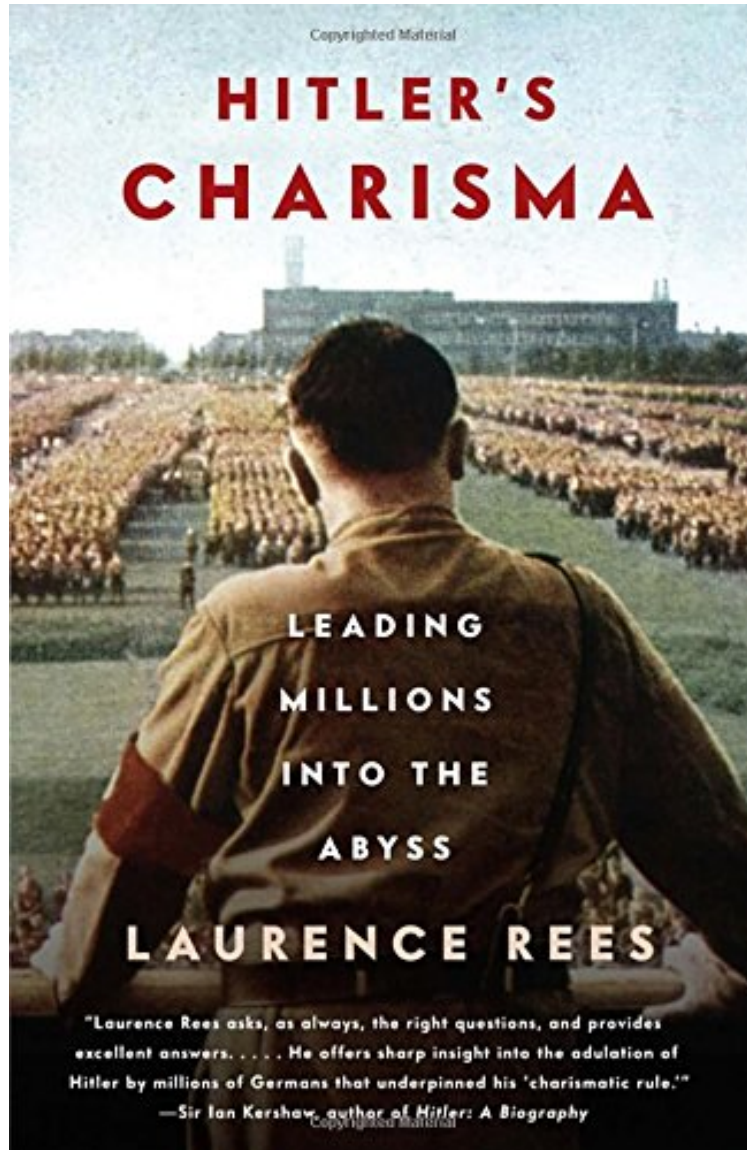


(Free pdf) Hitler's Charisma: Leading Millions into the Abyss

## Hitler's Charisma: Leading Millions into the Abyss

Laurence Rees

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#232087 in Books 2014-01-28 2014-01-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.98 x .78 x 5.18l, .78 #File Name: 0307389588384 pages | File size: 29.Mb

**Laurence Rees : Hitler's Charisma: Leading Millions into the Abyss** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler's Charisma: Leading Millions into the Abyss:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read for anyone wanting to know why the German people supported Hitler for so long.By Eric CoshLawrence 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A study of a megalomaniac By johnnA 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 in 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. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Valuable Lesson from History By Paul Hosse Everyone wonders how such an advanced and enlightened nation capable of producing some of world's greatest music, thinkers, scientists, writers, philosophers, and engineers could 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.

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 strengths 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 Rees' 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)

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 charismatic rule. Sir Ian Kershaw, author of *Hitler: A Biography* Offering acerbic insight into Hitler's charismatic rule, this is an arresting account. *The Telegraph* (London) 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. *The Independent on Sunday* (London) A fascinating study. Antony Beevor, author of *The Second World War* 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. Kirkus s 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. *Library Journal* Rees's spotlight on charisma forces us to think hard about what it means to persuade, to argue, to reason or simply to assert one's will. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* About the Author 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. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction My parents had very firm views about Adolf Hitler. Having both experienced the war with my father's brother killed on the Atlantic convoy they thought Hitler was the embodiment of all evil. But even as a child I can remember thinking if Hitler was the Devil in human form how did he get so many people to do his bidding? In a way, that's a question I have been thinking about ever since, and one that I attempt to answer in this work. Adolf Hitler was, at first sight, the most unlikely leader of a sophisticated state at the heart of Europe. He was incapable of normal human friendships, unable to debate intellectually, filled with hatred and prejudice, bereft of any real capacity to love, and lonely. He was, undoubtedly, as a human figure, lamentable. Yet he played the most important part in three of the most devastating decisions ever taken: the decision to invade Poland that led to the Second World War, the decision to invade the Soviet Union, and the decision to murder the Jews. But Hitler did not create all this horror on his own, and alongside his many personal inadequacies he undoubtedly possessed great powers of persuasion. My whole life, he said memorably in 1942, can be summed up as this ceaseless effort of mine to persuade other people. And I've met many people who lived through this period who confirmed that judgement. When pressed on the reason why they found such a strange figure so persuasive

they pointed to a myriad of factors, like the circumstances of the time, their fears, their hopes and so on. But many also described simply the powerful sense of attraction they felt for Hitler something that a number of people ascribed to his charisma. But what exactly is charisma? The word has Greek roots meaning a grace or favour divinely bestowed, but charisma, as we use the term today, is not a divine gift but value neutral nasty people can possess it just as much as nice ones. The original meaning also implies that charisma is an absolute quality that exists or does not exist in a particular individual. But Adolf Hitler's charismatic appeal was not universal. It was present only in the space between him and the emotions of his audience. Two people could meet Hitler at the same time and one might find him charismatic and the other might think he was a fool. Our modern understanding of the concept of charisma begins with the work of the German social theorist Max Weber, who famously wrote about charismatic leadership at the turn of the last century. Even though he was writing long before Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, his work is still full of relevance for anyone interested in the study of Nazism in general and Hitler in particular. Crucially, what Weber did was to examine charismatic leadership as a particular type of ruler rather than a personal quality that a pop star can possess as much as a politician. For Weber, the charismatic leader must possess a strong missionary element and is almost a quasi-religious figure. Followers of such a leader are looking for more than just lower taxes or better health care, but seek broader, almost spiritual, goals of redemption and salvation. The charismatic leader cannot exist easily within normal bureaucratic structures and is driven forward by a sense of personal destiny. Hitler, in these terms, is the archetypal charismatic leader. In particular, I think it is hard to underestimate the importance of understanding that charisma is created in an interaction between individuals. And in this context my ability to meet and question people who lived through this extraordinary period has been of enormous benefit. In writing this book I've been fortunate to have access to a unique primary source the hundreds of interviews with eyewitnesses and perpetrators conducted for my work as a historical filmmaker over the last 20 years. Only a small fraction of this material has ever been published before, and so the vast majority of the testimony that is quoted in this book appears here in print for the first time. I was hugely privileged to be able to travel the world and meet these people from those who worked closely with Hitler to those who committed murders in pursuit of his aims, from those who suffered at his hands to those who finally helped destroy him. I was also lucky, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, to be one of the first to travel into the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe and record open and honest interviews about Nazism with people who had lived behind the Iron Curtain. What they said was often both shocking and surprising. I've also benefited from the lengthy discussions I've held with many of the world's greatest academic historians material I gathered for my educational website WW2History.com as well as studying information from archival and other more traditional research sources. But it was meeting and questioning people who met Hitler and who lived under his rule that offered me the greatest clues into the nature of his appeal. (One must treat eyewitness testimony with considerable care and I've written elsewhere of the many tests and safeguards we used when gathering this material.) I've also learnt a great deal from studying reel upon reel of archive footage from the period particularly footage of Hitler's speeches. I had thought, when I started my work on Nazism 20 years ago, that the charisma of Hitler might somehow be visible in the footage. However, it soon became clear at least for me that Hitler is decidedly uncharismatic on film today. But, of course, this is precisely the point. I felt nothing because I am not a person of that time; a person, moreover, already predisposed to accept Hitler's charismatic appeal. I was not hungry; humiliated after the loss of a war; unemployed; frightened of widespread violence on the streets; feeling betrayed by the broken promises of the democratic system I lived in; terrified of my savings vanishing in a bank crash; and wanting to be told that all of this mess was the fault of someone else. It's also important to state emphatically that people who accept the charisma of a leader are most definitely not hypnotized. They know exactly what is going on and remain completely responsible for their actions. The fact that someone chooses to follow a charismatic leader cannot subsequently be used as an alibi or excuse. Yet Hitler was not, it has to be said, only a leader with charisma. He also used threat, murder and terror to get his way, and I attempt to show how these aspects fitted into the history of his rise to power and his subsequent rule. There were certainly some people who carried out Hitler's desires only out of fear, just as there were others who never found Hitler charismatic at all. Finally, whilst this work is entirely about Hitler, I do believe that it has relevance today. The desire to be led by a strong personality in a crisis, the craving for our existence to have some kind of purpose, the quasi-worship of heroes and celebrities, the longing for salvation and redemption: none of this has changed in the world since the death of Hitler in April 1945. Human beings are social animals. We want to belong. Life, otherwise, can be a very cold experience indeed. And only by understanding how those who seek power try to influence us, and how we often actively participate in our own manipulation, can we finally understand the dangers we face if we leave rationality and skepticism aside and, instead, put our faith in a leader with charisma.