



The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler

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American journalist and author William L. Shirer was a correspondent for six years in Nazi Germany-and had a front-row seat for Hitler's rise to power. His most definitive work on the subject, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, is a riveting account defined by first-person experience interviewing Hitler, watching his impassioned speeches, and living in a country transformed by war and dictatorship.

William Shirer was originally commissioned to write *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* for a young adult audience. This account loses none of the immediacy of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*-capturing Hitler's rise from obscurity, the horror of Nazi Germany's mass killings, and the paranoia and insanity that marked Hitler's downfall. This book is by no means simplified-and is sure to appeal to adults as well as young people with an interest in World War II history.

The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler Details

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From Reader Review The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler for online ebook

Nicholas Sinopoli says

Hitler had a pretty harsh childhood and a mean adult life. Pretty good book.

Ariel Jensen says

Extremely well-written and informative. Shirer is a great authority on this subject (as a firsthand observer of Hitler!); he simply and clearly explains the nitty-gritty, complicated events of Hitler's life, rule, and death. This book actually made me want to read others in the World Landmarks Series, even though I've never been very interested in the subject of History. This is the most I've learned about WWII since high school. An amazing, insightful read.

Timothy says

nice

Awallens says

At daybreak on September 1, 1939, the German army poured across the Polish border while German bombers rained destruction from the skies, WW II had begun--"Hitler's war," as the British say.

As an American correspondent in Berlin, William Shirer had met Hitler, listened to his fiery speeches, and observed him firsthand. THE RISE AND FALL OF ADOLF HITLER is based on what Shirer saw and on his later research of the massive files captured by the Allies.

"Hitler's conquest was classic. He double-crossed his friends, massacred millions, plunged the world into its bloodiest war...and buried his own nation in the process.

I read this book and it was OK. However, the author uses words like "crazy" "demented", etc. And I would agree that Hitler was that. but I think the author could have let the facts speak for themselves. However if you need a short history of Hitler, this is a good one.

Lynn Davidson says

I read this book just to know what I may not have otherwise learned along the way. I'm glad I did. It was an easy book to read, but was difficult to read because of the horror of war, the driven insanity of Adolf Hitler,

the unspeakable cruelty he promoted and insisted upon toward anyone in his way. It was revolting to me to learn more of the seeming stupidity of those around him to allow him to carry on the way he did. He was terrifying. He was insane.

My father is a WWII veteran, and I deeply respect all WWII soldiers who put their lives on the line to stop the attempted overtaking of the world, a little at a time. It was a long horrific war that could have been stopped many different times – but it wasn't seen at first as a realistic threat. As it progressed it became very hard to stop, including several attempts on Hitler's life which were unsuccessful. I had an uncle who was a young German soldier in WWII, one of countless who didn't want to fight in Hitler's armies but had no choice. How very sad and tragic it all was.

This is a small book worth reading. Lest we forget.

Adam Illyes says

In his 1961 biography, author William L. Shirer recounts the life story of history's most infamous villain in *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler*. Taking care not to leave out any important chunks of the man's life, Shirer begins the tale in 1889 with Hitler's birth, following him through his rough father-son relationship, his days spent loafing and attempting to get an education in art, his years as a tramp in Vienna and his discovery of the National Socialist German Workers' Party- the very ragtag group that Hitler eventually led in one of the most and least successful conquests to ever spread across the face of Europe. Hitler was not able to do it without difficulty. Trials and tribulations blocked him at every turn, and only through backstabbing, treachery, propaganda, brutality and the cruel hand of luck did Hitler both come to be the most powerful man on the planet as well as the most egotistical, delusional and anemic leaders to ever do so. Despite his unthinkable feats of political and military cunning, Hitler was eventually his own undoing, going on a downward mental spiral that was the death of him, his wife, his armies, and his nation's pride and power. In the end, it was not the attempts on his life from within and without his own Nazi party, nor the sicknesses and heartbreak that killed Hitler. It was the very same character, confidence, and charisma that had enabled him in the first place.

In a lot of ways, William L. Shirer seems to be the perfect person to write an interesting and evocative biography about one of the most influential figures in all of history, seeing as he himself was the American correspondent in Berlin during the 1940s. Shirer also makes it clear that he aims to include Hitler's own words and writing when appropriate - and both of these things do validate *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* as a historically accurate biography. The structure is befitting of a biography-style nonfiction book as well, being ordered chronologically and split into sections that align neatly with the different periods of Hitler's life. As can be expected of most historical biographies, Shirer does do a deeper dive than most other books that recount something of Hitler's story, and aided by his own firsthand knowledge of the war's events, Shirer can, now and then, offer input and lightly theorize as to why Hitler acted in some of the ways he did. Shirer does not preach, though, and does a good job maintaining a professional and informative prose style even when his own opinion bubbles up throughout his retelling. Structurally and with regards its conventions, *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* is entirely solid and isn't ever dry - it moves things along with the information and curiosities that are crucial in both understanding and critically considering Hitler's life. Shirer's tendency to keep things moving and his perpetual fear of sounding boring also has its flaws. Although *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* is ultimately a quick and enjoyable read for anyone even marginally interested in World War II history, it fails to give history buffs anything of note to chew on. Anyone who has taken a world history course will already know many of the book's most central plot points, and while that can't necessarily be avoided, *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* often seemed like it wasn't able to or willing to stray too far beyond those well-documented points of historical note. Having been center stage to witness Hitler's rise to and fall from power, Shirer offers excruciatingly little unique information

that one couldn't find somewhere else. He rarely mentions any events that he personally witnessed and doesn't ever capitalize on himself as a primary source. The result is that, for a person who is already versed in the history of Hitler and his Nazi Party, *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* will not only be a snore - it will be altogether pointless. It may not be the kind of thing that everybody will enjoy reading, but I would have loved to see Shirer go someplace unexpected with his discussion of the Fuhrer. What did he like to eat? Did he have any pets? Did he have any odd tendencies that have gone unreported? These are the types of questions that, if they had been answered, would have added the variety and intrigue that Shirer's biography so blatantly lacked.

Although *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* hits all of the highlights of the demented man's life story and does it with good organization, style, and structure, the biography ultimately fails in going above and beyond to create a book that is compelling for readers who know their way around some World War II history, and even a general audience reader is not going to want to leaf through its pages more than once. For folks who are interested in delving into the psyche of history's most infamous genocidal dictator, *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* works fine as a diving board, but you'll have to find your pool somewhere else.

Taylor says

I do believe the author could have chosen a better use for words, but the life of Adolf Hitler was a sad one. The author focuses on Hitler's mental state throughout the book, which is a bit annoying based on the repetition.

There are a few things about Adolf Hitler I learned from this book that I didn't know before.

This is a quick read full of factual events based on Adolf Hitler's life.

It seems World War 11 was unnecessary. Hopefully, we will learn from history.

Caitlyn Mackena Jean says

I usually enjoy WW2 books but since this was a required reading by my WW2 class it was not enjoyed as much. It was interesting in the fact that I learned so many new things about Hitler's corrupted soul.

Liedzeit says

Sehr knappe, aber nicht seichte Biographie. Ich war angenehm überrascht. Das sollte ruhig übersetzt werden.

Fred says

I read this one in Junior High or High School. Taught me alot about Hitler, The Treaty of Versailles and WWII. Shirer is a master historian.

M. Newman says

The best history that I've read of Hitler and his brutal reign of tyranny.

Nicholas Bobbitt says

Though (or perhaps because) he was writing seemingly for a younger audience, Shirer cannot seem to muster interest in his subject. This trait follows into his *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, another book by him I failed to enjoy. At least this was short? It might help young students if they could get past the somewhat stilted language.

Stanton Moore says

While this book is extremely informative, it explains everything in a clear manner that is easy and fun to read. This book has me wanting for more! While Adolf Hitler was a horrible man, his life and his trail to leadership was fascinating. Hitler was not an extremely good leader; he lied and gave extremely long speeches that made people believe!

Robert says

The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler by William L. Shirer is an excellent biography about Hitler. It begins when Hitler has an argument with his father. Hitler wanted to be an artist. His father wanted him to become a government official. The plot takes off from here. The author creates a well-constructed plot. The plot follows Hitler and tells us what he thinks. The setting is easy to identify because of the attitude Hitler shows there. Hitler is happy in Germany. He is frustrated on the Russian front as he begins to fail. Hitler's journey from an Austrian scholar to German dictator is easily shown with a unique style. Showing all people's views helps the narrator explain what people thought of Hitler. Themes of not giving up or showing defeat are shown as he falls. Themes of pursuit are shown as he rises. The narrator point of view helps it so Hitler's accomplishments are not viewed kindly. People should read this book if they want to know why Hitler rose and fell.

Tom says

(nb: I received a review copy of this title from the publisher via Edelweiss)

In 1960, William L. Shirer published "The Rise and Fall of The Third Reich." The tome was over 1200-pages long, and based on numerous sources, including Nazi officials' journals, Nuremberg Trial records, various intelligence reports, and—perhaps most importantly—on the author's firsthand observations as a CBS journalist covering these events. The book sold millions of copies in the U.S., and even more worldwide.

Owing to the important subject matter, as well as the world's obvious curiosity about World War 2, Shirer was commissioned to write a version aimed at younger readers. "The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler" was originally published in 1961. Here it is published in e-book form for the Kindle Reader Age to access.

This book indeed uses language a younger reader can follow. It doesn't skimp on facts, nor does it talk-down to its audience. Shirer's book covers the basics of Hitler's life, as well as his infamous rise to power and eventual death.

To condense this entire story into an easy-to-read text must have been daunting, but William Shirer does an excellent job. We see Hitler as an aimless child in Austria. We follow his rejection from the Arts University he wanted to attend, and subsequent life as essentially a tramp. We follow him into service during World War 1, where he served bravely and with valor, and his disgust with the weakened Germany dictated by the Treaty of Versailles. He found a small group who shared his views, and he quickly rose to lead it, eventually changing its name to what we know as The Nazi Party.

From there, the story covers events familiar to anyone who's studied WW2 Germany: the Beer Hall Putsch, taking over of the Reichstag, assumption of absolute power. Next came the land grabs, as Hitler took over Austria, the Sudetenland, and formed his non-aggression pact with USSR Dictator, Josef Stalin. Hitler's war went amazingly well in the beginning, and then it fell apart under his megalomaniacal leadership. Shirer's writing is matter-of-fact and clear; it is accessible to young readers as well as adults. The Nazis were notorious for their record-keeping and documentation. It is very easy for an author to dig deeply into this wellspring of inside information and pound the reader insensate with numbers and dates. William Shirer understood his mission with this brief history: present the basics in accessible language, and be done.

This is not a scholarly work, nor should it be. Shirer's triumph is condensing a hugely complex, historically imperative story down to the basics. He does this admirably.

"The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler" works perfectly to introduce younger readers to this horrific yet relevant period in our world's history, or to provide a primer for adults who feel daunted by the longer historical accounts.

Either way, Adolf Hitler and his notorious legacy are preserved here for anyone.

Recommended
