

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, Volume 1 (1925)

Abstract

In 1924, Hitler was serving a prison term of several months in connection with the failed Beer Hall Putsch of November 9, 1923. While in Landsberg prison in Upper Bavaria [Oberbayern], he formulated his political and ideological program under the working title *Four and One-Half Years of Battle against Lies, Stupidity, and Cowardice*. The first volume was published in July 1925 under the simplified title *Mein Kampf*. A second volume followed in 1926, and the combined one-volume “popular edition” first appeared in 1930. From 1936 on, every newly wedded couple in Nazi Germany received a copy of the one-volume edition from the registry office. By 1945, about ten million copies of the book had been sold worldwide. The royalties made Hitler a multimillionaire.

In his polemic, Hitler laid out the main tenets of his racist worldview and outlined his political goals. Two of his primary objectives were the racial “upbreeding” of the German people and the conquest of “living space” [*Lebensraum*] in Eastern Europe. Hitler explained that it was necessary to fight the “Jewish-Marxist world conspiracy” and to pursue a merciless racial war against the Soviet Union. The first volume (shown here) was presented to the public as Hitler’s autobiography, but Hitler had in fact fictionalized his biography in order to make it appear as though the political views expressed in the book were based on personal experience.

Source



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