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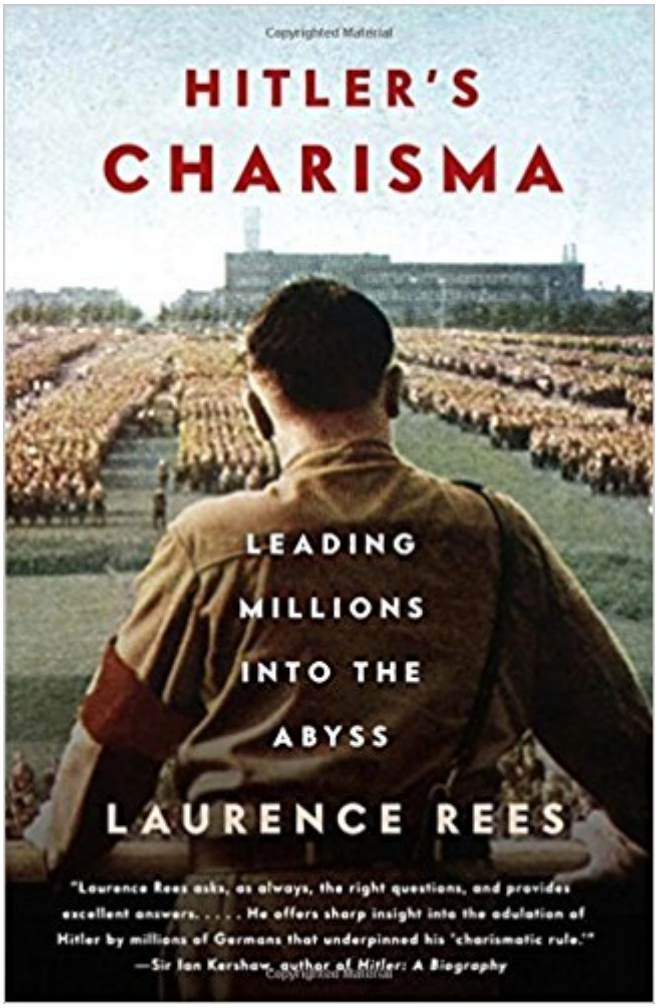
Hitler's Charisma: Leading Millions Into The Abyss



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Synopsis

At the age of twenty-four, in 1913, Adolf Hitler was eking out a living as a painter of pictures for tourists in Munich. Nothing marked him in any way as exceptional, but he did possess certain distinguishing characteristics: a capacity to hate, an inability to accept criticism, and a massive overconfidence in his own abilities. He was a socially and emotionally inadequate individual without direction, from whence came a sense of personal mission that would transform these weaknesses and liabilities into strengthsÃ¢â ¬â •certainties that would provide him not only with a sense of identity, but of purpose in a communal enterprise. This is the focus of Laurence ReesÃ¢â ¬â„¢s social, psychological, and historical investigation into a personality that would end up articulating the hopes and dreams of millions of Germans.(With 16 pages of black-and-white illustrations)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Laurence Rees asks, as always, the right questions, and provides excellent answers. Blending oral testimony of contemporaries with documentary evidence, he offers sharp insight into the adulation of Hitler by millions of Germans that underpinned his Ã¢â ¬Ëœcharismatic rule.Ã¢â ¬â„¢Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Sir Ian Kershaw, author of Hitler: A BiographyÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Offering acerbic insight into HitlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Ã¢â ¬Ëœcharismatic rule,Ã¢â ¬â„¢ this is an arresting account.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Telegraph (London)Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“A useful vehicle for many of the first-hand accounts from eyewitnesses and participants . . . The book flows briskly and provides some illuminating perspectives along the way.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Independent on Sunday

(London)Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“A fascinating study.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Antony Beevor, author of The Second World WarÃ¢â ¬Å“So how did Hitler convince his generals to invade Russia and his subjects to ignore the genocide around them? This readable, fascinating book, a worthy addition to the vast literature surrounding Hitler, has plausible answers.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus ReviewsÃ¢â ¬Å“Rees moves easily from the broad themes of German politics and economics to the individual voices of those who supported and opposed Hitler. Incorporating most of the latest scholarship on Hitler, Rees provides valuable insights here into a topic that is not new.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Library JournalÃ¢â ¬Å“Rees's spotlight on charisma forces us to think hard about what it means to persuade, to argue, to reasonÃ¢â ¬â •or simply to assert one's will.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Chronicle of Higher Education

Laurence Rees is the writer, director and producer of the BBC TV series The Dark Charisma of Adolf Hitler. The former head of BBC Television History programs, he has specialized for the last twenty years in writing books and making television documentaries about the Nazis and World War II. Previous projects that were both series and books include Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution and World War II Behind Closed Doors. In 2006 Rees won the British Book Award for History Book of the Year for Auschwitz. Educated at Oxford University, he was appointed in 2009 a senior visiting fellow in the International History Department of the London School of Economics and Political Science. In 2010 he launched the multimedia website WW2History.com, which won best in class awards in the education and reference categories at the 2011 Interactive Media Awards. He lives in London.

Lawrence Rees takes you through the mind of Hitler from the very early days of his career to the final moment in the bunker. What it shows us is how dangerous it can be to allow anyone to have that kind of control over you. Having read many books on the subject and also having co-produced the film documentary SammytheJourney.com that is about one of the youngest survivors of the Holocaust, I think that this book has the ability to answer so many questions that I've always had about Hitler and how he was able to affect so many people.

A fascinating study of the psyche of Adolf Hitler. His successes in the 1930's and early 40's seem to be in large part (if the scenarios is the book are accurate) to the bumbling leadership in Britain and France, and the assumption that Hitler was a rational being. Hitler's inability to face the truth of his losing the war seemed to be crucial toward the end of WW II. While I can't account for the veracity

of the narrative, I did find it to be plausible and quite interesting.

Everyone wonders how such an advanced and enlightened nation capable of producing some of world's greatest music, thinkers, scientists, writers, philosphers, and engineers coould fall for the madness of the Nazism. Mr Rees goes in get depth to explain how an socially backwards "no body" from Austria, with little formal education, rose to rule Germany, and then all of Europe based on little more than his personality and his Will to Power. In short, his charisma. Rees walks us through, step by step, Hitler's rise to power and his slowly expanding power until all was caught in his web of hatred, death, and total destruction. But, and perhaps even more importantly, Mr Rees shows us how this could happen again. Vital information for today! A must read.

A truly remarkable telling of how Hitler's charisma, oratory, and deep-seated radicalism allowed him to cast a spell over germay during his ascent to power. Very, very good read. Not too sense, and laden with details not commonly found elsewhere.

Very interesting analysis of Hitler's behavior and way of acting, of his self total confidence. A new approach to understanding why a supposedly civilized country did such inhuman actions

Very interesting and pretty scary considering the current state of affairs with regards to our political scene.

I am not sure if the theme of the book, charisma, applies. Many felt Hitler had no charisma while others were mesmerized by his speeches. A very interesting book which is a nice complement to the many other books written about this major figure of 20th century history.

a true understanding of a madman ...

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