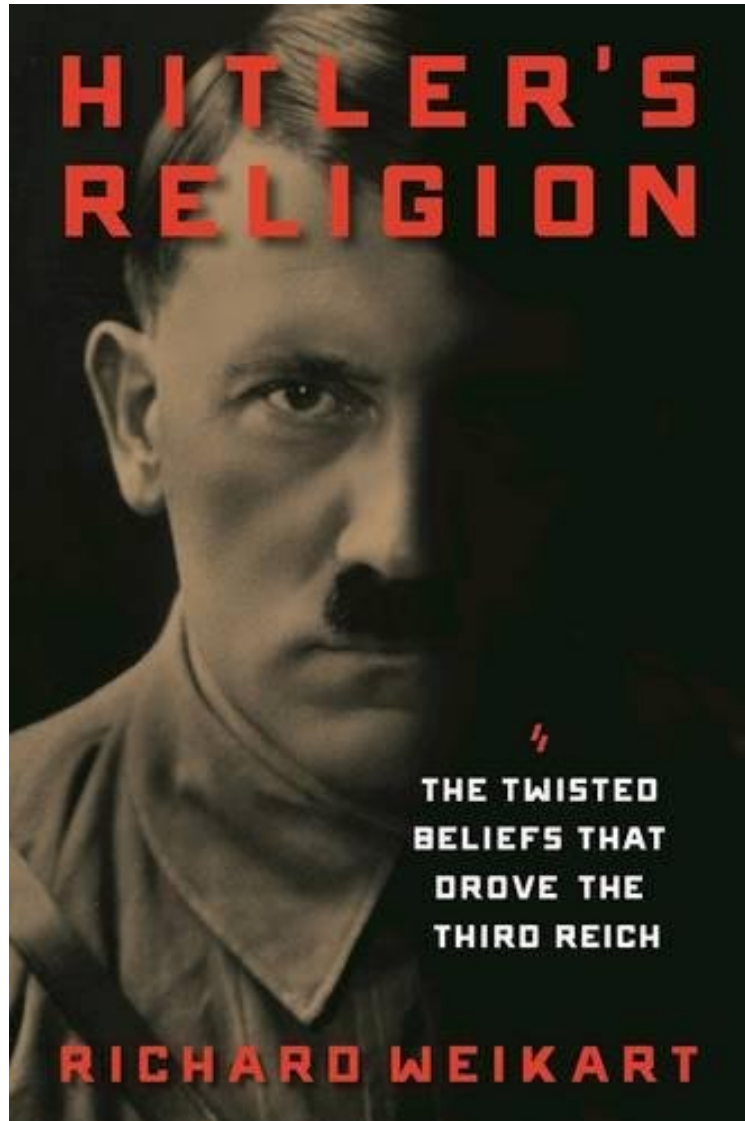


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Hitler's Religion: The Twisted Beliefs that Drove the Third Reich

Richard Weikart

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disclaimer is that I was given this book in exchange for writing a review. A fuller disclosure is that I had already preordered the book at the time the offer was made. I accepted the offer and gave the extra copy to a friend. I have read all of his books and you should too if you are interested in how our culture arrived at where we are today. I recommend this book highly for any who find Hitler fascinating. Hitler was arguably the most influential and interesting leader of the 20th century. He led a civilized society that was still the zenith (though less so after WWI) of European culture into perpetrating acts so despicable that it created a whole class of people known as deniers. For some, these deeds let loose by Hitler are simply too horrible to contemplate. What drove this man? Could Hitler really have had any religion? In Hitler's speeches and writings he spoke of God, a Creator and on at least one occasion a Lord and Savior. Were his beliefs based on anything like the Bible and Christianity? Did they translate into anything like orthodox Christianity? If all you want is a one sentence answer, Dr. Weikart gives it in the introduction but there is so much more in this book. At heart, Weikart is a scientist. This may sound strange as a description of a historian but history too is a science. This book is assiduously footnoted with sources. Whenever possible, Weikart uses Hitler's own words from *Mein Kampf*, Hitler's *Second Book* and published speeches. Secondary sources include *Table Talk*, collections of anecdotes and interviews with close associates. Where controversies exist, Weikart presents his argument then follows with his opposite numbers counterargument and finally he gives his rejoinder to the counterargument. Honesty like this is refreshing and rare. Would that all historians would present their view in such a fashion. The early chapters include an exploration of Hitler's early influences notably Schopenhauer and Nietzsche and whether or not Hitler was a Christian or an Atheist. Later, Weikart explores Hitler's true antipathy toward Christian churches, the sources of his anti-Semitism and whether or not he was an occultist/pagan. Weikart finishes up with the identity of Hitler's Lord, in what sense he believed in creation and the basis for the morality that he possessed. Hitler's agenda and the reaction to it reshaped the world. It was an epic battle of good against evil. Ideas do have consequences. You would be mistaken if you think that such a man had no theology or that you have no theology. This book is an in-depth exploration of the philosophical, theological, logical and scientific foundations of Hitler's vision for the modern world and it is a damn fine read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I think this is a good book. I would recommend it to anyone who ...By Kimberly I have always wondered about the religion of Adolf Hitler. I think this is a good book. I would recommend it to anyone who wants thorough analysis of Hitler's view of God.

For a man whom history can never forget, Adolf Hitler remains a persistent mystery on one front his religious faith. Atheists tend to insist Hitler was a devout Christian. Christians counter that he was an atheist. And still others suggest that he was a practicing member of the occult. None of these theories are true, says historian Richard Weikart. Delving more deeply into the question of Hitler's religious faith than any researcher to date, Weikart reveals the startling and fascinating truth about the most hated man of the 20th century: Adolf Hitler was a pantheist who believed nature was God. In *Hitler's Religion*, Weikart explains how the laws of nature became Hitler's only moral guide how he became convinced he would serve God by annihilating supposedly "inferior" human beings and promoting the welfare and reproduction of the allegedly superior Aryans in accordance with racist forms of Darwinism prevalent at the time.

"Atheists who claim that Hitler was a Christian will be sorely disappointed by this excellent and well documented book. It clearly shows the anti-Christian nature of Hitler's ideology and religious beliefs. Given today's culture wars it is essential reading for all Christians and anyone interested in knowing the truth about National Socialism." IRVING HEXHAM, professor of religious studies, University of Calgary, and author of *Understanding World Religions* "This fascinating and elegantly written new book will challenge scholars to rethink existing interpretations of 'Hitler's Religion.' In ten well-researched and tightly argued chapters, Weikart shows that Hitler was neither an atheist, a Christian, nor an occultist. Rather, he marshals convincing evidence that Hitler was a pantheist who embraced a brutal, Darwinian religion of nature." DR. ERIC KURLANDER, professor of modern European history, Stetson University, and author of *Living with Hitler* and (forthcoming) *Nazi Monsters: A Supernatural History of the Third Reich* "Many prominent Western intellectuals have dispensed with the view that humans are created in the image of God and thus have immeasurable value and inalienable rights, writes Professor Weikart. In my four decades of speaking in university open forums, I have witnessed the logical consequences of this belief that humanity is a cosmic accident: wherever I go I meet student after student troubled by haunting questions of meaning and purpose. Weikart demonstrates the impoverishment of philosophies that reject the Judeo-Christian worldview but still retain some of the vestiges of the Judeo-Christian morality that they claim to spurn and shows how Christianity uniquely makes sense of our questions of meaning, purpose, morality, and dignity. His book [*The Death of Humanity*] will sober and challenge you." RAVI ZACHARIAS, speaker and author of *Why Jesus? Rediscovering His Truth in an Age of Mass Marketed Spirituality*, and other books