

Chapter 1 : The History Place - Defeat of Hitler: Downfall of Adolf Hitler

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Adolf Hitler reviewing troops on the Eastern Front, Hitler was of great historical importance—a term that does not imply a positive judgment—because his actions changed the course of the world. He was responsible for starting World War II, which resulted in the deaths of more than 50 million people. In addition, Hitler was responsible for the Holocaust, the state-sponsored killing of six million Jews and millions of others. None How did Adolf Hitler rise to power? With his oratorical skills and use of propaganda, he soon became its leader. Hitler gained popularity nationwide by exploiting unrest during the Great Depression, and in he placed second in the presidential race. The following month the Reichstag fire occurred, and it provided an excuse for a decree overriding all guarantees of freedom. Then on March 23 the Enabling Act was passed, giving full powers to Hitler. Such goals were greeted with support by many within Germany who resented the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which had ended World War I. Through various means he was able to annex Austria and Czechoslovakia with little resistance in 1938. Then on September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, which had been guaranteed French and British military support should such an event occur. Read more about World War II. However, Goebbels only held the post for one day before committing suicide. How did Adolf Hitler die? As Soviet troops entered the heart of Berlin, Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945, in his underground bunker. Although there is some speculation about the manner of his death, it is widely believed that he shot himself. Eva Braun, whom he had recently married, also took her own life. According to his wishes, both bodies were burned and buried. Almost immediately, however, conspiracy theories began. According to subsequent reports, however, the Soviets recovered his burnt remains, which were identified through dental records.

Chapter 2 : Famous Nazi Generals - A Knowledge Archive

Adolf Hitler - politician and leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party (German: Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, abbreviated NSDAP), commonly known as the Nazi Party. He was the absolute dictator of Germany from 1933 to 1945, with the title of Chancellor from 1933 to 1945 and with the title head of state (Führer).

An hour later, a gunshot was heard. Braun had no visible wounds, but the room smelled distinctly of almonds, a sign of cyanide poisoning. The bodies burned through the afternoon, as the Soviets occasionally shelled the area. The remains were dumped in a shallow shell crater and covered up. He began to dig, thinking he might uncover some hastily buried Nazi treasure. Instead, his shovel hit bone. This would be just one of several moves the corpse would make in the next few decades. In early June that year, the Soviets re-buried the body in a forest near the town of Rathenau. Eight months later, they moved it again—this time, to the Soviet Army garrison in Magdeburg. There it remained until March 1945, when the Soviets decided to abandon the garrison and turn it over to the East German civilian government. Soviet leaders worried that if the body were left in the garrison or buried somewhere else not under their watchful eye, the gravesite would become a shrine for neo-Nazis. KGB director Yuri Andropov decided that the remains should be destroyed and authorized an operation to dispose of the body. The only things that were kept were fragments of a jawbone and skull, which were stored in government buildings in Moscow. Russian officials rejected that conclusion. After some digging with no results, the team realized they had counted 45 meters instead of 45 paces from a secret coordinate while following the directions to the corpse. They put the dirt back, moved the tent, and started again. With the remains in their possession, the team disguised themselves as fishermen and drove into the mountains, stopping at a cliff along a small stream. There, in a spot screened by trees, they lit two campfires. One was to make soup. The other, to further burn the remains. Gumenyuk has called the second cremation a waste of a can of gasoline, but the remains were finally burned to ashes. They collected these in a rucksack, which Gumenyuk took onto the cliff and opened up into the wind. Today, Gumenyuk is 70 years-old and retired from the KGB. Still afraid the peaceful woods would become a pilgrimage site, he has vowed to take his secret to his grave.

Chapter 3 : List of Nazi Party leaders and officials - Wikipedia

The last picture of Adolf Hitler, Allegedly the last picture of Adolf Hitler before he committed suicide on. Hitler (right) and his adjutant Julius Schaub looking at the ruins of the Reich chancellery, April 28,

Was he, as his former subordinates claimed after World War Two ended, a meddling amateur who kept them from conducting the war properly? What were his strengths and weaknesses, his goals and methods? Hitler was, first and foremost, determined to command personally. At each level, the superior was to give the orders, the subordinates to follow them to the letter. In practice the command relationships were more subtle and complex, especially at the lower levels, but Hitler did have the final say on any subject in which he took a direct interest, including the details of military operations, that is, the actual direction of armies in the field. Moreover, as time went on he took over positions that gave him ever more direct control. Hitler wanted to be the *Feldherr*, the *generalissimo*, exercising direct control of the armies himself, in much the same sense that Wellington commanded at Waterloo, albeit at a distance. A small personal staff attended to him, and the army high command also kept its headquarters, with a much more substantial staff, nearby. He held briefings with his senior military advisors, often in the company of Party officials and other hangers-on, each afternoon and late each night. His staff would present him with information on the status and actions of all units down to division strength or lower, as well as on special subjects such as arms production or the technical specifications of new weapons. Hitler had an incredible memory for detail and would become annoyed at any discrepancies. Every point had to be correct and consistent with previous briefings, for Hitler had an incredible memory for detail and would become annoyed at any discrepancies. He supplemented that information by consulting with his field commanders, on very rare occasions at the front, more often by telephone or by summoning them back to his headquarters. As the briefing went on he would state his instructions verbally for his staff to take down and then issue as written orders. These revolved around his personality, the depth of his knowledge, and his military experience, and they exacerbated corresponding problems in the German command system. After the war, the picture emerged of Hitler as a megalomaniac who refused to listen to his military experts and who, as a consequence, lost the war for Germany. That picture emerged due largely to the efforts of his former generals, who had their own reputations to protect. He had to overcome a certain amount of timidity among his senior officers before the war - during the reoccupation of the Rhineland, for example - and his perception of them as over cautious set the tone for his relations with them. Certainly his operational decisions, especially early in the war, were sometimes as good as, or better than, those of his generals. He was, after all, one of the two men who first thought up the campaign plan that the Wehrmacht the German army used against France with such stunning success in , and he had to push hard before the General Staff would accept it. Their attitude toward his military leadership, on the other hand, ran hot and cold. They often recognised his talents - far more than they later wanted to admit. At other times they tried to resist him - though less often, less effectively, and sometimes less justifiably than they later claimed. In any case, he grew ever more distrustful and contemptuous of them as a group, despite the unflagging loyalty that most of them displayed right to the end. As early as he was heard to say that every general was either cowardly or stupid, and his opinion only worsened with time. Top Reliance on instinct Whatever the problems with his generals, however, there is no doubt that Hitler lacked many of the qualities he needed to control military affairs with consistent success. There have been examples - Churchill was one - of political leaders who successfully interceded in the details of military strategy and operations, but Hitler had neither the experience nor the personality for such a role. He shunned serious, comprehensive intellectual effort and was largely ignorant of military affairs and foreign cultures. He tended to reject any information that did not fit with his often wildly inaccurate preconceptions. No military leader can hope to understand the realities of the situation on the ground from hundreds of miles away His talents - or lack thereof - aside, Hitler took the practice of personal command much too far. No military leader can hope to understand the realities of the situation on the ground from hundreds of miles away, and yet he came to believe that he could control all but the smallest units at the front. At the end of , for example, during the battle of Stalingrad, he actually had a street map of the city

spread out before him so that he could follow the fighting, block by block. Similarly, near the end of the war he ordered that no unit could move without his express permission, and he demanded lengthy reports on every armoured vehicle and position that his forces lost. Such methods guaranteed that opportunities and dangers alike would go unnoticed, that good commanders would be trapped in impossible situations and bad ones allowed to avoid responsibility. Hitler also combined his insistence on personal control with a leadership style that often consisted of equal parts indecisiveness and stubbornness. He sometimes put off difficult decisions for weeks, especially as the military situation grew worse. In , for instance, his inability to make up his mind about an attack at Kursk eventually pushed the attack back from April to July - by which time the Soviets were well prepared. Arguments among his commanders and advisors did not help the situation. His senior commanders felt free to contact him directly; they knew that the last man to brief him often got what he wanted. At other times, though, Hitler would cling to a decision stubbornly, regardless of its merits. His decision to attack in the Ardennes in is one good example: Top Strategy The image of Hitler as a meddler in military operations is powerful and persistent. He began by accepting war against the British Empire without any clear conception of how to win it. When his initial attempts to solve that problem failed, he reacted by turning against the Soviet Union - his preferred target in any case, for ideological as well as strategic reasons. There again he assumed an easy victory and had no back-up plan when success eluded him. Then, even as the failure of his eastern offensive was becoming obvious, he took on the United States, with whom he considered war to be inevitable in any case. From on, Germany could only hang on and try to exhaust its enemies, but their superior resources and increasingly skilled armies made the outcome first predictable and then inevitable. This was a situation that Hitler created. Where the Allies had a clear strategic concept, he had none. Ultimately he believed that war was his only tool, that his armies would win the war simply by winning battles, and that they would win battles in large part because of their racial and ideological superiority. He never balanced ends and means at the national level, and no matter how many battles he won, there always seemed to be another one to fight. In the end, his was the nation that exhausted itself. No commander works in isolation, no matter how absolute his power might appear. There was no Alanbrooke or Marshall in the group, nor even an Eisenhower. And for all their supposed professionalism, their operational abilities were not so great as their memoirs make them appear. The fact remains, however, that Hitler was the driving force behind the war. It was Hitler that provided its ideological basis and its strategic direction; his generals merely went along, however willingly.

Chapter 4 : Hitler's Last General: The Case Against Wilhelm Mohnke by Ian Sayer | eBay

Adolf Hitler's inner circle were the most powerful men in the Third Reich. It was a finely balanced team of military commanders, administrative leaders and Ministers of the Nazi Party (NSDAP). This is a list of Hitler's top 10 henchmen, who they were and a brief explanation of their roles.

Years of war had turned former superpower Germany into a battleground, and its cities from strongholds into places under siege. The Red Army had completely circled the city, which now called on elderly men, police, and even children to defend it. But though a battle raged on in the streets, the war was already lost. Since a public appearance on his birthday, April 20, he had been disconcertingly absent from the public eye. In reality, he was holed up in a bunker near the Brandenburg Gate in the heart of Berlin, surrounded by his command staff and a few private citizens, including his mistress Eva Braun. Suspicious of a coup by his closest advisors, Hitler raged and planned and raged again. Later that day, he consulted with Werner Haase, his private doctor, about the best ways to commit suicide. Though Hitler married Eva Braun that morning, people were more interested in discussing suicide than celebrating a wedding. Hitler had learned that Heinrich Himmler, leader of the SS, had given the Allies an offer of immediate surrender—an offer they promptly refused. Outraged, Hitler demanded that Himmler “once his close and powerful compatriot” be arrested. Then Hitler heard of the death of Benito Mussolini, his counterpart in Italy. April 30, All times are approximate 1 a. Field Marshal William Keitel reports that the entire Ninth Army is encircled and that reinforcements will not be able to reach Berlin. The capsule works and the dog dies almost immediately. Hitler meets with General Helmuth Weidling, who tells him that the end is near. Russians are attacking the nearby Reichstag. Weidling asks what to do when troops run out of ammunition. Hitler and the women of the bunker—Eva Braun, Traudl Junge, and other secretaries—sit down for lunch. He apologizes for being unable to give them a better farewell present. The smell of burnt almonds—a harbinger of cyanide—wafts through the door. Braun and Hitler sit side by side. They are both dead. As shells fall, they douse the bodies in gas. Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda, will kill himself tomorrow. Meanwhile, he holds out a box of matches. The survivors fumble and finally light the corpses on fire. They head down to the bunker as they burn.

Chapter 5 : Hitler Facts: 36 Facts about Hitler •FACTSlides•

This is an important book. Through first-rate historical detective work, Sayer and Botting have uncovered the individual responsible for no less than three major massacres of Allied prisoners, near Dunkirk in , in Normandy in , and at Malmedy in

As a child, Hitler wanted to be a priest. Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Mussolini and Hitler, all suffered from ailurophobia, the fear of cats. Hitler planned to collect thousands of Jewish artifacts to build a "Museum of An Extinct Race" after the war. In , Hitler, Stalin, Trotsky, Tito and Freud all lived within a few miles of each other in Vienna, with some of them being regulars at the same coffeehouses. Hitler never learned to drive. Yet, he spearheaded the development of the Volkswagen car. He was later arrested, then released by the SS once they discovered his identity. Hitler believed he was attractive to women, so he remained single for political gain. The German people were unaware of Eva Braun until after the war. Before the Holocaust, Hitler gave the U. When the D-Day forces landed, Hitler was asleep. None of his generals dared send re-enforcements without his permission, and no-one dared wake him. Adolf Hitler was member in the Nazi Party, but the party started counting at to look bigger. Hitler himself was never elected by the people. He lost the presidential election but the Nazis formed a coalition that got them enough seats to demand the position of Chancellor for Hitler. He also shot the five puppies and buried them with their mother. Hitler married Eva Braun less than 40 hours before they died. Anophthalmus hitleri is a blind beetle found only in five caves in Slovenia. Named after Hitler in , it is now endangered due to collectors of Nazi memorabilia. Adolf Hitler was the first European leader to ban human zoos. Hitler was a big tax evader, and was even fined by his own government over it in . He then got the tax department to declare him exempt from taxation. Allied forces hired a makeup artist to draw sketches of Hitler in various disguises. In , Winston Churchill went to a hotel in Munich two days in a row to have tea with Hitler. Hitler stood him up both times and the two men never met.

Chapter 6 : Führerbunker - Wikipedia

Genfldmschll Schorner - sadistic general, one of Hitler's favorites, died of old age in Munich, , last Field Marshall to die Gen. Valentin Hube, 1st Armee, killed in plane crash Genfldmschll von Paulus, surrendered 6th Armee in Stalingrad, died in Dresden of old age and bitterness.

Executed in for alleged involvement in the 20 July Plot. Hans Nieland – Lord Mayor of Dresden from until Was the only female defendant in the Nuremberg Medical Trial. He saw action with the 5. SS-Panzer Grenadier-Division Wiking, and later was commander of the 7. He was killed in September Paul Pleiger – State adviser and corporate general director. Organized and administrator of the concentration camps. Sigmund Rascher – SS doctor who carried out experiments on inmates at Dachau concentration camp. He escaped captivity at the end of the war, subsequently working for the Syrian Intelligence. His work directly influenced the racial policy of Nazi Germany. As such, Schacht played a key role in implementing the policies attributed to Hitler. Since he opposed the policy of German re-armament spearheaded by Hitler, Schacht was first sidelined and then forced out of the Third Reich government beginning in December ; therefore, he had no role during World War II. Schacht became a fringe member of the German Resistance to Hitler and was imprisoned by the Nazis after the 20 July plot in Following the war, Schacht was tried at Nuremberg and acquitted. Later, following the abolition of the Abwehr in , he became head of all foreign intelligence. Hans Schemm – Gauleiter and member of the Reichstag. Died in a plane crash in Siegfried Seidl – Commandant of the Theresienstadt – and Bergen-Belsen – concentration camps. Convicted of war crimes and hanged by the Nuremberg Tribunal. These included the creation of anti-semitic, anti-masonic propaganda, the sounding of public opinion and monitoring of Nazi indoctrination by the public. Franz Stangl – Commandant of the Sobibor and Treblinka – extermination camps. Otto Steinbrinck – Industrialist and bureaucrat. Walter Stennes – the Berlin commandant of the Sturmabteilung SA , who in the summer of and again in the spring of led a revolt against the NSDAP in Berlin as these SA members saw their organization as a revolutionary group, the vanguard of a socialist order that would overthrow the hated Republic. Both revolts were put down and Stennes was expelled from the Nazi Party. He left Germany in and worked as a military adviser to Chiang Kai-shek.

Chapter 7 : The last picture of Adolf Hitler,

This essentially was the ending Hitler inflicted upon himself, his People and his Reich. Piece by piece, it all came together over the last ten days of his life, beginning on Friday, April 20, That day Hitler m.

During the period , Hitler was content with deciding matters of state policy. He played no role in the decisive victory over Poland, which, by the way, surprised many military analysts at the time -- including the British, French, and Polish leaders. Hitler threw his support behind the innovators and gamblers among his top commanders. This was critical in the spring of , when, on the advice of his navy chief, Admiral Raeder, the lightning occupation of Norway was accomplished a mere ten hours ahead of a combined Anglo-French invasion force. It is noteworthy that the conservative Army leaders, represented by Brauchitsch and Halder, felt that Germany could not hope to do better than reach a stalemate in the West. Having defeated the Western Allies on the Continent, Hitler seemed to have no clear aim. The attack on Soviet Russia, viewed by an increasing number of historians as a preemptive strike, was launched without a guiding objective. The campaign, Fall Blau, likewise was marred from the outset by dual, conflicting goals. By the end of that year, Hitler had lost the initiative in the East and in the Mediterranean, where, with more support at the right time, the British could likely have been defeated. The generals considered here are grouped in five categories: A point that strikes the reader is how poor the Nazi security services must have been. In and , conspiracies were undertaken to oust Hitler. Not only were opponents of Hitler appointed to key commands, but a number of them continued to hold positions of influence until late in the war. Yet, as one of the contributors to this volume, Field Marshal Lord Carver, reminds us: One must bear in mind that Hitler, who was undoubtedly democratically elected, retained popular support, certainly until the Anglo-American landings in France had achieved victory. Without exception, the authors reject the notion that the German generals should have been judged guilty of crimes by the wartime victors. For example, in his essay on the paratroop General Kurt Student, General Sir John Hackett commends Student for his "measured and rational approach" to partisans, who engaged in terrorist attacks on the island of Crete, and elsewhere. Indeed, in this instance, it was the Greek king, who fled to Egypt on May 24, , who was guilty of inciting his subjects: Cretans, men of mountain and shore, can be very tough and also very cruel. Their actions, often against unarmed parachutists, included mutilation and nailing up on barn doors In spite of having signed the Hague Convention condemning partisan warfares the Greek government, it was claimed, had now deprived the civilian male inhabitants of Crete of any claim to non-combatant status. One of the most tragic figures was Field-Marshal Ewald von Kleist. Commander of the principal Panzer forces in the Western offensive of , it was Kleist who, in , led the brilliant campaign that subdued Yugoslavia after the pro-Axis government was overthrown. Kleist fought with distinction on the Eastern Front.

Chapter 8 : Hitler's Inner Circle: The 10 Most Powerful Men in Nazi Germany

In early , the Führer launched his final offensive operation in Hungary. By Major General Michael Reynolds. In January 12, , Hitler received the news he had been dreading the Soviet Red Army had launched its winter offensive.

Hitler right and his adjutant Julius Schaub looking at the ruins of the Reich chancellery, April 28, This last known picture of Hitler was taken approximately two days prior to his death as he stands outside his Berlin bunker entrance surveying the devastating bomb damage. With Germany lying in ruins after six years of war, and with defeat imminent, Hitler decided to take his own life. But before doing so, he married Eva Braun and then penned his last will and testament. The next day in the afternoon on April 30, Braun and Hitler entered his living room to end their lives. Later that afternoon the remaining members of the bunker community found Hitler slumped over, and blood spilled over the arm of the couch. Eva was sitting at the other end. Hitler had killed himself by biting down on a cyanide capsule while shooting him self in the head. Eva only used the cyanide capsule. At her own desire she goes as my wife with me into death. It will compensate us for what we both lost through my work in the service of my people. What I possess belongs in so far as it has any value to the Party. Should this no longer exist, to the State; should the State also be destroyed, no further decision of mine is necessary. My pictures, in the collections which I have bought in the course of years, have never been collected for private purposes, but only for the extension of a gallery in my home town of Linz on Donau. It is my most sincere wish that this bequest may be duly executed. I nominate as my Executor my most faithful Party comrade, Martin Bormann. He is given full legal authority to make all decisions. He is permitted to take out everything that has a sentimental value or is necessary for the maintenance of a modest simple life, for my brothers and sisters, also above all for the mother of my wife and my faithful co-workers who are well known to him, principally my old Secretaries Frau Winter etc. I myself and my wife in order to escape the disgrace of deposition or capitulation choose death. Given in Berlin, 29th April , 4: Hitler Signed as witnesses: When Hitler asked his physician to recommend a reliable method of suicide his doctor suggested combining a dose of cyanide with a gunshot to the head. November 21, Any factual error or typo?

Chapter 9 : BBC - History - World Wars: Hitler's Leadership Style

It was the last of the Führer Headquarters (Führerhauptquartiere) used by Adolf Hitler during World War II. Hitler took up residence in the Führerbunker on 16 January, and it became the centre of the Nazi regime until the last week of World War II in Europe.

Construction[edit] The Reich Chancellery bunker was initially constructed as a temporary air-raid shelter for Hitler who actually spent very little time in the capital during most of the war. Increased bombing of Berlin led to expansion of the complex as an improvised permanent shelter. Its roof was made of concrete almost 3 metres 9. A diesel generator provided electricity, and well water was pumped in as the water supply. As conditions deteriorated at the end of the war, Hitler received much of his war news from BBC radio broadcasts and via courier. Initially, Hitler continued to utilize the undamaged wing of the Reich Chancellery, where he held afternoon military conferences in his large study. After several weeks of this routine, Hitler seldom left the bunker except for short strolls in the chancellery garden with his dog Blondi. On 21 April, Hitler ordered Steiner to attack the northern flank of the encircling Soviet salient and ordered the German Ninth Army, south-east of Berlin, to attack northward in a pincer attack. He openly declared for the first time the war was lost and he blamed his generals. Hitler announced that he would stay in Berlin until the end and then shoot himself. Krebs told him that all would be lost if relief did not arrive within 48 hours. He then took secretary Traudl Junge to another room and dictated his last will and testament. Secondly of time intended to attack. Thirdly of the location of the Ninth Army. Fourthly of the precise place in which the Ninth Army will break through. Secondly, Twelfth Army therefore unable to continue attack on Berlin. Thirdly, bulk of Ninth Army surrounded. Later that morning, Weidling informed Hitler that the defenders would probably exhaust their ammunition that night and again asked him for permission to break out. Weidling finally received permission at about Krebs did not have the authority to surrender, so he returned to the bunker. According to one account, Goebbels shot his wife and then himself. He waited in the stairwell and heard the shots, then walked up the remaining stairs and saw the lifeless bodies of the couple outside. The first group from the Reich Chancellery was led by Mohnke; they tried unsuccessfully to break through the Soviet rings and were captured the next day. The third breakout attempt from the Reich Chancellery was made around He surrendered to the Red Army as they entered the bunker complex at They were found in their beds in the Vorbunker with the clear mark of cyanide shown on their faces. The bunker largely survived, although some areas were partially flooded. In December, the Soviets tried to blow up the bunker, but only the separation walls were damaged. In, the East German government began a series of demolitions of the Chancellery, including the bunker. Other parts of the Chancellery underground complex were uncovered, but these were ignored, filled in, or resealed.