

Mass Production of Hitler Busts (1937)

Abstract

Despite the legal prohibitions against building statues or monuments to Hitler, officials within the propaganda ministry had a vested interest in propagating myths about Hitler's leadership. He was presented as a fearless leader who operated above the party and state to revive the nation. At the same time, he was also portrayed as an accessible, relatable common man. In order to perpetuate this myth and keep its influence on the public strong, those responsible for its dissemination sought to maintain absolute control over that delicately balanced image. Thus, officials prohibited the sale of "kitschy" memorabilia of which they did not approve. However, all public and party offices were required to display an approved bust and portrait of Hitler, so the production of such items—under very controlled circumstances—proceeded for that purpose. Some of these busts also made their way into the homes of ideologically aligned Germans.

Source



Source: Black and white photograph, 1937. Süddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Scherl/Deutsches Historisches Museum/Scherl

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