

The Years of Waiting (1924-1931)

by Fynn Minuth

Hitler in Prison (1924)

- was imprisoned after the 1923 Munich Beerhall Putsch Nov. 8-9
 - originally for 5 years, but shortened to 1 year
 - BULLOCK SAYS:
 - “Fifty miles west of Munich, in the small town of Landsberg, Hitler served his prison term with some forty other National Socialists. They had an easy and comfortable life, ate well- Hitler became quite fat in prison. [...] July onwards he shut himself up in his room to dictate *Mein Kampf*, first to Emil Maurice and later to Rudolf Hess” (64)

Hitler in Prison (1924)

- Mein Kampf, in which he argued that the effeminate Jewish-Christian ethic was enfeebling Europe, and that Germany needed a man of iron to restore itself and build an empire. He decided on the tactic of pursuing power through "legal" means
- BULLOCK SAYS:
 - “His own title for the book was *Four and a Half Years of Struggle against Lies, Stupidity, and Cowardice*, reduced by Amann to *Mein Kampf- My Struggle*. [...] For the book contains very little autobiography, but is filled with turgid discussions of Hitler’s ideas, written in a verbose style which is both difficult and dull to read.” (64)

The Move Toward Power

- “With the re-founding of the Nazi Party, Hitler set himself two objectives. The first was to establish his own absolute control over the Party by driving out those who were not prepared to accept his leadership without question. The second was to build up the Party and make it a force in German politics within the framework of the constitution.” (67)
- In a speech on February 27th Hitler mentioned to concentrate on opposition against a single enemy- Marxism and the Jew → but he added: “If necessary, by one enemy many can be meant” (67)

The Move Toward Power

- Thus, authorities prohibited him from speaking in public in Bavaria. Was extended to other German states as well.
- Lasted until May 1927 in Bavaria and September 1928 in Prussia (67)
- Nazis won the second presidential election, BUT “such success as the Nazis had at this time was due less to Hitler than to Gregor Strasser, who was threatening to take Hitler’s place as the effective leader of the Party.” (67)

The Move Toward Power

- Because of Strasser, Nazis had more votes in North and Rhineland
- Because of such strong power from Strasser, Hitler had problems staying leader of the Nazi- Party
- “In July 1926, Hitler felt strong enough to hold a mass rally of the Party at Weimar, in Thuringia, one of the few States in which he was still allowed to speak.” (71) 5,000 men took part and it was the first time with Hitler’s outstretched arm
- During the next four years, Hitler just went deeper into politics and becoming a well-known politician

The Move Toward Power

- In 1930, the Nazi- Party was for the first time a major factor in national politics (77)
- 1930, was also the year when the German recovery stopped and ended in the World Depression (77)
- “Hitler neither understood nor was interested in economics, but he was alive to the social and political consequences of events which affected the life of every German family [...] Unemployment: more than six millions in 1932 and again in 1933” (77-78)

The Move Toward Power

- The Depression was a chance for the Nazi- Party to gain more reputation
- “Such a situation was much to the advantage of the Nazis, who had been unremitting in their attacks on the parliamentary republic and democratic methods of government” (79)
- “The government was dissolved in July 1930, and in the following election campaign the Nazis used every trick of propaganda to attract attention and win votes” (81)
- “In the middle of September thirty million Germans went to the polls. The results even surprised Hitler. Nazi seats in the Reichstag leaped from 12 to 107. From ninth the Nazi had become the second Party in the State” (83)

Summary

Quote on page 94

Socratic Seminar

Why was Hitler chosen to be the chancellor in 1933? Because of...

- A. his ambition
- B. his ignorance
- C. his prescience
- D. his Anti- Semitic thinking
- E. his self-confidence