conscious of a mission to impose its bloody oppression on the whole world. Do not forget that the international Jew who completely dominates Russia today which regards Germany not as an ally, but as a state destined to the same fate. And you do not make pacts with anyone whose sole interest is the destruction of his partner. Above all, you do not make them with elements to whom no pact would be sacred, since they do not live in this world as representatives of honor and sincerity, but as champions of deceit, lies, theft, plunder, and rapine. If a man believes that he can enter into profitable connections with parasites, he is like a tree trying to conclude for its own profit an agreement with a mistletoe. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe danger to which Russia succumbed is always present for Germany. Only a bourgeois simpleton is capable of imagining that Bolshevism has been exorcised. With his superficial thinking he has no idea that this is an instinctive process; that is, the striving of the Jewish people for world domination, a process which is just as natural as the urge of the Anglo-Saxon to seize domination of the earth. And just as the Anglo-Saxon pursues this course in his own way and carries on the fight with his own weapons, likewise the Jew. He goes his way, the way of sneaking in among the nations and boring from within, and he fights with his weapons, with lies and slander, poison and corruption, intensifying the struggle to the point of bloodily exterminating his hated foes. In Russian Bolshevism we must see the attempt undertaken by the Jews in the twentieth century to achieve world domination. Just as in other epochs they strove to reach the same goal by other, though inwardly related processes. Their endeavor lies profoundly rooted in their essential nature. No more than another nation renounces of its own accord the pursuit of its impulse for the expansion of its power and way of life, but is compelled by outward circumstances or else succumbs to impotence due to the symptoms of old age, does the Jew break off his road to world dictatorship out of voluntary renunciation, or because he represses his eternal urge. He, too, will either be thrown back in his course by forces lying outside himself, or all his striving for world domination will be ended by his own dying out. But the impotence of nations, their own death from old age, arises from the abandonment of their blood purity. And this is a thing that the Jew preserves better than any other people on earth. And so he advances on his fatal road until another force comes forth to oppose him, and in a mighty struggle hurls the heaven-stormer back to Lucifer…. The fight against Jewish world Bolshevization requires a clear attitude toward Soviet Russia. thou cannot drive out the Devil with Beelzebub.” |

1. What lesson(s) does the Russian Revolution (aka. “the October Revolution” or “the Bolshevik Revolution”) provide for Germany?
2. What should Germany’s foreign policy towards Russia be?

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| “The mightiest counterpart to the Aryan is represented by the Jew. In hardly any people in the world is the instinct of self-preservation developed more strongly than in the so-called 'chosen.' Of this, the mere fact of the survival of this race may be considered the best proof. Where is the people which in the last two thousand years has been exposed to so slight changes of inner disposition, character, etc., as the Jewish people? What people, finally, has gone through greater upheavals than this one-and nevertheless issued from the mightiest catastrophes of mankind unchanged? What an infinitely tough will to live and preserve the species speaks from these facts! http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThe mental qualities of the Jew have been schooled in the course of many centuries. Today he passes as 'smart,' and this in a certain sense he has been at all times. But his intelligence is not the result of his own development…. Since the Jew… was never in possession of a culture of his own, the foundations of his intellectual work were always provided by others. His intellect at all times developed through the cultural world surrounding him…. If the Jews were alone in this world, they would stifle in filth and offal; they would try to get ahead of one another in hate-filled struggle and exterminate one another, in so far as the absolute absence of all sense of self-sacrifice, expressing itself in their cowardice, did not turn battle into comedy here too. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifSo it is absolutely wrong to infer any ideal sense of sacrifice in the Jews from the fact that they stand together in struggle, or, better expressed, in the plundering of their fellow men. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifHere again the Jew is led by nothing but the naked egoism of the individual…. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifHence the Jewish people, despite all apparent intellectual qualities, is without any true culture, and especially without any culture of its own. For what sham culture the Jew today possesses is the property of other peoples, and for the most part it is ruined in his hands.” |

**Education**

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| “One of the worst symptoms of decay in Germany of the pre-War era was the steadily increasing habit of doing things by halves. This is always a consequence of uncertainty on some matter and of the cowardice resulting from this and other grounds. This disease was-further promoted by education. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifGerman education before the War was afflicted with an extraordinary number of weaknesses. It was extremely one-sided and adapted to breeding pure 'knowledge,' with less attention to 'ability.' Even less emphasis was laid on the development of the character of the individual-in so far as this is possible; exceedingly little on the sense of joy in responsibility, and none at all on the training of will and force of decision. Its results, you may be sure, were not strong men, but compliant ' walking encyclopedias,' as we Germans were generally looked upon and accordingly estimated before the War. People liked the German because he was easy to make use of, but respected him little, precisely because of his weakness of will. It was not for nothing that more than almost any other people he was prone to lose his nationality and fatherland. The lovely proverb, 'with hat in hand, he travels all about the land,' tells the whole story.” |

1. In your own words, summarize what you think Hitler believes German education should be about.

**Architecture**

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| “The essential point, however, is the following: our big cities of today possess no monuments dominating the city picture, which might somehow be regarded as the symbols of the whole epoch. This was true in the cities of antiquity, since nearly every one possessed a special monument in which it took pride. The characteristic aspect of the ancient city did not lie in private buildings, but in the community monuments which seemed made, not for the moment, but for eternity, because they were intended to reflect, not the wealth of an individual owner, but the greatness and wealth of the community. Thus arose monuments which were very well suited to unite the individual inhabitant with his city in a way which today sometimes seems almost incomprehensible to us. For what the ancient had before his eyes was less the humble houses of private owners than the magnificent edifices of the whole community. Compared to them the dwelling house really sank to the level of an insignificant object of secondary importance. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifOnly if we compare the dimensions of the ancient state structures with contemporary dwelling houses can we understand the overpowering sweep and force of this emphasis on the principle of giving first place to public works. The few still towering colossuses which we admire in the ruins and wreckage of the ancient world are not former business palaces, but temples and state structures; in other words, works whose owner was the community. Even in the splendor of late Rome the first place was not taken by the villas and palaces of Individual citizens, but by the temples and baths, the stadiums, circuses, aqueducts, basilicas, etc., of the state, hence of the whole people. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifEven the Germanic Middle Ages upheld the same guiding principle, though amid totally different conceptions of art. What in antiquity found its expression in the Acropolis or the Pantheon now cloaked itself in the forms of the Gothic Cathedral. Like giants these monumental structures towered over the swarming frames wooden, and brick buildings of the medieval city, and thus became symbols which even today, with the tenements climbing higher and higher beside them, determine the character and picture of these towns. Cathedrals, town halls, grain markets, and battlements are the visible signs of a Inception which in the last analysis was the same as that of antiquity. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifYet how truly deplorable the relation between state buildings and private buildings has become today! If the fate of Rome should strike Berlin, future generations would some day admire the department stores of a few Jews as the mightiest works of our era and the hotels of a few corporations as the characteristic expression of the culture of our times. Just compare the miserable discrepancy prevailing in a city like even Berlin between the structures of the Reich and those of finance and commerce http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifEven the sum of money spent on state buildings is usually laughable and inadequate. Works are not built for eternity, but at most for the need of the moment. And in them there is no dominant higher idea. At the time of its construction, the Berlin Schloss was a work of different stature than the new library, for instance, in the setting of the present time. While a single battleship represented a value of approximately sixty millions, hardly half of this sum was approved for the first magnificent building of the Reich, intended to stand for eternity, the Reichstag Building. Indeed, when the question of interior furnishings came up for decision, the exalted house voted against the use of stone and ordered the walls trimmed with plaster; this time, I must admit, the parliamentarians did right for a change: stone walls are no place for plaster heads. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThus, our cities of the present lack the outstanding symbol of national community which, we must therefore not be surprised to find, sees no symbol of itself in the cities. The inevitable result is a desolation whose practical effect is the total indifference of the big-city dweller to the destiny of his city. http://www.hitler.org/writings/Mein_Kampf/dot.gifThis, too, is a sign of our declining culture and our general collapse. The epoch is stifling in the pettiest utilitarianism or better expressed in the service of money. And we have no call for surprise if under such a deity little sense of heroism remains. The present time is only harvesting what the immediate past has sown.” |

1. How does German architecture reflect the development of German culture? How does Hitler feel about this?

1. *Prophets of the revolution* – At the end of the war in November 1918, parts of the German Navy mutineed. This led to widespread civil unrest. The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) proclaimed a republic, and Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated his throne and fled to Holland. Thus, the *prophets of revolution* Hitler refers to are the Socialists who brought about revolution in Germany. Unlike in Russia, where Socialists (Marxists, specifically) overthrew the monarchy, waged war on the upper class, and began to implement communism, the SPD in Germany made an alliance with the German military (Supreme Command) and implemented a parliamentary system. It was this government that surrendered to the Allied Powers and ultimately signed the Treaty of Versailles. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *The Entente* was the military alliance of France, Britain, and Russia. Italy would betray their alliance with Germany and join the Entente in 1915. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Effrontery* – shamelessness; bold-faced audacity [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Berlin Vorwarts* – The *Vorwarts* was a major socialist newspaper in Germany which backed the Social Democratic Party of Germany. It communicated Marxist economic ideas, anti-war sentiment, and, after the war, support for the parliamentary system. Friedrich Engels wrote for *Vortwarts.* The paper lost a libel lawsuit to Hitler in 1923 after it accused him of being financed by Jews. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Locarno Treaties* - [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Dawes Plan* - [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Lebensraum* – German for “Living Space”; Hitler’s idea that the superior race of German people should conquer and settle the fertile agricultural lands to the east: Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Folkish* – In German, *volkisch* is an appeal to a mythical view of the German people. It espouses pan-Germanism (that all Germanic peoples should be united) and a worldview of heroic sacrifice and Germany’s ultimate destiny to achieve world supremacy. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Here, Hitler criticizes the increasing amount of immigrants to France of African origin. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Frankia was the medieval name for modern day France. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *Mulatto –* of mixed race, specifically African and Caucasian. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. *Bolshevism –* communism. The Bolsheviks were the ruling communist party in Russia (at this time known as the Soviet Union). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. *Intelligentsia –* the academic class; typically, the intellectual class of a nation. Professors, philosophers, professionals. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Alexander the Great of Greece, who conquered southern-Europe and most of the Middle-East. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. *Hellenic* – referring the classical Greek society, which emphasized rational thought and scientific understanding. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)