



# The Dictator

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# Warm-Up



# Speaking Ability

- Flaws: Harsh voice, spoke too long, repetitive, verbose, and lacked lucidity
- Strengths: Impression of force, passion, intense hatred, and fury
- Tells the people what they want to hear
- “Speech was the essential medium of his power” (207)



# Hitler Myth

- Genuine belief in his own inspiration vs. deliberate exploitation of human nature
- astute and cynical politician
- mixture of calculation and fanaticism, to ignore one is to present a distorted picture of Hitler



# Means of Communication

- Capable of a synthetic fury, used this to gain concessions from foreign govt's
- Place himself on the defensive, those who opposed him were aggressive and malicious
- Transition from mood to mood very quickly
- Consummate actor; convinced himself of what he was saying, while he was saying it
- He would go for the effect, not accuracy

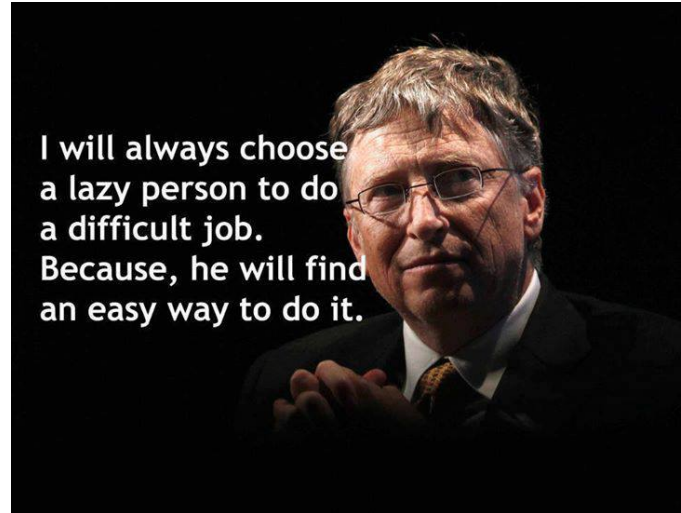


# Fingerspitzengefühl

- Sense of opportunity and timing, he knew how to wait
- Passionate procrastination
- Loved the element of surprise; emotions
- His meetings were an emotional experience
- Rallies were very theatrical
- Combination of propaganda and terrorism
- “In making use of his formidable power Hitler had one supreme, and fortunately rare, advantage: he had neither scruples nor inhibitions” (213)

# Secrecy

- Only said what he intended to, nothing more
- Would not seek counsel
- Distrust of experts
- Found his own solutions to complex problems
- He believed in force greatly



# Man on a Mission

- Cynicism stopped at himself
- Man with a mission exempt from ordinary canons of human conduct
- “Whether Hitler ever read Hegel or not, Hegel’s writings about the Hero who is above conventional morality find an echo in Hitler’s belief about himself” (215)
- “No man was ever more surely destroyed by the image he had created than Adolf Hitler” (216)





# Hitler, Personally

- His vitality rose in the evenings
- Hated going to bed; insomnia
- Ascetic in comparison
- No fondness for formality
- Anxious about his health
- Lived an unhealthy life
- Hypochondriac



# Hitler and the Church

- Brought up as a Catholic
- Impressed by the organization of the Church
- Dislike of Protestant clergy
- Respected the “great position” of the Church
- Teachings were a rebellion against natural law of selection
- “Taken to its logical extreme, Christianity would mean the systematic cultivation of human failure” (219)
- Promised to root out and destroy influence of Christian churches

# Freunde

- Very few friends
- Alte Kampfer (Old fighters)
- Distrusted bourgeois, he only relied on the Old Guard
- Enjoyed the company of women; women were fascinated by him
- He was charming and attentive with women



# Geli Raubal

- His niece, 20 years his junior, simple and attractive with a pleasant voice
- Hitler fell in love with her
- Geli was impressed but did not love him as much
- Geli resented him because of his possessiveness and domestic tyranny
- September 17, 1931



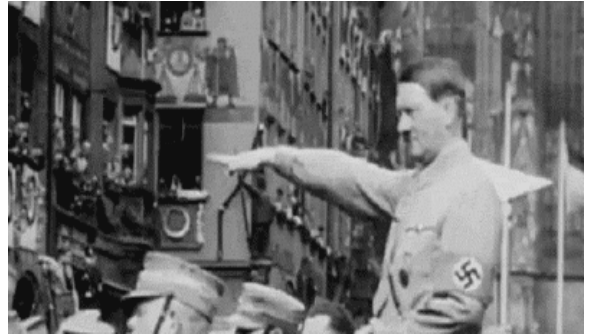
# Eva Braun

- Daughter of a Bavarian craftsman, empty headed blonde
- Suicide attempt less than a year after Geli
- Chere Amie (dear friend)
- Interests: Sport, Cinema, Clothes, and Sex
- Dealt with the same tyranny
- Domestic relationship



# Weltanschauung

- Remained rigid and inflexible
- Basis of his views was crude Darwinism
- Belief in race justified his actions in his opinion
- Unity is the most important
- Plebiscitary and popular dictatorship
- Liberalism vs. Marxism
- Anti-Semitism



# Bullock's Thesis

- His originality lies in the literal way he went about accomplishing his goals.
- Ability as a politician was not to be underestimated
- He succeeded in persuading the German people he was above morals and that he was a man of genius.



# Seminar Question

What played the greatest role in Hitler's dictatorship as a “man of Providence”?

- Passion
- Distrust/Isolation
- Anti-Semitism
- Shrewdness/Cold Calculation

