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Hitler In Hell



Synopsis

After his death in the Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler finds himself in Hell. To his surprise, he finds it to be a place of more tedium than torment, although he is depressed to learn that he will never see his beloved German Shepherd Blondi again because all dogs go to Heaven. With nothing better to do than to pass the time, Hitler reflects upon his life in light of the post-World War II world. He is boastful, unrepentant, and absolutely determined to tell his side of the story, set the record straight, and get even with his enemies—both his contemporaries and those who abused his legend since his demise. In Hell, Adolf Hitler is finally free to tell the true story of the Nazi Party, World War II, and the final solution that eventually came to be known as the Holocaust. HITLER IN HELL is Martin van Creveld's first novel. Dr. Martin van Creveld is a military historian who is a major contributor to the literature of war. Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Dr. van Creveld is one of the world's leading writers on military history and strategy, with a special interest in the future of war. He is fluent in Hebrew, German, Dutch, and English, and has authored more than twenty books, including the influential Technology and War: 2000 BC to the Present (1988), The Transformation of War (1991), and The Culture of War (2010). He is known for his development of the concept of "nontrinitarian" warfare and is deeply respected by military officers and professional strategists around the world.

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Customer Reviews

Van Creveld is one of the great historians of the past 40 years, with some truly monumental works such as "Fighting Power". This volume was not as impressive, though to a generalist it might be of interest. He certainly covers Hitler's twisted mentality in a manner that someone not all that familiar with the subject will get the point. While his book is somewhat thought-provoking, some of the rather important historic areas and misconceptions of most that would certainly have been addressed by the subject of this volume are not touched. An example to illustrate this: In the 1950s a small cottage industry arose of German officers who blamed the war's outcome on Hitler, such as his demands to maintain territory in the east. What was unsaid is if Hitler had only listened to the OKW and OKH they might have won the war. What the detailed books published since the late 1980s have shown is none of these supposed general staff officers had really read Clausewitz or internalized his adage "War is politics by other means". What the economic histories have shown was the need for Germans to maintain sufficient areas that would allow the material needs of the economic engine of Germany and the central powers to maintain their industrial base. The fighting officers and general staff officers simply were too narrow in their approach. When Germany lost the manganese mines in Feb of 1944, access to Spanish tungsten in July of 1944, access to Turkish chromium in August of 1944 and Finnish nickel in September of 1944, that by June 1945 the German industrial machine would grind to a halt for lack of alloys, even if they had sufficient oil (which they did not after August 1944). The officers were wrong, and here Hitler was right, even if he did not have the fighting power to retain these regions. None of this was addressed in the volume. Given Van Creveld's previous volumes I expected he would. Simply stated he did not, which really detracted from the book. That said given the need to appeal to a large audience it can be understood, but I fear unlike some of his previous work, this is one tome which will be forgotten and unread in 10 years time, there simply is insufficient depth for the volume to be remembered.

Well-researched, even-handed, and hysterically funny bit of historical fiction!

Extremely credible

Awesome read!

Martin van Creveld has tackled the task of writing a history of Nazi Germany with an unusual tactic - a "fictional" memoir from Hitler's perspective. This book hews pretty close to the orthodox historical line, though it makes very clear just how much of a manipulative sociopath Hitler really was. But if you're expecting radically new insights into his personality or motivations, you won't find them. On the other hand, if you are interested in the history of the Third Reich, especially Hitler's rise to power, van Creveld has put it into an entertaining and compact form. Possibly more interesting are the comments on current society...and Van Creveld is unsparing in his criticism of a culture he regards as cowardly and effeminate. If you're interested in the rise of the Third Reich, this book is a good place to start.

I read this book because I am a fan of Creveld's historical work. I was curious about how he, an Israeli military historian, would take on the subject of one of the greatest embodiments of evil that history has ever witnessed, an embodiment that dwarfed, if it is even possible, other socialist butchers like Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot. Who better to write a biography of Hitler, presented as a fictional autobiography of Hitler masked as a novel, than a jewish military historian? The whole twisted frisson inducing concept of it both attracted me and repelled me. I started the book being able to keep some distance from it, to keep in mind that it was a novel, but in the end it sucked me in, in a can't look away from the car wreck fashion. It captured the utterly banal, indeed pedantic nature of socialist evil in a stunning fashion that left me with the utterly distasteful feeling of having read something actually written by Hitler, something I have always avoided. My bottom line? Creveld was brave to write this. I cannot imagine a better window into Hitler's mind than this so called novel. This book will generate controversy, especially amongst those who will refuse to read it. But in the end, I think it even more important for those who would refuse to read it even as they condemn it, to actually read it. Why? So that they can understand that many of the paths they trod in the name of good, were first taken by Hitler, a man who took the best parts of the Western Enlightenment and twisted them to evil, the most utter and banal form of evil conceivable.

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