

THE
HITLER
OF
HISTORY

John Lukacs



ALFRED A. KNOPF *New York 1997*

David Irving -
his attempt to rehabilitate
Hitler - John K. Keegan endorse
Toland

both parents died before 1945

454. John Lukacs
The Hitler of History
Taped: 1/16/98
Aired: 3/1/98
Tape #: 81,377

loneliness

secretiveness

didn't want things written down
close to his photographs
a man of the spoken word
his obsession with the Jews

his racism

his remarkable little interview in Fort.
high slopper - moments of
satisfaction

Parkinson's disease - last 9 months
hated his father
broken with grief at death of mother
extraordinary memory

ex-Catholic

disdain for economics

no photos with glasses (48)

His large triangular nose

he was an artist

He believed in God

Hitler was not a sadist

Jan 16

Historicization - p11 What is it?

You emphasize several times - this is not a biography of Hitler

What were Hitler's table conversations -

Hitler's quality - what was it?

Mein Kampf

What questions about Hitler are still open.

Luhr - the choice of every word is a moral one p31

What is the difference between Biography and History

Hitler was not mad - he was a normal human being p43

"He may have been the most popular revolutionary leader in the history of the modern world" p50

Vienna most fundamental schooling of his life

Important turning point in Munich 1919

His quality

his hate - learned to hate

rose late / ate late

faster reader of books / astonishing memory

strong power of concentration

Hitler - never been to a university

Chamberlain's assessment of Hitler p 61 footnote
anti Jewish came at 31 Munich/Vienna

4 Turning points

- ① coming to Vienna 1908
- ② return to Munich 1919
- ③ released from prison in Munich 1924
- ④ His health - he believed he had little time left

Reactionary or Revolutionary

saw Der König (1923) 17 times in 3 years

His anti communism

emphasis on Nationalism

he wanted to maintain churches - support from Catholics

He was a populist

From 1932 to 1939 - sunny years
(very successful years) marriage rates high
murders low

(Become Chancellor
Jan 1933)

His Dualities - Leader and Artist - Architect

Autobahn
U-Bahn
Motherhood

He had occasional sentiments of inferiority
what did he hate in himself.

Hitler came close to winning his war p 125 (1940-1941)

1939 - Hitler marches into Czechoslovakia

His Lebensraum folly (149)

main enemy is still Britain

Joachim Fest - "great" biography 1973 (best long bio)
1, 194 pages

William Shirer's "superficial" Rise and Fall

Konrad Heiden - first study of Hitler 1936 (Zurich)

Alan Bullock - most successful of all Hitler Bios

AJP Taylor - English - self confident maverick (wrong p162)

Percy Ernest Lehman - first rate German Hist - able to observe
H. first hand

Werner Maser - East Prussian turned American - unearthed
large quantities of data

Andreas Hillgruber - most prominent German specialist
in the History of WWII and of Hitler - 200 word sentence

Eberhard Jäckel - Hitler's ideology

Ernst Deutscher - best short Hitler biography
best one book for students

John Toland - 250 interviews - worshiper and derider
indications of his admiration for Hitler detectable throughout book

David Irving - unrepentant admirer of Hitler (1977)

(257) Sebastian Haffner - one of the finest - "Hitler's Place in History"
accepted notion of Hitler's illegitimate son in France in 1917

Ernst Nolte - German Nazism must be understood as a reaction
to Russian Bolshevism

Rainer Zitelmann - Hitler as a politician

20 Jan 42
Wausee conf - Had he planned elimination of Jews from beginning
was there a single killing order Aug/Sept. - Hitler ordered
Final Solution
Jews responsible for the war.

Mass murder of 4.5 million Jews

(Yellow stars)

Word: Holocaust didn't appear until 1960

The Hitler of History

Tocqueville - 9 pages 77 | 111-112 | 118 | 204 | 208 | 247 | 249 | 268

Hitler was interested in things American from his youth
read Karl May - German writer about American west / Indian
American - he knew victory wasn't possible in 1941

Hitler's overall goals were vague

He admired Stalin - photo - no cigarette in his hand

Who tried to poison Hitler

Lukacs - longest chapter - "My view of H. as statesman and strategist"

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