

Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|



 $(An open \ access \ scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully \ refereed \ journal.)$ 

# THE RISE AND FALL OF NAZI GERMANY: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF ADOLF HITLER'S REGIME, WORLD WAR II, AND ITS AFTERMATH.

## Dr. Kumari Jyoti, Assistant Professor

Department of History R.K. College, Madhubani

#### **Abstract**

Adolf Hitler of the National Socialist German Workers' Party often referred to as the Nazi Party is one of the most famous dictator of the twentieth century whose rule had devastating global impact. This paper focusses on the post-WW I period and analyses how Hitler rose to power, how he capitalized on the economic crisis, the general dissatisfaction and the political chaos in Germany in the Weimar Republic. By applying the control strategies such as the Reichstag Fire and the Nigh of Long Knives, Hitler asserted his authority over the Germans and the country to have the Germany to embark on Second World War. This aggression together with Hitler's anti-Semitic policies led the Nazi regime to invade most of Europe and exterminate six million Jews during the holocaust. Thus, the primary life experiences, including childhood, the failure in the field of art, and the military service in the Great War, has paved the way to the political beliefs that led Hitler to introduce the measures of race purification and the supremacy of the Aryans. In this paper, Hitler ascension to power, styles of Nazi administration, effects of the polices that he implemented in the world and his last days where he committed suicide in a Bunker in Berlin as the Allied forces approached him in 1945 are discussed.

Keywords: Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler, World War II, Geli Raubal, Eva Braun

#### Introduction

Adolf Hitler, a failed paint depicting cattle as a bunk but who later in his life becomes a great dictator in the history of the world- they are periods in history that seem to epitomize extreme fanaticism in ideology, bitter political struggle and war. Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria on April 20, 1889 His childhood and youth was blurred and he was destined for an art carrier which did not work as he was rejected from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. It is such a formative years in the company with the apreitment of nationalism and anti-Semitism in Vienna that shaped his political orientation in the future. In his later political career, Hitler joined World War 1 for which he was awarded an Iron Cross for showing bravery in the battles The situation in Germany at this time was worst after being defeated in the war session combined with an economic crisis and political instability. Exploiting the situation with the people's disappointment, Hitler joined the German Workers' Party, which with his help transformed into National Socialist German Workers' Party, or more recognizable as the Nazi Party. (Evans, 2003)



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

Considering the aspects of interpersonal communication, demagogic ability to speak and appropriate application of the propaganda techniques such as using symbol swastika Hitler climbed to the leadership of the party. Therefore, by the beginning of 1923, Hitler became one of leaders of right-wing nationalist groups with militants and with the program of Germany's rebirth acknowledged by himself. He tried to conduct a coup d'état called Beer Hall Putsch in 1923 to overthrow the Weimar government, but this failed and he was jailed; while in jail he wrote Mein Kampf where he outlined his future plans for Germany, including the purification of the racial stock and the need for Lebensraum, or more living space in Eastern Europe. (Kershaw, 1999)

Some months later this, Hitler actively rejoined politics and with even more vigour pulling on the German economic weaknesses, perceived injustice of Treaty of Versailles. By 1933 Hitler had placed himself into the office of Chancellor and with legalibility force and cooperation an implemented a totalitarian regime. Some of the major events which played a crucial role in the elimination of all the competitors and attaining the power were burning of Reichstag in 1933 and Second night of knives in the year 1934. The fascist regime led by Hitler in Germany introduced a rapid transition in the military aspect, in the foreign policy and incorporated the anti-Semitic laws to exclude Jews and other groups in Germany. (Kershaw I., 2000)

Second World War began with the invasion of Poland 1939 A. D and incorporated a tactics known as blitzkrieg or the lightning war that allowed the German force to advance deep into the geographical area of the European region. However, over the course of time the situation escalated and regime's military overcommitted for fulfilling objectives or experience major losses, such as the Battle of Stalingrad and D-Day of the Allies. Since Hitler had time on his side in the war his fundamental beliefs led him to make aggressive move for the military and added more to the holocaust. (Shirer, 1960)

## **Objectives**

The general purpose of the research is to make a comparative historical analysis of ascending and descending of Nazi Germany headed by Adolf Hitler. The identified goals will allow the research to analyze historical, societal and political backgrounds that enabled Hitler to gain power, exercising the mechanisms of control in Germany and the effects of his policies during the World War II on the given country and the whole world. Furthermore, the research goals aim at identifying the actions of the Nazi regime, such as holocaust and other world effects that followed and their impact in the international politics and human rights. Key objectives include:Toanalyze the socio-political environment in post-World War I Germany that enabled Hitler's rise.



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

1. To explore the strategies and tactics employed by Hitler to consolidate power, including key events like the Reichstag Fire and the Night of Long Knives.

- 2. To assess the impact of Nazi policies on Germany's domestic and foreign affairs, including the militarization of the state and the pursuit of racial purity.
- 3. To evaluate the role of Nazi Germany in the onset and progression of World War II, focusing on military tactics, key battles, and the eventual collapse of the Third Reich.
- 4. To reflect on the enduring lessons from Hitler's regime regarding the dangers of totalitarianism, unchecked power, and ideological extremism.

## Adolf Hitler's Rise to Power: Exploiting Economic Woes and Political Instability

One of the most terrible dictators of the twentieth century Adolf Hitler who took the opportunity of Germany's economic, social and political issues of the Weimar Republic. Consequently, after his experience of the World War I and the view of the defeated Germany, Hitler turns into the severe critic of the post-war government. He went to the German Workers' Party which in the latter year became the National Socialist German Workers' Party—the Nazis. Thanks to his inclination to speech and ability to perform propaganda, Hitler quickly climbed up the ranks of the party and started to transform it into the political instrument.(Spielvogel, 2005)

A series of decisive strokes perhaps define the organisational growth of the Nazi Party up to the ascendance of Hitler to the position of the chancellor of Germany: – The Reichstag Fire in February, 1933 where Hitler got what he had always wanted that is, the burning of this building which he used to pass the Reichstag Fire Decree on the 28/2/1933 which actually snuffed out all civil liberties and imprisoned all opponents of Hitler. This was a crucial factor that enabled Hitler to remove his adversaries, the president for instance, by associating the members of the Communist Party with a, danger to the country. In 1934 the Night of the Long knives was conducted on behalf of Hitler and he extended his authority after the elimination of his competitors within the Nazi party including Ernst Rhom from SA. (Tooze, 2006)

By the year 1933 Hitler had absolute control over Germany whereby he had a dictatorial control over Germany through his position as the chancellor and later as the "führer". His fascism, anti Semitism racism and desire to have the Aryan race supreme over all others was going to turn Germany into an absolute dictatorship soon. This is so because Hitler and the Nazi Party had complete control over every media, every sector of education and everything that the German public could possibly interact with. He in fact went to prepare for war and in fact brought the second world war through his policies of military rearmament. There was invasion of Poland in 1939 known to be Hitler's

EURO ASIA RDA

Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

expansionist policy which marked the beginning of a war that embraced major parts of the European countries. Nazi forces boot out their forces in large regions by 1941 through blitzkrieg techniques which well depicted Hitler's warfare styles. But luck did not smile at him and the conditions on the fronts became different, and then led to the defeat of the Third Reich. (Browning, 1992)

#### Early Life and Formative Years: Shaping a Dictator

According to the information Adolf Hitler was born in a small town known as Braunau in Austria; it is close to Germany but in a different country. He was a feat in his persona in personal lives and could never realize the youth dreams which he had. The background of the Hitler family, specifically with regard to the young Adolph before he became a politician and then the leader of what was then Austria-H Germany, can be seen as quite as the elder Hitler, Alois, was a state customs official and authoritarian man who was strict and demanding towards his son, little Adolf, whom alway seem to be in the wake of his father. Hitler, thus, never had smooth learning experience; he never concerned about his parent's hope to see him gain a civil servant job. This led him to have a goal of becoming an artist and in this he was rejected severally in the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. His failure to do art together with the death of his parents, father in 1903, and mother in 1908 made Hitler jobless and homeless and loneliness increased in him. (Fest, 1973)

When he was in Vienna which he moved to between 1909 and 1913 he was making his living through painting picture post cards and such other paintings depicting rural life. With the knowledge of this, one can suppose that in Vienna the sprouts of the political thought of Hitler were sown. The racism and ethnicity conflict made him have a special preference towards the nationalist and anti-Semitic ideas. This can therefore be termed as the age of growth in the shaping of Hitler's view of the world that spurred the Nazi fundamentalism. (Bullock, 1962)

Thus, at the start of 1913, Hitler moves to Munich primarily because of the preference of Germany to which he feels a profound national identity. During the World War I in 1914 when the war was still going on Hitler opted to join the German army as a volunteer and he was deployed in the western front. Most of these incidences were during the war; he has been in many battles, received two injuries and was awarded some bravery medals inclusive of Iron Cross First Class. His militarial experience made him most nationalist and he was persuaded that German was cheated by internal foes and it gave him political propaganda against Jews and communist. (Mazower, 2008)

After the World War I loss, Hitler like any other patriot was disappointed with the Treaty of Versailles that reduced Germany's size and made them pay through their nose for their idiocy. This made him develop a feeling of enquiry as a result of regarding the treaty as a humiliation that he was



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

determined to change. After coming back to Munich in 1918 he asserted himself in the poorly developed German Workers' Party and gained high rank in this party because of his eloquent speech and outstanding ability to present a concrete vision of a greater Germany. By 1920s, it was called the National Socialist German Workers' Party and by this time, Hitler had begun charting out his vision for the future of Germany, as per racists' 'Aryan race' and 'elbow room' theories.(Snyder, 2015)

In 1923 there was Beer Hall Putsch in which Hitler and other of his followers tried to stage a coup and this led to Hitler's imprisonment. He also wrote book "Mein Kampf" where he elaborated nearly all political views and what he planned for Germany in the future. However, this particular coup d'état was efficiently prevented Foreseeing the likes of this, Hitler was effectively brought to the forefront of the political systems in Germany and given the leverage from which he could steadily gain power. Family and personal incompetence alongside the war trauma that seemed to define his young years was the genesis to the world's worst dictator.(Rees, 2012)

## The Rise of the Schutzstaffel (SS) and Hitler's Reorganization of the Nazi Party

The first few months the Nazi party was released from the prison saw Germany coming out of the depression and experienced a shift to lighten up the economy This resulted to provided little relief for the Weimar government and at the outset it did seem to have taken away a base of extremists and fascism. At this time Hitler was wise enough to go out of politics and concentrate on the reorganization of the Nazi party. Realising that the party needed a stricter and a more loyal arm Hitler established the Schutzstaffe also known as SS as a different force from Sturmabteilung also known as SA. The SS in the initial stage comprised about 200 men in black uniform and each of them swore individual oath of loyalty to Adolf Hitler while the SA had more substructures which were often antithetical to another within the same party. (Friedländer, 2007)

Previously which was once a minor group, was converted by Himmler into a tool of Nazi propaganda from 1929 in the shape of SS which became a forceful implementation means of Nazi regime in Germany and invaded Europe during World War II. The organizational imagination of Himmler' is therefore closely akin to another German archetype which turned the SS into much more than another army battalion; it got involved in administrative management of the concentration camp and final solution, which was holocaust, with the SS as incarnations of the ideal, the extreme and the spirit of the Nazis. (McDonough, 2011)

#### Personal Turmoil and Relationships: The Influence of Geli Raubal and Eva Braun

In the early 1930s specifically the late 1920s, Hitler would spend his time in his alpine house in Berchtesgaden where many of his colleagues would drop by including his half-sister Angela Raubal



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

together with her daughters Geli Raubal among others. The Hitler's communication with his niece Geli was quite an interesting and quite pathetic; he was very possessive of her and which led to many an unpleasant episode for him. Geli, in 1931, was reported to have shot herself dead, this was however, proved to be suicide by the police. This tragedy did not seem to surprise Hitler in the slightest; he was to claim in some later writings that Geli was the only woman that he ever loved and that the feeling influenced him for years.(Browning, 2004)

During his life, Hitler had another long term relation; this was with Geli Raubal a sister to Hitler's niece. Along's death however, he was involved with a young shop assistant from Munich known as Eva Braun. But this did not alter their closeness; even though, Hitler did not take Braun as his wife, he kept on pretending that he had no woman in his life but only his motherland – Germany. Fritz Braun did not attend many events of Hitler's youth and did not spend much time with Hitler when he was formulating his power and during the second world war; however, he remained with him to the final refuge – the Berlin under siege. (Gellately, 2002)

#### The Great Depression and Hitler's Political Maneuvering

The Great depression that begun in 1929 had a very drastic impact on the Weimar republic making it quite favorable for Hitler's policies. The hyper inflation, high levels of unemployment, and despair made the people of Germany to question the leadership of the Republic and revolution look for other strategies. Thus, Hitler but apropos of the moment seize it placing the Nazi Party as the symbol of nationalist German movement and the problems the country faced have a solution – in the Party. In order to do this, he got the support of conservatives in military, industrial and business sector who saw him as a figure that can change the laws of the country and bring law and order and economy all in to the country. (Johnson & Reuband, 2005)

This was so especially when Hitler capitalized on the breakdown of weimar governments in early 1930s and people's desire for a dictator. In the 1932 presidential elections he sought presidency against the backdrop of Paul von Hindenburg the man whom everybody respected for his heroic deeds in the First World War. Despite his defeat, Hitler got 36% of the votes a fraction of the votes at least, and that put him back into power. Out of the votes, he only garnered 8 per cent but his performance brought him political clout. Lander held several portfolios in the government during the election campaigns In early 1933, the endless political crisis culminated when the German President, Hindenburg agreed to the demands of the available parties to appoint Hitler as the chancellor of Germany though the leader of the Nazi party was largely only offer a minor role in the government in view of preventing him from escalating in a coalition government. (Weale, 2010)

Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

The Establishment of the Third Reich

The occurrence of Hitler in power as the Chancellor of Germany on the 30th of January 1933

marked the establishment of the Third Reich as the National Socialists had arrogantly labelled it as the

'Thousand-Year Reich'. This phase therefore saw the erasing of the parliamentary democracy of the

Weimar Republic and the announcing of the fascist dictatorship under Hitler. In fact, the absolute

majority for the supporters of the Nazi party never reached the 37 percent even at the best time before

the governmental seizing, but Hitler was able to enfeeble his opponents and seizure the power in the

course of the several crises. (Beevor, 2012)

The other important event that served to heat Hitler on the path to the increment of power was

the Reichstag Fire which occurred in February 1933 and which led to burning of the German

parliament building. The Dutch was blamed by a local communist of having started the fire but this is

believed to have been a work of the Nazis themselves who wanted to use the event to go after more

political dissidents. In order to mask for the fire that had been orchestrated, Hitler had to persuade

president Hindenburg to sign the Reichstag Fire Decree which in its essence was a suspension of many

rights within Germany including the communists and arrest of thousands of those who were opposing

Hitler. (Paxton, 2024)

By March 1933 a new legislation known as the Enabling Act was enacted through the

Reichstag which marked the abolishing of the parliamentary authority and led Hitler to have complete

supremacy as the chancellor of Germany and the Nazi party became the German state. . This act was

propagated by the Nazi propaganda as the marriage of the National Socialism with the German

heritage. After months of his reign he had been able to dissolve all other political parties apart from

the Nazi party, dissolve all trade unions and replace them with organizations affiliated to the Nazi

party thus eradicating all forms of potential opponent. (Overy, 2005)

**Consolidation of Power and Suppression of Opposition** 

Again as a German Chancellor who possessed full autocratic power, Hitler made sure he had

to exercise full control of all facets of the german society. He also did not waste time in suppressing all

kinds of resistance and in implementing Nazi politics through propaganda, censorship of literature and

films, and force. All these media were effectively Nazified and Goebbels, the Minister of Public

Enlightenment and Propaganda never let go any chance to propagate the Nazi's political agenda of

eliminating Jews and communists, and also popularizing the authority and position of

Hitler.(Goldhagen, 1996)

183

Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023

ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

This was followed by constant dismantling of other sources of power within Nazi Germany as also purging out anyone the Nazis considered as competitors within the party. The Night of Long

Knives in 1934 can be considered as one of the major turning points since Hitler required the SS to

eliminate the members of the SA including Ernst Röhm who posed a threat to Hitler's power. It not

only cleared out possible threat to Hitler but also got the support of German military which considered

the plans of SA as dangerous.(Stoltzfus, 2002)

**Expansionist Intensions and First Steps of Foreign Policy** 

As soon as Hitler secured hegemony over the German state, he sought to reverse some of the

losses which Germany had suffered in the international sphere and above all eliminate the Treaty of

Versailles. While Germany was diplomatically lonely in the course of 1933 and numerically german

military power was weaker than that of others in the sense of 1933, Hitler began the process of

remilitarization of Germany in the disregard of the treaty that was signed during the Treaty of

Versailles. In his first years the president has been a warmonger and to some extent, a schemer when it

came to his foreign policy. (Taylor, 2004)

In a speech made in May, 1933, Hitler used politically correct concept of Good Will Speech

stating that Germany was a pacifist nation that endorsed disarmament. This policy was being largely a

declared one, the intention of which was to provide Europeans with an assurance when Germany

rearmed. Racism was never taken lightly as was the case in World War II and that is why the true face

of Hitler only started coming out in the subsequent years of expansionism. The remilitarization of the

Rhineland in 1936, the annexation of Austria in 1938 and the occupation of the Sudetenland, which

separated off Czechoslovakia into regions controlled by Germany were all in pursuance of Hitler's

intention of the establishment of a Larger Germany. (Fritzsche, 2008)

These acts alongside with otherwise persistent demand in space, to which he affectionately

called lebensraum, for the Aryan race prepared a general conflict that was soon to engulf Europe. Still,

as some people mentioned earlier, what Hitler was getting in the first months of the Nazi regime and

politics about the foreign policy successes as to his and his regime's plans for expansion was quite

positive to his regime and was in fact a positive reinforcement to his expansionism plans without much

a protest from the Allied side.(Bartov, 2008)

**Concentration Camps: The Evolution from Detention to Extermination** 

Since 1933 since a motion by Adolf Hitler, the SS begins constructing what was called

systems of concentration camps; The first one was initially at a site near Munich known as Dachau.

Originally such camps were designated for housing political prisoners - communists, socialists, and

184



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

other so called enemies of the state. But after some time as the Nazi regime started consolidating power, these camps turned quickly into straightforward instruments of repression and terror. The core of their work expanded when the Nazis were no more targeted the political dissenters, but the Jewish people, the Romanies, the homosexuals, the disabled and everybody else who did not fit into the regime's concept of the 'master race'. (Herf, 2006)

If one compare the Nazi policy towards Jews during the Second World War the policy has changed from forced emigration and persecution to extinction in Europe, or the 'Final solution'. This genocidal shift included deploying of Einsatzgruppen which is a group of death that was involved in shooting Jews and other group during the invasion of the Soviet Union. However, the concept of concentration camp was also expanded due to addition of new extermination camp such as Auschwitz-Birkenau in occupied Poland. These camps were the main reason for the extermination of Jews in all over the Europe where gassing was the most efficient method of killing. (Muller, 1997)

The concentration camps also entailed mass execution that people were subjected to conditions such as forced labor and vivisection. At Auschwitz, under Dr. Josef Mengele, alias "The Angel of Death," many experiments were conducted which were very inhuman especially on the twins. These experiments employed about 3000 kids in prisoners, then tortured them through scarification and spreading diseases; as well as other forms of torments under the guise of necessary scientific research related strongly with Nazi Eugenics. It is sad to note that roughly between 6 million Jews perished and other people who did not survive through the development of this war by the time it ended, other non-Jewish people who were massacred inside these camps in Europe where Nazis controlled were also numerous.(Lower, 2013)

#### The End of World War II: The Collapse of Nazi Germany

In WW II it is claimed that the tide of war turned against the Nazis in Africa and at Stalingrad in the East. Therefore by the end of year 1942, Allies along with American force landed in North Africa to expand operations against the Axis force. In addition, as the counter of the world war had now touched the fourth year, similar to the problem of Mathieu in 'Contagious' by Albert Memme, Hitler was going on with rather strange and queer activities and this seemed to have been due to his deteriorating health which was further worsened by his injections from his personal physician Morell. This regime also saw some coup d'état or assassination attempt on the dictator among them the famous military coup known as operation Valkyrie where Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg planted a bomb at the dictator's retreat in East Prussia. Unfortunately, Hitler survived the bomb explosion, and there was a higher degree of persecution on persons who had any relation to the explosion. (Majer, 2003)

Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023

ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

 $(An open \ access \ scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully \ refereed \ journal.)$ 

Germans got to realise the extent of this when the western Allies launched an attack from the

West after they managed to establish themselves in Normandy in June 1944 and simultaneously the

Soviets attacked them from the eastern front. In the last attempt Hitler proffered the Allied advance the

Ardennes Offensive or the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. But this attempt to stop the tide

proved futile and by the early second of year 1945 the Allies had effectively surrounded the Germans

in Berlin. (Gerlach, 1998)

Hitler's Final Days and the Fall of the Third Reich

By January 1945 the Fuhrer is in his concrete lined headquarters at the Reich Chancellery in

Berlin. Hitler was still denying the reality and he insisted on standard defensive measures, as his

dream for the German victory was alive whereas Soviets were encircling the city. In last days of

Führerbunker controlling Hitler physically and mentally was going very rapid and even fans of the

Führer would not argue that Hitler was in very bad state. His last wife was Eva Braun whom he

married just before his death on the 28-29 of April, 1945 in a simple and gloomy wedding. In his last

will and political testament before his death Hitler alleged Jews as the cause of the war needed, the

German people to continue the fight.(Zametica, 1990)

Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun both committed suicide in his bunker on 30th April, 1945 and

they both ingested cyanide. As he instructed the bodies of all of them were removed outside the

bunker in the garden where fuel was added on top of the corpses and they were put on fire, likely to

ensure that they did not fell in the hands of the encroaching Soviets. Finally, on the 2nd of May the

Soviets liberated Berlin and on the 7th of May, 1945 Germany incapable of continuing to fight

surrendered to the Allied forces thus bringing the final call to the war in Europe by accepting to

surrender unconditionally. (Simpson, 1988)

The Aftermath: A Devastated Germany and a Transformed World

This is true, the thousand year Reich of Hitler that he fought for was practically accomplished

in a period of little over 12 years leaving the rest of the years in a trail of horror. The war was carried

out with the expense of millions of people's lives alongside the transformation of millions of people

into refugees and almost total destruction of all the structures across Europe. Nevertheless at the end

the allied powers were left with a tiring assignment of rebuilding Germany, attempts at compiling the

books on the war criminals and of course; attempts at addressing holocaust and humanitarian issues

that arose from the war. (Stone, 2010)

The Nuremberg Trials that was conducted between 1945 and 1946 was a very important

feature of the post-war process and was aimed at trying the major Nazi leaders for crimes against



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

humanity, war and other related crimes. By virtue of these trials, great legal norms on the international law were established and the unity of the community towards justice instigated against the brutalities of the Nazis was cut off. The trials also revealed the fact that holocaust and other genocide processes were conducted by Nazi state as systematic. (Neiberg, 2003)

Continuing in a wider world perspective the World War II ended in 1945 and marked the beginning of the phase known as the Cold War between the Soviet Union on one end of the spectrum and the Western Allies primarily the United States of America on the other. After the war Germany was divided into two part, East Germany was controlled by Soviet Union and in west part three country United States Britain and France had control. This division prevailed up to the time that Germany was reunified in the year 1990, however the feeling of the Nazis and the war has never faded easily in the heart of the nation.(Speer, 1970)

## Lessons from the Nazi Era: Vigilance Against Totalitarianism

One cannot but recall the Nazi regime of the aggressive and cruel Adolf Hitler as one of the brightest examples of what kind of government and the desire for its domination can lead to – terrible devastation, people's suffering, and massive loss of lives all over the globe. Logical manipulation of propaganda, planned eradication of opposition, holocaust and advocacy of radical, existentially dehumanizing ideas and practices emerged as official policy of the Nazi regime and played a major role in ensuring the calamity of the War.(Snyder, 2010)

For instance, holocaust comes in to mind as a way of pointing out the fact that the capacity of the states in human right abuses every time it organizes acts of prejudice and hatred from the society. This holocaust on Jewish, Gypsy, disabled and other targeted people was extermination of race for executing a definite work and its population. Such outcomes of this genocide and the whole war emphasized the importance of the violation and protection of human rights, the part of minorities, and the indications of compulsory control and one person or a group of people. It has also been revealed that World War II marked by the Nazi Germany should encourage international cooperation and the creation of new organizations that will prevent similar wars in the future. After the Second World War the United Nations and together with it the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were established with the purpose of providing the foundation to an international peace and security as well as the citizens' respect for their dignity. (Taylor A. J., 1961)

Finally, the presence of the Nazi Germany as well as the Second World War is not only a history that should be regarded as being existent but rather as an example that such a history can be avoided as well as being an example that has to be prevented in the future. It focuses on not tolerating

Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023

ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

oppression and promoting the democracy and it includes tolerance as its goal. These lessons are important as the global society is shooting itself in the foot through conflicts and difficulties in the

21st century, more so in understanding the Nazis and Fascism history and how to prepare for them,

being responsible, and being fair.(Eley, 1996)

Conclusion

The fact of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany is one of the most tragic episodes in the history of

the mankind, the story of the totalitarian state and its authoritarian power. Hence, it was rather easy for

Hitler to predatory power as a result of socio-economic and political instabilities which beset the

Weimar Republic government; equally, Hitler boasted of excellent skills in propaganda and

elimination of any probable contenders. Post Hitler elevation the Nazi regime is highly militarized and

soon they get involved in the Second World War and invaded large areas of Europe. Such genocidal

actions as those seen in the holocaust were also one of the worse war criminal activities in the

twentieth century; it was also one of the prototypes of ethnic cleansing.

The defeat of Nazi Germany was as a result of speck strategic military miscalculations that

include invasion of USSR and land attack at Normandy by Allies. To this Hitler had several illnesses,

this and his declining mentality impaired his command to the extreme extent that he committed suicide

in April 1945 as Berlin fell to the Allies.

The above historical experience can, therefore, be a dangerous example of authoritarianism

and ramifications of Nepal's exclusion of hate-motivated views from the political process. It therefore

emphasizes the need to protect democracy and its principles as well as the freedom of citizens

particularly in aspects of human and democratic rights and also to foster relations with other countries

of the world with a view of ensuring that incidences like these are not experienced in the future. This

paper is not merely, just a narration of the history of the Nazi Germany but also, it was a guide on how

tyranny emerged, how it collapsed and how one should always be wary for more such tyrannical

powers in the future. The ideas mastered from the period are as relevant today as much as it was

during the post world war period hence there is need to do all we can to protect liberty, equality and

justice especially in the more difficult times. Hostile. Hence the learned notions from the period are as

applicable in today's world as much as they were in the post world war time.

References

Bartov, O. (2008). Hitler's Army: Soldiers, Nazis, and War in the Third Reich. Oxford University

Press. (pp. 166-168).

188



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023

ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

Beevor, A. (2012). The Second World War. Little, Brown. (pp. 215-217).

Browning, C. R. (1992). Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland. HarperCollins. (pp. 53-55).

Browning, C. R. (2004). The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942. University of Nebraska Press. (pp. 122-124).

Bullock, A. (1962). Hitler: A Study in Tyranny. Harper & Row. (pp. 205-208).

Eley, G. (1996). The Goldhagen Effect: History, Memory, Nazism - Facing the German Past. Social History, 21(2), 121-131. (pp. 123-125).

Evans, R. J. (2003). The Coming of the Third Reich. Penguin Press. (pp. 45-47).

Fest, J. C. (1973). . Hitler. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. (pp. 311-313).

Friedländer, S. (2007). Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945: The Years of Extermination. HarperCollins. (pp. 333-336).

Fritzsche, P. (2008). Life and Death in the Third Reich. Harvard University Press. (pp. 132-134).

Gellately, R. (2002). Backing Hitler: Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany. Oxford University Press. (pp. 187-190).

Gerlach, C. (1998). The Wannsee Conference, the Fate of German Jews, and Hitler's Decision in Principle to Exterminate All European Jews. Holocaust and Genocide Studies, 12(3), 61-95. (pp. 74-76).

Goldhagen, D. J. (1996). Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust. Alfred A. Knopf. (pp. 223-225).

Herf, J. (2006). The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda during World War II and the Holocaust. Harvard University Press. (pp. 88-90).

Johnson, E. A., & Reuband, K. H. (2005). What We Knew: Terror, Mass Murder, and Everyday Life in Nazi Germany. Basic Books. (pp. 93-95).

Kershaw, I. (1999). Hitler: 1889-1936 Hubris. W. W. Norton & Company. (pp. 123-125).



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

Kershaw, I. (2000). Hitler: 1936-1945 Nemesis. W. W. Norton & Company. (pp. 267-269).

Lower, W. (2013). Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. (pp. 120-122).

Majer, D. (2003). "Non-Germans" Under the Third Reich: The Nazi Judicial and Administrative System in Germany and Occupied Eastern Europe with Special Regard to Occupied Poland, 1939-1945. Johns Hopkins University Press. (pp. 198-201).

Mazower, M. (2008). Hitler's Empire: How the Nazis Ruled Europe. Penguin Books. (pp. 112-115).

McDonough, F. (2011). Hitler and the Rise of the Nazi Party. Pearson Education. (pp. 67-69).

Muller, R. R. (1997). The German Army and Genocide: Crimes Against War Prisoners, Jews, and Other Civilians in the East, 1939-1944. The New Press. (pp. 110-113).

Neiberg, M. S. (2003). Fighting the Great War: A Global History. Harvard University Press. (pp. 320-323).

Overy, R. J. (2005). The Dictators: Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia. W. W. Norton & Company. (pp. 75-77).

Paxton, R. O. (2024). The Anatomy of Fascism. Knopf. (pp. 101-103).

Rees, L. (2012). The Nazis: A Warning from History. BBC Books. (pp. 155-157.

Shirer, W. L. (1960). The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany. Simon & Schuster. (pp. 98-101).

Simpson, C. (1988). Blowback: America's Recruitment of Nazis and Its Effects on the Cold War. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. (pp. 56-58).

Snyder, T. (2010). Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin. Basic Books. (pp. 175-178).

Snyder, T. (2015). Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning. Tim Duggan Books. (pp. 45-47).

Speer, A. (1970). Inside the Third Reich: Memoirs. Macmillan. (pp. 150-153).

Spielvogel, J. J. (2005). Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History. Pearson Education. (pp. 78-80).



Available online at: http://euroasiapub.org

Vol. 13 Issue 09, September- 2023 ISSN: 2249-7382 | Impact Factor: 8.018|

(An open access scholarly, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal.)

Stoltzfus, N. (2002). Resistance of the Heart: Intermarriage and the Rosenstrasse Protest in Nazi Germany. Rutgers University Press. (pp. 47-49).

Stone, D. (2010). The Holocaust, Fascism and Memory: Essays in the History of Ideas. Palgrave Macmillan. (pp. 98-100).

Taylor, A. J. (1961). The Origins of the Second World War. Hamish Hamilton. (pp. 89-91).

Taylor, F. (2004). Dresden: Tuesday, February 13, 1945. Bloomsbury Publishing. (pp. 178-180).

Tooze, A. (2006). The Wages of Destruction: The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy. Viking. (pp. 154-156).

Weale, A. (2010). The SS: A New History. Little, Brown. (pp. 140-142).

Zametica, J. (1990). Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust. Random House. (pp. 44-47).