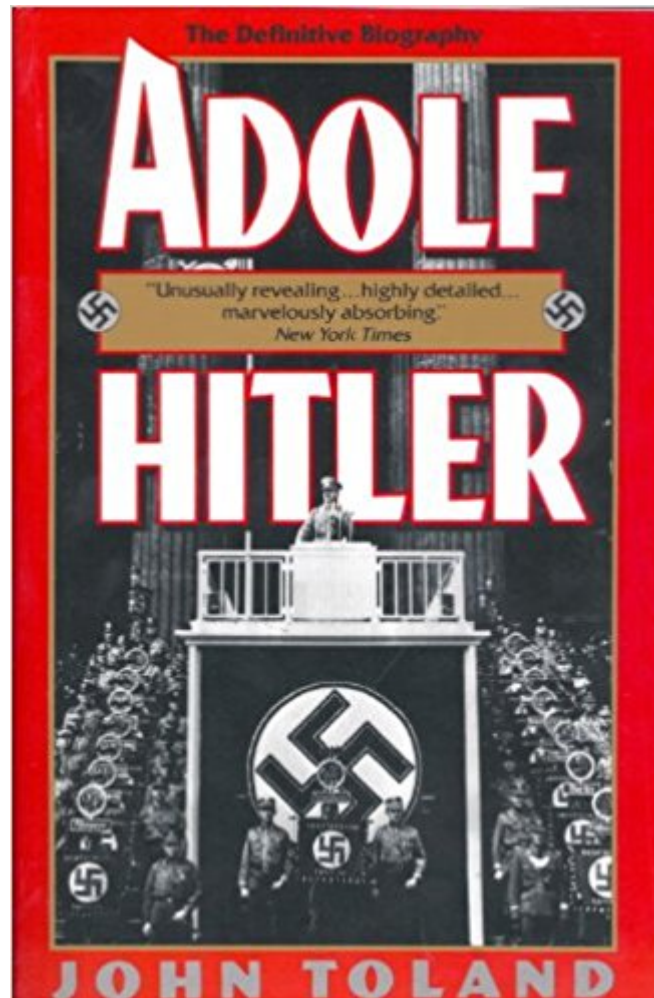




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Adolf Hitler: The Definitive Biography



Synopsis

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian John Toland's classic, definitive biography of Adolf Hitler remains the most thorough, readable, accessible, and, as much as possible, objective account of the life of a man whose evil effect on the world in the twentieth century will always be felt. Toland's research provided one of the final opportunities for a historian to conduct personal interviews with over two hundred individuals intimately associated with Hitler. At a certain distance yet still with access to many of the people who enabled and who opposed the Führer and his Third Reich, Toland strove to treat this life as if Hitler lived and died a hundred years before instead of within his own memory. From childhood and obscurity to his desperate end, Adolf Hitler emerges as, in Toland's words, "far more complex and contradictory . . . obsessed by his dream of cleansing Europe Jews . . . a hybrid of Prometheus and Lucifer."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The first book that anyone who wants to learn about Hitler or [World War II] in Europe must read. . . . A marvel." —*Newsweek*

"Toland weaves the epic tapestry of popular history, meshing together thousands of details into monumental narratives of wartime drama." —*Chicago Tribune*

"An unusually revealing picture . . . highly detailed . . . marvelously absorbing . . . must be ranked as one of the most complete pictures of Hitler." —*The New York Times*

"A significant contribution." —*Houston Chronicle*

A national bestseller with more than 370,000 copies in print, this is "the first book that anyone who wants to learn about Hitler or the war in Europe must read... a marvel of fact."--Newsweek

Good read. Good insight into Hitler's development as a youth and his logic for why he was so obsessive with Germany's growth and regaining of respect by the WW1 conquerors. His hatred of Jews and desire for their elimination from the world is hard to grasp though just from the reading of this book. His personality had to be remarkable by the way he sucked people into the Nazi ideology. Hopefully there will never be another Hitler.

Disclaimer: I'm only 100 pages in, but so far it is fantastic! For a political science course this past semester I had to choose a political figure to read about, and I chose Winston S. Churchill. The decision to read Churchill was because I wanted to learn more about this man, and I succeeded in opening a door into my true interests. One cannot read about Churchill, Roosevelt, or even Stalin and NOT become curious about the Third Reich and Hitler. I chose this book because of the reviews and I think I made a fantastic choice. One funny thing I've noticed that's worth mentioning I think: Toland makes lots of footnotes. Quite a few, actually. For the first 95 pages or so I paid no attention to the asterisk, but something caught my eye. Upon closer examination, Toland doesn't use an asterisk; he uses very small Stars of David. Kind of passive-aggressive, or ironic I think, but definitely an unusual fact about the book. One real con though about the book: The pictures are all printed in black & white on the same paper as the text. The pictures therefore suck. I would probably have been willing to pay an extra few cents or a dollar to have pictures printed on paper that would compliment the photos, not subtract from them. Aside from this disappointment, I'm quite happy with my purchase.

Book written with the author living Hitler much of the time. Hitler's dream was to be an artist, but all art schools rejected him. Architecture was his next choice. He took the first chance for the military life enlisting. He was a compulsive hard worker. As a youth there did not to be any Jewish precipice. His dying market from cancer was treated by a Jewish Doctor whom Hitler greatly respected. He lived a sparse life, sleeping on a hard bed. He admired President Roosevelt and copied how he got the U.S. out of depression and developed a similar social security. He loved and feared women. He thought he would give up his freedom to make a woman happy. His first political speeches gave Hitler a sense of power. He studied the audience's reaction. Like an actor he lived for their response.

When he got the idea of Germany not having enough space he gravitated toward war. He never wanted to go to war against England and they went to war against Hitler. As time went on his thinking became more strange, so that there were several attempts to kill Hitler. He lived a charmed life and would not show up for these attempts on his life.. He became more distrustful and would take the military leadership himself. Hitler's increased grandiosity led to his demise.

Toland takes the reader through virtually everything a curious person would want to know about Adolf Hitler, from his birth, family of origin, early years, the rise of the Nazis, and WW2 and the ignominious end in the bunker in Berlin in April 1945. Scholarly yet very readable. Everyone should purchase this book along with William Shirer's *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* for a thorough understanding of Hitler and WW2.

This is a great book. While it is very detailed it is not dull and is very readable. I love history books. This is undoubtedly one of the best history books I've ever read. The fact that Toland wrote this book in the 1970s, while many of the characters were still alive and available for interviews brings Hitler and his associates alive. If you are wondering how someone like Hitler could come to power in a modern nation this book clearly answers that question. The pain of post WWI Germans is palpable as are their victims.

John Toland was perhaps the greatest chronicler of the second world war. His writing is flawless and he takes us deep into the life and thoughts of Hitler. It is indeed a lengthy book. But it's easy to read and grasp. When you've finished it, you have an in-depth understanding of Hitler and his times. You envision the German people and why they were fascinated by him. You'll see how the world was taken in by him. You'll see both his genius and his madness. The book is more exciting and fast paced than any novel. You may also see, as I did, that what happened once, could happen again. A fascinating read that I highly recommend. - Susanna K. Hutcheson

...Because I think it is the two volume set in one volume. But this book, more than any other, makes this evil man come alive and seem....well human. After all, we are never villains to ourselves...we always see 'reasons' for our actions! So did Hitler. Though oddly, Toland, nor any other author on this subject I have read, have ever seemed to have discovered a reason for his hatred of the Jews. No doubt it was there, though. This is a great book though...at least on this particular subject. Hitler was pivotal to our history. No Hitler, vast vast differences to our history.

Hitler was a complex man with strong ideas. His service in WWI was more involved than I was aware. His hatred was pure evil. His control over his followers was understandable in the beginning; however his followers turned out to be typical of the privileged few that are weak willed, crave power, privilege and wealth. This book revealed a more complete portrait of AH.

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