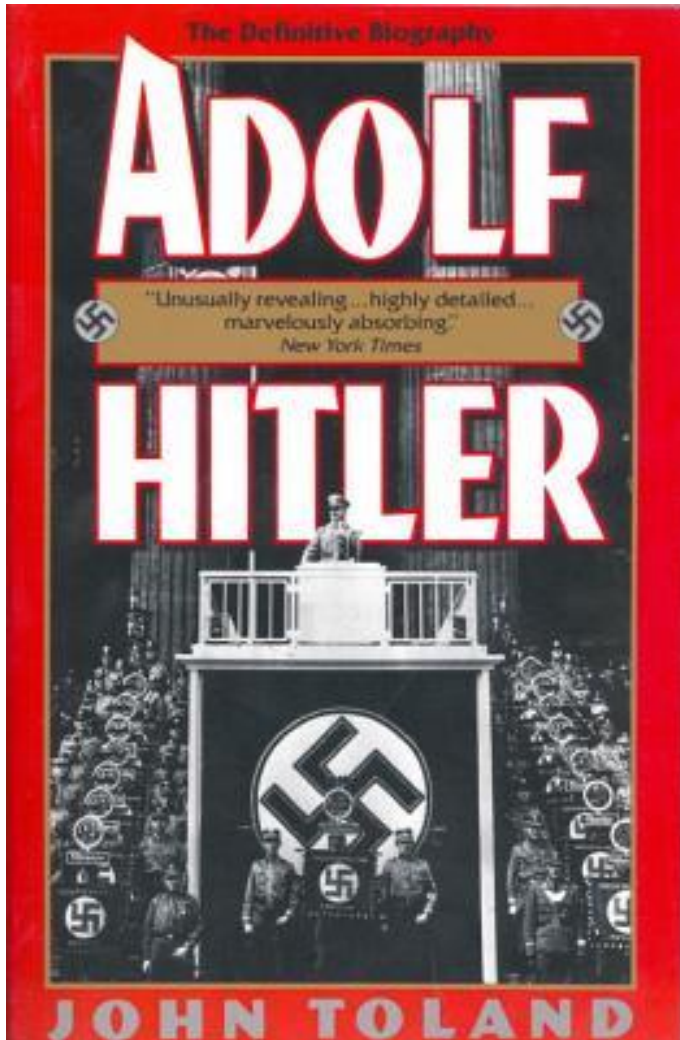

John Willard Toland

Adolf Hitler



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Description

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."

Insightful reviews

Judy: I'm just a teeny bit uncomfortable giving this five stars because--of all reasons--it was too complete and too easy to read (all 1000+ pages) Still, the cast of characters around Hitler was not that large. Many of them lived to tell their tales. Also, Hitler wasn't secretive around his top lieutenants. In other words, there could be several witnesses to a conversation. Toland's interview list is impressive. I love Rise and Fall of the Third Reich but this is something very different. It attempts to keep you with Hitler every moment. Ghastly, of course. The man was definitely certifiable and one of the world's best actors. When you've only seen b/w films of him screaming in German at a rally, you wonder how he could dominate so completely. There is nothing attractive about him. However, he did have a talent for public speaking and, in time, learned to fixate his audiences though understanding their psychology. They worshiped him. If you can deal with the fact that his main aim wasn't so much a master race and land but the extermination of every single Jew, read on. This wasn't like Putin trying to use hatred of gays to shore himself up. Hitler truly believed that the Jews controlled everything and must be annihilated. This included women and children because you couldn't risk another generation.

Thar Lun Myat: This book was about a life of a stubborn and cruel man, Adolf Hitler. He started to make his dreams come true. He made the most destructive war in history all because Germany lost one war before he became the fuhrer.

Erik Graff: My first substantial adult reading experience at age ten was Shirer's Rise & Fall of the Third Reich. Dad had served in both theatres--indeed, almost everyone's father had served in WWII or Korea in our government-assisted community in Lake County, Illinois. The War, wars in general, were very much on my mind, on our minds, during childhoods endured through the centennial years of our own civil war.

The Cold War was of primary concern. Like everyone else, I feared the Russians and Chinese. Then, as I learned more, I feared the Koreans, the Czechs, the E. Germans, the Rumanians, the Poles, the Albanians, the Estonians, the Latvians, the Lithuanians, the Cubans, the Yugoslavs, the Bulgarians, the Mongolians, the Hungarians and the Vietnamese--especially the

nefarious Viet Cong and their subversive ilk throughout the poorer countries of the world. That's what school taught, what the papers reported, what tv showed. Stalin, Mao and Hitler, Nazism and Communism, were virtually as one to my mind--all dictators, all war-mongers. I fully expected I'd have to fight like Dad had--and I was frightened at the prospect. I suffered this terrible ambivalence of fascinated fear throughout primary school.

One of my first research projects in high school was a paper on the war in Vietnam. I read several books, mostly accounts by US soldiers who had served there. All were very much pro-war, anti-insurgency. Then, one night at the grandparents, I got into a discussion about the topic with Dad and his mother's husband, Christian Stousland. They were very much opposed to the war. A know-it-all, I argued manfully with them for hours, learning in the process that there was quite a lot I didn't know. That night I went home and read and thought. I remembered the Life Magazine account of the recent US invasion of the Dominican Republic. There there had seemed to be some ambiguity, some suggestion that maybe we'd supported military dictators against the people. Could this be so? The more I looked into such matters, the more I doubted previous certainties.

High School history classes and membership in the school's Social Science Club did the rest of the job. By junior year I was torn between Trotsky and Gandhi, Communism and pacifism, and believed virtually nothing reported in the mainstream press or by the president about American foreign policy intentions.

Hitler's Germany returned to mind in this context. Could there be some similarity to the Germans' democratic acquiescence to Hitler's policies and our own democratic endorsements of foreign aggression? I began, again, fitfully, to study the history of WWII and the politics behind it.

A subtheme of this study has been to understand the minds of people like Hitler or Theodore Roosevelt who had come to power as advocates of aggressive violence. Toland's biography of Hitler was a good start as regards the former since it is a thorough, but popular, survey of the man's thought and actions.

Michael: even supposing it is not perfect, i have rated this publication 5 stars since it has served as long as my "go-to" reference on Hitler. Toland avoids many of the error of well known remedies of Hitler's existence by way of being very cautious approximately his sources, and applying (and cross-referencing) interviews with surviving witnesses on a wide scale. relatively by way of reconstructing Hitler's early life, he offers a much more convincing narrative than Alan Bullock had, even supposing in fact the uncertainty of resources from this era continually leaves questions open. At times, he does take Mein Kampf at its word, while in fact a lot of that autobiography was once written for propaganda purposes, yet no less than he avoids doing so while there are assets that contradict Hitler's story. Although it's particularly lengthy (over a thousand pages), the booklet is written in an interesting kind with many vignettes and anecdotes that make it extra obtainable as a narrative. definite stories, reminiscent of the tragic story of the

little puppy "Fuchsl" who used to be Hitler's puppy within the trenches of global conflict I, have stayed with me through the years and coloured my knowing of history. It contains many nonetheless photos that supply perception into the folk and occasions in several phases of Hitler's life, and naturally tells the tale of global struggle II and the Holocaust, either one of that are issues of significant curiosity to non-professional historians. the main points of the mass exterminations have been (and are) nonetheless less than consistent scrutiny and so targeted details might want to come from different sources, yet Toland does exceed Bullock during this and different areas, just by advantage of creating higher use of the assets to be had on the time and ignoring extra questionable sources. With a piece extra distance from the events, a greater biography used to be most likely inevitable. It was once now attainable to be a section extra objective, with the conflict firmly long ago and the din of battle propaganda (from either sides) out of the researcher's ears, yet this ebook additionally has the advantage of being written whereas many participants, victims, and witnesses have been nonetheless living, and Toland made very good use of his opportunities. it's not a entire background of the 3rd Reich, less fascism, and its short part on foreign imitators of Hitler is such a lot unsatisfying, yet that isn't the goal of the book. It is still an excellent therapy of its subject, even though after all the intense researcher should want to familiarize yourself with the most recent interpretations of the proof and never depend overly on a ebook approximately 40 years old.

Matt: Toland's broad biography of Hitler is, in a word, unbelievable. No element of the guy's lifestyles is going untouched and it truly is advised in a really easy-to-read fashion. The e-book focuses exclusively on Hitler, so if you happen to sought after an outline of the Holocaust typically you will not locate it in here. In fact, in the course of the struggle the e-book focuses extra on conflict strategies and procedure than the humanitarian trouble within the 3rd Reich. It sheds a few gentle on Himmler, yet provided that the Fuhrer basically advised Himmler tips to look after the "Jewish problem" and Himmler simply did it, there has been no use for Toland to delve too deep into it (though Hitler's anti-Semitism is unquestionably explored during the 900 pages). Honestly, it really is an project to learn this book. It took me months, which intended that used to be months during which such a lot of my studying used to be dedicated to a loopy megalomaniac who one way or the other seized these delusions of power. at the again hide there's a quote from Newsweek that properly sums up how i think approximately this book: "The first ebook that anybody who desires to find out about Hitler or the battle in Europe needs to read."

Christopher Telcontar: There are any variety of serious, good researched Hitler bios in print, and there are numerous which are middling or downright awful. this can be the 3rd complete size bio of Hitler that i have tackled, and that i locate it the main appealing, the others being Bullock's examine In Tyranny and Kershaw's quantity Hitler. Bullock's is a section dated now, I think, and he didn't have the intensity of present examine now to be had at the 3rd Reich, whereas Kershaw's, whereas first-class in lots of respects, is for me too narrowly focused, particularly as soon as the warfare starts. either Bullock and Kershaw supply an excessive amount of play to the election cycle in 1932-1933 that finally positioned Hitler within the driver's seat, and Bullock is just too cursory with Hitler's early life and WW1 experiences. Many may say Toland went too some distance to make Hitler a person, instead of preserving him as monster and twentieth century final villain, yet i locate that view distasteful. positioned the sentiments apart and deal with him as an historic determine and a human, and you'll learn his lifestyles in a bit extra

impartial body of mind. you will not have the capacity to thoroughly shed your distaste for the man, the parable or the legend, yet you could savour his time-frame and what ended in his judgements with a bit larger clarity. Toland does an outstanding activity with Eva Braun, bringing her ahead from the shadows and fleshing out the dismissive view approximately each historian has taken of her for the reason that Speer casted her because the dumb blond of history. he's taking her diary entries and interviews along with her sister and makes her human, as well. He makes use of the surviving participants of the internal circle and their memories as a place to begin for his research, instead of as gospel fact itself, reminiscent of David Irving may use. His remedy of Goring's contributions to the Reich does get brief shrift, yet his short portrayals of Goebels and Himmler are fascinating, yet Ribbentrop will get almost no degree time at all, and Speer is mercifully left ready within the wings. If there's one point of the background of Hitler that he pushes too hard, it really is his statement that Hitler had Jewish extermination planed and premeditated from an early point, and used to be quite open approximately in his later 1930's speeches. i do not fairly purchase it, yet until eventually i will locate texts of these speeches, in particular one given at Sonthofen in 1938 or 1939, i cannot say definitively definite or no in this point. The final aspect to recollect approximately Toland is that he was once a journalist first, and never a educated historian, and so the pros are inclined to glance down their noses at him, Kershaw and Hastings such a lot of all. yet i admire his writing. he's a storyteller via career as a journalist, and he rather brings you into the story, with strong writing and stable flow. He belabors nothing, and as long as you could have a easy familiarity with the tale of the Reich, you could take the very lengthy journey during this e-book and luxuriate in it relatively heartily. Footnote: Mussolini and Franco are fleshed out well, too, whereas Stalin, Churchill and FDR stay at lengthy range, seen from Hitler's eyes, over the hill and during a tumbler dimly. I supply I four and a part stars and suggest the total quantity edition, that's occasionally not easy to discover those days. be certain what you are procuring in the event you search for it. there's an audio variation to be had from significant library structures now also, which I listened to, and it is narrated rather well, with a voice actor who's very acquainted with German (thank goodness!) and does not fumble any of the names or pronunciations.

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