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# Mein Kampf

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# **M e i n   K a m p f**



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**M**ein Kampf, although identified by many as a book that represents a very evil man, with evil ideas, and evil goals, it has some of the greatest examples of the reality of society and how fascinating it is to take precious human emotions such as passion, ambition, and desire, and use them in a way that can potentially unleash the worst in all of us. If read anytime after the year nineteen forty-five, it is surely noted that Mein Kampf would be despised by the world. Despite this human perspective, I have not been able to dismiss the fact that this book created many followers and influenced so many people prior to and at the beginnings of World War II. Even today there are people that will not let this book collect dust on a shelf as they admire and curiously wonder what he was like. Having read this book from a point of view in which I focused on the how and why he became the way he did and finding that his ideas on certain matters were not far from human reality today. Mein Kampf definitely sparked emotions and thoughts in my mind that I would not have come up with, had I not read this book.

The purpose of this paper will be to identify those things Hitler encountered in his younger and growing years, and how those events in his early years lead to the path he would forge for himself. Those episodes would establish his goals and objectives in life to be accomplished and the ideology he would follow to do so. Along the way he would make new discoveries and realize that sometimes complete derailments would occur as he struggled to accomplish that which was his will. This phenomena of doing things that one feels are right or justified leads us to act on events that some would view as crazy or absurd.

However, in this pursuit we sometimes tend to go blind and find ourselves with such a desire to succeed, such an ambition to accomplish, and such a passion to fulfill our goals; that, if unmonitored or unchallenged, we may easily find ourselves engulfed by greed and addiction to the goals we have set for ourselves, our people, or in Hitler's Germany, The Reich.

We all have goals, in fact, our surroundings heavily influence the type of character, lifestyle, tastes, preferences, and ideas we have on life. We hold this dear to each of our individual souls. Adolph Hitler made one of his goals clear in the first sentence of the second paragraph of chapter one.

*"German-Austria must return to the great German mother country, and not because of any economic considerations. No, and again no: even if such a union were unimportant from an economic point of view; yes, even if it were harmful, it must nevertheless take place. One blood demands one Reich."* (Hitler, 3)

The first question that rises of course is why and how did this man come to think and feel this passionately about this? After all, every one is entitled to their opinion, right? However, if you question the opinion, you must first understand the source of such a statement. The fact that a side has been taken, is not adequate an answer. One must first understand the person making that statement, before making personal interpretations and thereby challenge or agree with the statement. My point on emotions is very evident in his statement where he wrote, *"even if it were harmful"* to go forth and rejoin Austria and Germany, despite the final result or effects, it would be done. He felt no regard for the consequences or anyone to answer to. His statements have very strong connotations identifying a man with very serious intentions and objectives. So how did he come to feel this passionate about this? What events throughout his

life as a child, as a man, and as a German soldier, seeded such thoughts into the ideology that would become his life long objectives? It is in his life that we can find the answer.

From the very beginning, when Hitler was just a child, he came across some history books that belonged to his father, an Austrian Customs Official. They covered the topic of war and hence gained Hitler's interest from an early age. For many of us, including myself, reading about war stories or playing with toy soldiers was very exciting and fun. How could anyone say no to a good game of "Conquer the World?" Even today it would be very difficult to convince a child that Mortal Kombat is "bad for them." In almost every child, the thrill of victory is very strong and motivating. What would have happened if his father would have had several books on gardening or cooking?

Hitler was into his own. A teacher of his in school is quoted as saying that he was, "...*lazy, bad tempered and arrogantly fancies himself a leader.*" (The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich Film) As Hitler himself put it, "*What seemed to me unimportant in this respect or was otherwise unattractive to me, I sabotaged completely.*" (Hitler, 10) Although he cared little for the other activities in school, he was fascinated by history and geography. Mainly because these two subjects allowed him to read about the events that shaped the land and how the borders continuously changed with every wave of battles that had covered the land. So much was his fondness of history and geography that he paid little attention to anything else. He was not a great student, in fact, with the exception for a teacher that Hitler found fascinating in the method he used in teaching history, he stated it himself that he hated school. He disliked it so much, that he took a very strong stand against the educational teaching method of history. He did not agree with it so much that at each opportunity he

challenged it. He considered it flawed and irrelevant to the purpose of teaching. He has however made a good point regarding the teaching method of history. As a history fanatic myself, I really believe in his point of view on this matter.

*"Instruction in world history in the so-called high schools is even today in a very sorry condition. Few teachers understand that the aim of studying history can never be to learn historical dates and events by heart and recite them by rote; that what matters is not whether the child knows exactly when this or that battle was fought, when a general was born, or even when a monarch (usually a very insignificant one) came into the crown of his forefathers. no, by the living God, this is very unimportant. To 'learn' history means to seek and find the forces which are the causes leading to those effects which we subsequently perceive as historical events. The art of reading as of learning is this; to retain the essential, and forget the non-essential."*  
(Hitler, 14)

Going after the source of the history "changer" is what his emphasis was on. Who is responsible for the changing of the geographical lines and borders of the land? His vision of course was focused on Germany's evolution. Why was the Reich separated? Who did it, and why? He was not at all interested in who Charlemagne's parents were as much as he was interested in knowing what actions Charlemagne or his parents took during their reign and how those decisions affected Germany. In history, even today, we discover the facts and tell the tale and discuss the issues but do we ever say, now what are we going to do to reverse the American expansion and return things to the Indians? Of course not, Hitler saw history in this perspective. What do we have to reverse, change, or in Austria's case, merge to reunite the Reich? What powers must be crushed, what people must be mobilized, and what methods should be

employed? The beginnings of his Nationalistic ideals began to form as he *"learned to understand and grasp the meaning of history."* (Hitler, 10) It was clear early on that history had shown him many things that did not look right to him. Even at this young and early age, *"gradually out of obscurity, a personality began emerging."* (The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich Film) A personality that would change the face of history and when the time came, he would have a direct affect on it.

Somehow he had to begin to gain the Germans attention and return them to thinking of how the Reich used to be before events on the nation changed it. Hitler believed that the Germans had lost their way in nationalism and identity. He expressly wrote that Germans were in an, *"eternal and merciless struggle for the German language, German schools, and the German way of life."* (Hitler, 11) He regarded the Germans that were in Germany and in Austria as people in one of three categories: *"The fighters, the lukewarm, and the traitors."* (Hitler, 12) You either felt like he did and wanted Germany to be strong and pure, or you had no idea what was going on, or you knew what was going on and hence you were a traitor of the nation for seeing the problem but pretending it was not there.

As he read through history, from Charles the Great (768-814A.D.) to his present days in 1924, Hitler identified with German-Austrian history and identified the changing face of the country he had gained such a strong passion for. It was through the teachings of his history teacher and Hitler's interest in the subject matter that he then became a sort of revolutionary. *"To an ever-increasing extent world history became for me an inexhaustible source of understanding for the historical events of the present; in other words, for politics. I do not want to 'learn' it, I want it to instruct me."* (Hitler, 16) History

had now outlined and identified that great Empire he hoped to establish someday, an empire that would include Russia the land with "*vast resources and plenty of people as slaves*". (The Twisted Cross Film) He would fight all enemies necessary to reach such a goal. To his surprise, later on he would discover that his enemies were all around him. As he continued his study at school, unexpected circumstances would soon hit his family and force him to leave his home town and travel to Vienna.

The death of his father came with a heart attack when Hitler was still thirteen. Two years later, his mother would die as well. These events forced him to go on his own at the early age of fifteen. It was after his mother's death that he decided to go to Vienna. Ironically, I found a statement in this book that is very similar to the goal I live by. As he wrote it, "*...obstacles do not exist to be surrendered to, but only to be broken.*" (Hitler, 20) He had very definitive goals by then, in fact, these unfortunate events did not phase him one bit into changing course. Evidently, he persisted. When I was growing up in the inner city areas of Chicago, I too carried a similar statement, in fact I still rely upon it when times look threatening to the goals I have set for myself. "*Circumstances can always change, but the priorities stay the same.*" There will always be events in our life, which we cannot control, and in so much as I have a say in it, I refuse to allow those situations to change the priorities. Once you have compromised your priority in light of a circumstance, you have begun to move away from your objectives.

It might be unfair to some, but some things in life are very difficult to overcome. On page 23, Hitler has the best statement that I have never found in anyone's writings.

*"For anyone is upstart who rises by his own efforts from his previous position in life to a higher one. Ultimately this struggle, which is often so hard, kills all pity. Our own painful struggle for existence destroys our feeling for the misery of those who have remained behind."*

(Hitler, 23)

I have believed in this myself for a very long time. Since I have made leaps and bounds in terms of progress in my life's goals, I do not nor should anyone cling onto this technique as strongly as I once did. I look back now and admire the accomplishments, but I don't let the thought absorb me for too long, since I remember the things I did and the events that followed as a result of such actions in order to make progress. Hitler was a survivor and his suffering made him a very strong person. Unfortunately, too much suffering can have an emotional side effect in that it kills all compassion for other people. Once this feeling is completely isolated and eliminated, it is very difficult to regain it. In my attempt to regain compassion for people, I challenged myself on a daily basis. I can tell you that it is not an easy feeling to regain. Hitler never found it again.

In understanding what his views were like and how they shaped his attitude on life, Hitler begins to describe some things in such detail that it is very difficult to ignore them. For example, he discusses the circumstances that an average young boy goes through when he goes to a big city. He tells how the boy arrives with high hopes and aspirations of earning high wages and working hard to earn his keep. As the boy moves through the web of the big city, he finds that things are not as pleasant as he believed. Finding a job to begin with is very difficult, and after he loses it, finding another one is every harder, especially in the winter months. Now this boy finds himself wandering the streets in search of work, food, and shelter. Some of the basic things in life are

not accessible to him now. As Hitler continues he becomes very descriptive, he is so specific in his examples that I could not help but relate with the things I have seen in this City of Chicago I live in. He describes them in such detail, that it almost reminds me of my old neighbors.

*"And so this man, who was formerly so hard-working, grows lax in his whole view of life and gradually becomes the instrument of those who use him only for their own base advantage. He has so often been unemployed through no fault of his own that one time more or less ceases to matter, even when the aim is no longer to fight for economic rights, but to destroy political, social, or cultural values in general. He may not be exactly enthusiastic about strikes, but at any rate he has become indifferent." (Hitler, 27)*

As we come home to our warm homes, there are people out there going through this same ritual. In fact, Mexico is a country that is so much a simile of this event that it should not surprise people why there are eight factioning armies standing ready to go to war with the Mexican government when there was only one just two and a half years ago. Simply the attitude of not caring what happens to one self is enough to cause incredible social unrest, not to mention the economic affect that eventually burdens all. As he continues the story well into the 28th page about this boy who is now a man and how he cannot seem to find work and this plagues him so much that the stress and struggle now begins to affect his family. His wife and children are the newest victims, joining him in his desperate search for the basic elements of life. The wife attempts to find a job or something which will be a means whereby. Maybe she would borrow money or food if there were people to borrow from or as it is done today, she may resort to narcotics or something far worst. And then,

*"...the little children, in their earliest beginnings, are made familiar with this misery."* (Hitler, 28)

The children begin to live a childhood of misery filled with hunger, competition for the basic needs, and an instinct for survival at all costs. Brothers and sisters now rival for food and/or attention. Now the whole does not matter as much as the one. The one that is strongest will survive and lead the way or break new grounds, but not on behalf of or for the sake of the family, but instead for himself or herself or as it was in my case, for myself! Progress, gains, and conquests become the primary and only focus of these children. Some will fall into the same repetitive behavior as the parents, thereby falling by the waste side into the same cycle and then again some will see a bit farther and try harder --reaching a level that was thought of as impossible or only a dream at some point. Such events as he wrote them were the foundation layers that set his mind to believe that only the truly strong would survive, that a weak person must perish.

*"The deepest sense of social responsibility for the creation of better foundations for our development, coupled with brutal determination in breaking down incurable tumors. Just as Nature does not concentrate her greatest attention in preserving what exists, but in breeding offspring to carry on the species, likewise, in human life, it is less important artificially to alleviate existing evil, which, in view of human nature, is ninety nine percent impossible, than to ensure from the start healthier channels for a future development."* (Hitler, 29)

It was here based on these thoughts and conclusions that Hitler would have been able to take an individualistic approach to his views as opposed to a nationalistic approach. Had Hitler thought to carry out a plan to improve his

future by avoiding those things which shaped the events of his life so as to avoid these things happening to his children and family, he would have taken the individual improvement route. He could have focused his energies to building a better life for himself and a better life for a family he could have had. However, he parted and took the approach by which he felt that the way to eliminate the imperfections in society was to eliminate those members of society that did not meet perfection. Given this, he evidently focused on new creation. This idea was beyond his own interests so much that it is where he found National Socialist views for the first time. The repair of himself was irrelevant as his ultimate goal was to repair all those elements which had brought the people of Germany to the low levels of quality sons and daughters of the land that now roamed throughout. Germany was a land of a divided people with no focal point and no national identity and so he felt these things must be eliminated in order to restore purity and thereby "*start healthier channels for a future development.*" (Hitler, 29) It was people like this man that had given up all hope and respect for society that he would later use to build up his army in the early days of the National Socialist movement.

He was so passionate about bringing change to Germany that he could not ignore politics. He became absorbed by them, in fact, it was then that he was introduced to Social Democracy as a political machine. This would be his first identification with the way society reacted to politicians and the method of delivery to gain the popularity and support of the masses. As he read the newspapers of Vienna he began to understand how the masses could best be moved and motivated to take a side. Hitler's ability to move the masses came from what he learned directly from the politics he saw in Vienna. He wrote, "*The psyche of the great masses is not receptive to anything that is half-hearted and*

*weak. ...the masses love a commander more than a petitioner."* (Hitler, 42) It was from learning the methods of the Social Democrats that he learned how the masses could be moved. If the effort was concentrated to the general masses that had lower intellect as opposed to the high intellectuals of the land, the response would always bring in strong support if the people were moved by passionate responses. Passion, being one of the strongest emotions Hitler was familiar with in the form of his vision, would now be engaged to draw support from the masses.

As he began to focus on the trade-unions he began to understand and realize how social democrats gained control of these machines of mass power. He realized that their beginnings were based on a goal to better the working man and help him obtain that which he deserves. Slowly and diligently as the strength of the trade-union grows, so does its political influence. Here, the power of the union is concentrated in the whole and represented by the one man, and hence the "industrialist" is met with a similar force to his own and a resolution can be brought about by the greater force of the two. *"Terror in the place of employment, ...will always be successful unless opposed by equal terror."* (Hitler, 44) But then,

*"Proportionately as the political bourgeoisie did not understand...the importance of trade union organization...the Social Democrats took possession of the contested movement. In this way the intrinsic purpose was gradually submerged, making place for new aims. In a few decades the weapon for defending the social rights of man had, in their experienced hands, become an instrument for the destruction of the national economy."* (Hitler, 49)

And in this way the political machines were able to harness such a strong movement of force. Hitler was becoming very aware of this. Where most people just read the headlines, he was reading between the lines and every time identifying just how these things were accomplished. He was many times angered yet astonished at how easily the masses were succumbed to such tactics and each time they fell for it. Each time the people unknowing and unsuspecting, assumed that a greater power would not allow them to progress. Always satisfied with their short sighted gains. The union members never noticed this harnessing of power, and just having taken a deeper look would have revealed to them that they were really puppets in this political power game. The political goals became so strong that they continued to manipulate the trade unions to the point at which the struggle was no longer being fought in reality, but rather in illusion.

*"By screwing the demands higher and higher, they made their possible fulfillment seem so trivial and unimportant that they were able at all times to tell the masses that they were dealing with nothing but a diabolical attempt to weaken, if possible in fact to paralyze, the offensive power of the working class in the cheapest way, by such a ridiculous satisfaction of the most elementary rights. In view of the great masses' small capacity for thought, we need not be surprised at the success of these methods."*  
(Hitler, 49)

The more Hitler saw of this, the more he was taken to understand the inner workings of this "doctrine" that represented the unions. This doctrine that guided group of people to form brotherhoods that carried the motto, *"And if our comrade you won't be, we'll bash your head in --one, two, three!"* (Hitler, 50) As he began to search for answers he was not very successful when he searched

the literature the party threw about. As he read through the literature that was very intellectually wordy, he began to discover for the first time the meaning of the doctrine and the link to a people he had known very little about in the past.

*"Only a knowledge of the Jews provides the key with which to comprehend the inner, and consequently real, aims of Social Democracy."* (Hitler, 51)

Hitler spends the next two pages of his book explaining how prior to this he had never given much thought to the word Jew or the People. Even less did he really suspect or understand that there were such a people. As he begins his search to find these Jewish people, he discovers that they are all over Germany. The Jews are in the newspapers, in politics, in control, and in power. Every time he read an article in the newspaper, he sought the name of the writer and questioned whether he was Jewish or German. My own search into some of the leading community newspapers, financial institutions, and corporations in America unveiled similar results. I reviewed Crains Business, Lerner Communications, and corporations like Siemens and The Alter Group. It is ironic that one does not think of these things unless they are brought to your immediate attention. It was this type of constant encounter with Jewish influence that lead Hitler to conclude that the Fatherland was not being run by Germans, but rather by Jews that were allowed refuge a long time ago. As I saw the film, Schindler's List, it appeared to me that all the officers knew the history of the Jew and how they had arrived in Germany very well, almost as if they had been thought by Hitler directly. It was very cold and forward when I saw Amon Goeth described Jews in Germany in the film.

*"Today is history. Today will be remembered. Years from now the young will ask and wonder about this day. Today is history and you are part of it. Six hundred years ago when elsewhere they were footing the blame for the black death, Kazimierz the Great, so called, told the Jews they could come to Krakow. --They came. They trundled their belongings into the cities. --They settled. --They took hold. --They prospered. In business, science, education, the arts. They came here with nothing, nothing --and they flourished. For six centuries there has been a Jewish Krakow. Think about that. By this evening, those six centuries are a rumor. They never happened. Today is history."*  
(Schindler's List Film)

In Hitler's eyes, and what would soon be a shared ideology with his new found party, in their eyes the Jews controlled the masses. *"Not until calm gradually returned and the agitated picture began to clear did I look around me more careful in my new world, and then among other things I encountered the Jewish question."* (Hitler, 55) It would be awhile before he accepted the fact that his enemy was the Jew. Hitler specifically writes that accepting the Jew as an enemy was not easy for him. He wanted to understand this enemy he had identified but did not understand what it all meant. He began buying anti-Semitic literature and attempted to find the answer, however, the books he purchased assumed the reader already understood the Jewish question from the start. He was confused and unsure at times that it troubled him at first.

*"I relapsed for weeks at a time, once even for months. The whole thing seemed to me so monstrous, the accusations so boundless, that, tormented by the fear of doing injustice, I again became anxious and uncertain. Yet I could no longer very well doubt that the objects of my study were not Germans of a special religion, but a people in themselves."*  
(Hitler, 56)

Hitler's transformation into an anti-Semite was propelled by his continued searches as to why Germany was in the condition it was in. Why was the state so submissive to foreign forces and why were the people so lacking of a strong nationalist identity. To him everything lead to the Jews and their involvement in some way or another in the way Germany was being lead. Hitler blamed the Jews for the destruction of the youth minds, the weak and powerless government, and Germany as a nation standing with no national identity.

*"It cost me the greatest inner soul struggles and only after months of battle between my reason and my sentiments did my reason begin to merge victorious. Two years later, my sentiment had followed my reason, and from then on became its most loyal guardian and sentinel."*  
(Hitler, 55)

He continued to blame the flaws of the nation on the influence of Jews. He sought out the papers and discovered, *"the deeper I probed, the more the object of my former admiration shriveled. ...and the writers were --Jews."* (Hitler, 58) He identified Jews with the attacks on the German people via the press, and he viewed anything that was related to sinful activities as directly influenced and created by the Jews. As he had now accepted the Jewish question, he began seeking every possible way of coming across these people, and he found them "where I would least have expected to find him" (Hitler, 60) "When I recognized the Jew as the leader of the Social Democracy, the scales dropped from my eyes. A long soul struggle had reached its conclusion." Hitler had identified someone foreign in charge of Germany. A discovery of this type, considering what his entire pursuit had focused on as he longed for the reunification of Austria and Germany and a strong German people, it did not

include the Jewish people that he had now identified. It infuriated him to see that the heads of the strongest political forces were in charge of the nation as well as in charge of the media which delivered information to the people. He identified the Jews as always attacking German people but remaining silent when other figures came up in discussion. To Hitler this meant,

*"The party with whose petty representatives I had been carrying on the most violent struggle for months was, as to leadership, almost exclusively in the hands of a foreign people; for to my deep and joyful satisfaction, I had at last come to the conclusion that the Jew was no German."* (Hitler, 61)

It was at this point that Hitler had identified and focused on the enemy within Germany. He now had a clear picture of what his mission would be. As he gained more and more insight and knowledge about the Jews in Germany, Austria, and the others in other countries, he now had another message to take to the true Germans. This is where the foundation was laid and what was to come would shock the world.

Hitler would eventually come across the German Workers Party which he would join and whom he would gain the loyalty of. Eventually, those in the party would join him as they turned the German Workers Party into the National Socialist Party. As Hitler returned from his service in World War I, upset and bitter at the outcome of the war, he was now set on changing things. Even though he had been wounded and returned with two iron crosses (one first class), he was very aware of the weak position Germany had been left in and he wanted revenge. At twenty nine and no one knowing who he was, he read about the Treaty of Versailles Germany's leaders signed in France to the humiliation of

the German people. The Treaty would mean stripping Germany of its territory, power, money, and food. This further fueled Hitler's anger at the current government and so now more than ever he sought to destroy and punish those that had brought this on Germany. With the power of the newly formed National Socialist party, Hitler now began to demand answers to the reasons for Germany's defeat and calling the leaders who went along with the Treaty of Versailles traitors.

Now fully armed with a party, an ability to skillfully ride the emotions of the people, and the perfect team of propaganda and military specialists. Hitler began to pull towards him the people that would soon follow him. He offered them *"...for defeat --revenge, for frustration --action, and for hate --a target."* (The Twisted Cross Film) With Hitler's enemies fully identified; the Treaty of Versailles, Communism, and Jews, he would now set out to accomplish what his will desired.

In understanding where a person's opinion arises, one must first understand the person making the statement or giving the opinion. Hitler saw the Jews in Germany as a threat to national identity for the German people. It has been proved time and time again via the various wars the world has engaged in, that no country enjoys being conquered, and so no people enjoy being victimized, controlled, or manipulated. Just about every single nation in this world has been at one time or another, engaged in a war for independence and sovereignty. The success of those goals lies mainly in the moral feeling of the people who wish such an outcome. It is this passionate drive that pushes a people to prefer freedom over enslavement or controlled living. Hitler brought this vision to the Germans and identified the enemies for them that, if

eliminated, the Germans would rise to the ultimate plateau of greatness. He sold them the idea of Superiority.

This type of pursuit makes the point very clear that: beneath it all, passion, ambition, and desire can very easily be transformed into greed and addiction. Although it is my conclusion that the extermination of an entire people is wrong, many of the points brought about in Mein Kampf regarding Jews and their methods of living and existing within other nations is not far from what can be found today if sought after. A democratic nation that does not ask your race, religion, sex, etc. is bound to have prosperity from all those who wish to seek it. The question is, can someone else having similar views or agreeing with this book engage in similar objectives? It can certainly be accepted as a possibility. In his biased way, Hitler used subhuman ways of identifying Jews and at every opportunity he associated them with the greatest evils of the land. Some people still share his philosophy, just as many more feel it is flawed and the work of a mad man.

After reading Mein Kampf, I have become aware of some of the Jewish leaders of industry, some of the Jewish heads of political forces, and a couple of the Jewish strength in the financial areas of this nation. I hate the fact that I have this circulating my mind now, as if it were not enough that this has happened once before, but to think that this book could create another person who thinks the same way Hitler did, it becomes very disturbing that such an agenda could be engaged again against Jews, and if not against Jews, then on what other people? There is always someone out there feeling threatened by the people or race or gender that surrounds them? When Mr. William L. Shirer wrote The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich , he asks a very profound question.

*"How did it happen that, an ancient and cultured people steeped in Christianity cultivating the arts and sciences preeminent in modern technology who gave us Luther, Bach, Beethoven, and Einstein, collapsed into savage barbarism in the mid twentieth century? To seek the answers we must follow the Germans in the rise of their strange leader to the turbulent years between 1920 and 1945. What we shall see is not only fascinating in a time zone that is unbelievable, but immensely significant not only for an understanding of the Germans, but ourselves".*

(William L. Shirer, Rise and Fall of the Third Reich Film)

Although Mr. Shirer answers his own question, we have learned that people will tend to repeat events in history regardless of the facts. Even after Hitler's goals to prove that the Aryans are the supreme beings of this world, along comes a gentleman not long after the war in 1946 who publishes a book called, The German People. He writes,

*"Germany's boundaries are ambiguous and transient to a degree that has not been experienced by any other country. German land boundaries have shifted this way and that. They were defined by mere accidents of history. Conquest, colonization, inheritance, division, purchase, and exchange served to set them for longer or shorter periods." (Valentin, 2)*

Having read this Hitler would have probably shot this man. It reestablishes the point that a person's opinion can be very difficult to overcome, even in light of the facts. I was even more surprised when I found the following piece of writing in Valentin's book. Lord knows what Hitler would have done to Valentin had he been around to read this:

*"The GERMANS are not Aryans. In scientific sense of the word only the Persians and the people of India can be called Aryans. Nor are the Germans Indo-Germanic. It was not until 1300 that the German people emerged historically, and its ethnical structure certainly underwent great changes even after that time. The origin of German language and the origin of German royal rule together mark the beginning of Germany history."*

(Valentin, 9)

It is remarkable to see how history fixes itself along the way of human evolution. One person makes it his goal in life to destroy things that contradict his views of the world, and not long after another man shows up to tell otherwise. Food for thought.

# 7957

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grad Fall 98

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Thank you.

Raul M.

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*November 30, 1996*

## MEIN KAMPF

**M**ein Kampf, identified by many as a book that represents a very evil man, with evil ideas, and evil goals, has some of the greatest examples of the reality of society and how fascinating it is to take precious human emotions such as passion, ambition, and desire and use them in a way that unleashes the worst or the best in us. If read anytime after the year 1945, it is surely noted that Main Kampf would be despised by the world. Despite this human perspective, I have not been able to dismiss the fact that this book influenced many people before the end or beginning of World War II. Having read this book from a pre-war point of view and finding that his ideas on certain matters are not far from human reality today, definitely rose emotions and thoughts that many may not have ever come across had they not read this book.

The purpose of this paper will be to identify those things which we humans constantly pursue, and how in our pursuit, we tend to go blind and find ourselves with such a desire to succeed, such an ambition to accomplish, and such passion to fulfill that if unmonitored, if unchallenged, we may easily find ourselves engulfed by greed, lust, and addiction to those goals we set for ourselves, the people, or The Reich.

We all have goals, in fact, our surroundings heavily influence the type of character, lifestyle, tastes, preferences, and ideas on life that we hold dear to each of our individual souls. Adolph Hitler made his goal clear in the first sentence of the second paragraph of chapter one.

*"German-Austria must return to the great German mother country, and not because of any economic considerations. No, and again no: even if such a union were unimportant from an economic point of view; yes, even if it were harmful, it must nevertheless take place. One blood demands one Reich."*  
(Mein Kampf, 3)

The first question that rises of course is why and how did this man come to think and feel this passionately about this goal? After all, every one is entitled to their opinion, right? However, if you question the statement, you must first understand the source of such a statement. The fact that a side has been taken, is not adequate an answer. One must first understand the person making that statement, before making personal interpretations and thereby challenge or agree with the statement. This is precisely what I did.

When Hitler was a child, he came across some history books that belonged to his father. They covered the topic of war and hence gained Hitler's interest from an early age. For many of us, including myself, reading about war stories or playing with toy soldiers was very exciting and fun. Even today it would be very difficult to convince a child that Mortal Kombat is "bad for them." In almost every child, the thrill of victory is very motivating. What would have happened if his father would have had several books on gardening?

Hitler was into his own, and in fact, this was evidenced by the fact that he was not a great student at school. As he put it, "What seemed to me unimportant in this respect or was otherwise unattractive to me, I sabotaged completely." He appeared to be fascinated by history and geography. History of which I like myself and I too, as he, was not a great student, in fact, I hated school! Hitler made a very strong stand against the education system, he really did not agree with the method of teaching at the institutions, in fact, he challenged them. We would not

accept the method of instruction. As a history fanatic myself, I really believe in this point he makes on the teaching of history.

*"Instruction in world history in the so-called high schools is even today in a very sorry condition. Few teachers understand that the aim of studying history can never be to learn historical dates and events by heart and recite them by rote; that what matters is not whether the child knows exactly when this or that battle was fought, when a general was born, or even when a monarch (usually a very insignificant one) came into the crown of his forefathers. no, by the living God, this is very unimportant. To 'learn' history means to seek and find the forces which are the causes leading to those effects which we subsequently perceive as historical events. The art of reading as of learning is this: to retain the essential, and forget the non-essential." (Mein Kampf, 14)*

Going after the source of the history changer is what his emphasis is on. His vision of course was focused on Germany's evolution. Why was the Reich separated? Who did it, and why? He was not at all interested in who Charlemagne's parents were as much as he was interested in knowing what actions they and Charlemagne took during their reign and how that affected Germany. In history, even today, we discover the facts and tell the tale and discuss the issues but do we ever say, now what are we going to do to reverse the American expansion and return things to the Indians? Of course not, Hitler saw history in this perspective. What do we have to reverse or change or in Austria's case, merge, to reunite the Reich. What powers must be crushed, what people must be mobilized, and what methods should be employed. The beginnings of his Nationalistic ideals began to form as he "learned to understand and grasp the meaning of history." (Mein Kampf, 10)

Somehow he had to begin to gain the Germans attention and return them to thinking of how the Reich used to be before "history" changed it. In his view, Hitler was very specific in stating that the Germans in the Reich were in a serious "eternal and merciless struggle for the

German language, German schools, and the German way of life." (Mein Kampf, 11) He regarded the Germans that were in Germany and in Austria as: "The fighters, the lukewarm, and the traitors." (Mein Kampf, 12) As he read through history, from Charles the Great (768 to 814 A.D.) to his days in 1924, Hitler identified with German history and identified the changing face of the country he had gained such a strong passion for. It was through the teachings of his history teacher and Hitler's interest in the subject matter that he then became a revolutionary.

*"To an ever-increasing extent world history became for me an inexhaustible source of understanding for the historical events of the present; in other words, for politics. I do not want to 'learn' it, I want it to instruct me."*  
(Mein Kampf, 16)

History had now outlined and identified the enemies he would fight, and to his surprise, they were all around him. Unexpected circumstances would soon force him to leave his home town of Inn.

The death of his father came after a stroke when Hitler was still thirteen and his mother's death came two years later. These events forced him to go on his own. It was after his mother's death that he decided to go to Vienna. Ironically, again I found another statement in this book that is very similar to the goal I live by. As he wrote, "...obstacles do not exist to be surrendered to, but only to be broken." (Mein Kampf, 20) He had very definitive goals by then, in fact, these unfortunate events did not phase him to change course --he persisted. When I was growing up in the inner city slums of Chicago, I too carried a similar statement, in fact I still rely upon it when times look threatening to the goals I have set for myself. "Circumstances can always change, but the priorities should stay the same." There will always be events in our life, which we cannot control, and in so I refuse to allow those situations to change the priorities. Once you have compromised your priority in light of a circumstance, you have begun to move away from your

objectives. I feel very strongly about this. That is why today, when I look back and realize that I have left the slums and have reached levels that, had I compromised or given in, I would not have accomplished as much if anything at all.

It might be unfair to some, but some things in life are very difficult to overcome, on page 23 he has the best statement that I have ever found in anyone's writings because I believed in this myself for a very long time. *"For anyone is upstart who rises by his own efforts from his previous position in life to a higher one. Ultimately this struggle, which is often so hard, kills all pity. Our own painful struggle for existence destroys our feeling for the misery of those who have remained behind."* (Mein Kampf, 23) Since I have made leaps and bounds in terms of progress in my life's goals, I do not cling onto this technic as strongly as I once did. I look back now and admire the accomplishments, but I don't let that thought absorb me for too long, since I remember the things I did and the events that followed as a result of such actions in order to make progress. I remember when I used to lock out all emotions, in order to make it to the next level.

**Essays** are written to explain a process, examine something, or argue for or against a point. The opening paragraph of your essay should contain a thesis statement, as well as capture your reader's attention and interest. Remember the adage, "You'll never get another chance to make a good first impression."

State the main idea or topic of the paragraph in a single sentence if you can. Include at least two ideas that support your topic sentence. Provide specific and interesting details about the topic. If you need more than one paragraph to develop your topic, be sure to begin each new paragraph with a transition phrase or sentence.

**Your closing paragraph should connect the important points of your essay.** You can either answer any remaining questions not previously covered, or you may want to leave your readers with a thought to ponder on their own!