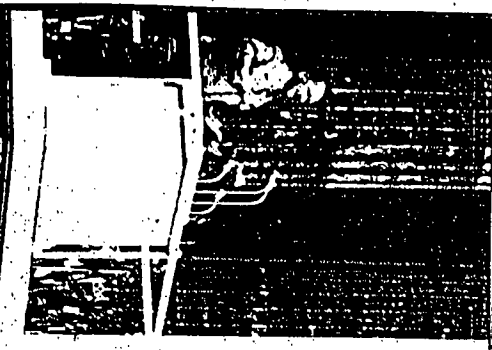


27 Oct 71



A firm believer in hypnosis, Pulitzer Prize winner John Toland traced some of the most dramatic moments in Hitler's life from the military and civilian leaders, including Ribbentrop, Hess, and Goebbels himself. He drew these stories from them to produce a highly readable, dispassionate, and exhaustive biography of one of the most enigmatic figures of the 20th century. Mr. Toland is interviewed below, and his book, *Adolf Hitler*, is reviewed at right.

By Diana Lachner
Staff correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor

It was the latest book, "Adolf Hitler" (Doubleday), that has done it. Hitler has been the subject of more books than 194 people, including the late Dr. Sigmund Freud, and hundreds of thousands of documents, and thousands of books have been written about him. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author ("The Hiding Place," "The Cross and the Switchblade") has done it again. His book, "Adolf Hitler," is the most readable and authoritative biography of Hitler yet published. It is the work of a man who has spent 15 years researching the life of the man who was the most powerful and destructive force in the world since the end of the Second World War.

Mr. Toland's approach to history is that of an investigator. He does not believe in the "official" version of events, but rather in the "real" version. He has spent years in the archives, in the libraries, and in the homes of those who were close to Hitler. He has interviewed hundreds of people, and he has read thousands of books. The result is a book that is both a history and a biography. It is a book that is both a history and a biography. It is a book that is both a history and a biography.

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Hitler's first use of the propaganda was in the early 1920s. He was a man who was not only a politician but also a man of letters. He was a man who was not only a politician but also a man of letters. He was a man who was not only a politician but also a man of letters.

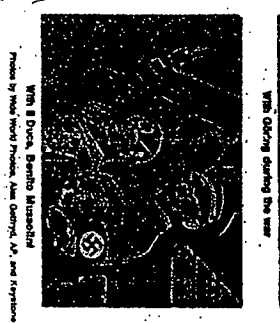
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HITLER

His latest biography and its author, John Toland



Best view to date of Hitler's life

Adolf Hitler, by John Toland. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1970. Pp. 814.

By **ROSEMARY G. HARRISON**

We shall never have a definitive biography of Adolf Hitler. He was a man who was not only a politician but also a man of letters. He was a man who was not only a politician but also a man of letters. He was a man who was not only a politician but also a man of letters.



A firm believer in legwork, Pulitzer Prize winner John Toland traced secretaries, doctors, chauffeurs, military and civilian leaders, and members of the Hitler, Rohm, Ribbentrop, Hess, and Göring families. He drew their stories from them to produce a highly readable, dispassionate, and exhaustive biography of one of the most enigmatic figures of the 20th century. Mr. Toland is interviewed below, and his book, Adolph Hitler, is reviewed at right.

By Diana Loercher

Staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor
New York

To write his latest book "Adolph Hitler" (Doubleday), historian John Toland interviewed more than 150 people who were close to Hitler, consulted previously unknown or unavailable documents, and unearthed buried information and photographs that replace old myths with hard facts.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author ("The Rising Sun: The Decline and Fall of the Japanese Empire, 1936-45") has laced his hefty, 1,035-page tome with personal and political, major and minor, revelations about the man whom he describes in the first sentence of his book as "probably the greatest mover and shaker of the twentieth century."

A sampling:

- Hitler was treated by a psychiatrist for hysterical blindness during World War I.
- Despite his previous denials Albert Speer knew about "the final solution."

- Hitler feared one of his grandparents was Jewish and carefully worded the Nuremberg Laws to protect himself from this contingency.

- Konrad Morgan, an SS judge whom Mr. Toland interviewed in Germany and considers "the hero of my book," discovered the "killing camps" in Poland, where the mass extermination of the Jews took place, and succeeded in closing five camps and bringing 800 cases of murder and corruption to trial.

- Because the news was leaking out, Heinrich Himmler made "secret speeches" to the Wehrmacht generals in 1943 telling them about the killing of the Jews so as to involve them. Within a short time the military, economic, and civil branches of the government — all except the diplomatic corps — knew about the killing camps in Poland.

- Hitler was the first head of state to promote modern urban planning and anti-pollution devices in cities.

The feisty, loquacious Mr. Toland, whose enthusiasm for historical accuracy approaches that of a bloodhound on the scent, avoids sensationalism and enjoys "putting pins in balloons." For example, Hitler was neither a house painter nor a sexual deviant. Mr. Toland's favorite debunked myth:

"There's a German idiom, 'chewing the carpet,' which means the same as our 'crawling the walls.' Now when we say Nixon was crawling the walls, he wasn't really, but our reporters and even historians printed that Hitler literally chewed the carpet. The guy was mad, yes, but he didn't chew carpets."

'Ordinary, uninteresting boy'

In his book Mr. Toland attempts to demystify Hitler and understand the man as a historical phenomenon. "Too many people treat him as a joke like Charlie Chaplin did, and that attitude is dangerous. Or if you treat him as a monster it's also like a movie, and you don't believe it . . . I've tried to replace the cartoon 'evil monster' with a human evil monster. You now see him as a person. I don't start him out as a child as a monster. I start him out as a child as if I had never known that he became a monster. . . . The interesting thing to me is how this seemingly ordinary and uninteresting boy develops into this man who almost takes over the universe. And the fact that he was a human being makes it only more horrible."

It is apparent Hitler intrigues Mr. Toland, as he does most of us, not because he was an "evil monster" but because he was an insane genius. It was apparent during our



Historian John Willard Toland, whose latest book is titled Adolph Hitler, studied at Yale and at Williams College. His books include "The Last Hundred Days," "Battle: Story of the Bulge," and "The Rising Sun." He won Overseas Press Club awards in 1967 and 1970 and the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction in 1970. He resides in Danbury, Connecticut.

interview that Mr. Toland felt quite ambivalent about Hitler, admiring him on the one hand and loathing him on the other.

The author continued animatedly, "I didn't think he was insane at first. I've written several books about Germany, and I've seen the way he acted at meetings with diplomats and, my gosh, he was so clever. He outmaneuvered all of them. He won all of Europe either by diplomacy or by military means, and the first victories were his, not his generals' . . . He could be charming and witty; he had a photographic memory . . . and was one of the greatest orators of all time."

Hitler's two drives

But as he progressed with the book Mr. Toland became convinced Hitler was insane and that his anti-Semitism was at the root of his problem. "He had two drives," Mr. Toland said. "One was that he believed his mission in life was to lead Germany back to her former glory and to regain all the Eastern territories lost during World War I. Number



Leaving Landsberg Prison, 1924



Sealing Munich Pact with Chamberlain, 1938

HITLER

His latest bioog author, Jc



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believer in legwork, Pulitzer winner John Toland traced secretaries, chauffeurs, and civilian leaders, and the Hitler, Rohm, and Goering families. His stories from them to be a highly readable, informative, and exhaustive study of one of the most important figures of the 20th century. and is interviewed below, and Adolph Hitler, is reviewed at right.

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Toland was treated by a psychiatrist for hysterical blindness during World War I. Toland's previous denials Albert Speer knew about Hitler. Toland learned one of his grandparents was Jewish and he defied the Nuremberg Laws to protect himself from persecution. Toland's Morgan, an SS judge whom Mr. Toland interviewed in Germany and considers "the hero of my book," Toland's "killing camps" in Poland, where the mass murder of the Jews took place, and succeeded in bringing 800 cases of murder and treason to trial. Toland's news was leaking out, Heinrich Himmler's speeches to the Wehrmacht generals in 1943 about the killing of the Jews so as to involve them in a short time the military, economic, and civil government - all except the diplomatic work about the killing camps in Poland. Toland was the first head of state to promote modernizing and anti-pollution devices in cities. Toland's loquacious Mr. Toland, whose enthusiasm for democracy approaches that of a bloodhound on the trail of sensationalism and enjoys "putting pins in Hitler's back" for example, Hitler was neither a house painter nor a deviant. Mr. Toland's favorite debunked myth:

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two was that he believed it was his duty from God to destroy all Jews."

"A book in which Hitler presented his views on the Jews, 'The Secret Book,' published in 1928, is dismissed by most historians because it's dull," Mr. Toland said. "They don't see under the Nixonian language, where you say one thing and mean something else, that now he's talking about elimination of the Jews."

"The mistakes he made militarily took place because he thought he was the Messiah sent by God to eliminate the Jews. He never in the world, in his entire life, regretted anything he had done. In fact, if you read his last words he says he is proud of what he has done and says that future generations will 'honor' me. Only a madman could think that."

Mr. Toland states emphatically in the foreword to his book that "Hitler was far more complicated and contradictory than I had imagined." The fact that Hitler actually believed he was doing good makes him such a morally macabre and fascinating figure. Mr. Toland aptly quotes in the same paragraph a character in a novel by Graham Greene who observes, "The greatest saints have been men with more than a normal capacity for evil, and the most vicious men have sometimes narrowly evaded sanctity."

The Hitler tapes

Mr. Toland claims his book has no thesis and that his only conclusions were reached during and after the writing. For example, though he pretends to be neither psychiatrist nor psychohistorian, his discoveries about Hitler have inclined him to agree with Rudolph Binlon's theory that connects the painful death of Hitler's mother from cancer while being treated by a Jewish doctor with his virulent anti-Semitism.

Mr. Toland's approach to history is that of an investigative reporter. A firm believer in legwork, he traced secretaries, doctors, chauffeurs, military and civilian leaders, and members of the Hitler, Rohm, Ribbentrop, Hess, and Goering families. He gained their confidence and drew their stories from them. In addition to the fresh material provided by other historians and government sources, the unique contribution of his biography of Hitler, as compared with Alan Bullock's "Hitler, A Study in Tyranny" or William Shirer's "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" is that Mr. Toland found these people and persuaded them to talk.

"The inner circle is never really known till afterwards," Mr. Toland said. "And of course in those days these people wouldn't have talked. I happened to get them at the proper time. I think my book will be very useful to people in future days. That's why I have put my tapes in the Library of Congress. The tapes will be made available as soon as I can arrange it to the satisfaction of the donors."

Mr. Toland is adamant about checking sources, never betraying a confidence, checking his facts, allowing his

sources to make correct issue. A man who clear change, Mr. Toland dismissed with excitement as his:

He explained his thought put it down. I've been critical of the intellectuals, because a Japanese ideograph of it says 'cleanse your mind receptacle so that I do come into my writing. A like an author to lead a duty to tell you everything I know. I keep my

'Stab in the back' it

Despite the objective of course have his own means. He partly attributes many's defeat in World War I. "His great political jab 'stab in the back' theory because of the military munists, and the Jews back. If it hadn't been couldn't have seized upon to the bottom, a strong people, and this madman them. It was a tremendo

"I don't think that any I've never seen in my really moved history. It would not have been a final been a final solution, the believe. The chances of trillion trillion. And the should come into power possibility of eliminating the world - the odds again

Mr. Toland preferred similarities between Hitler events in the U.S., but some rather startling parallels and Nixon's, between the completely to their chief means. Both Hitler right for the country depended on them so with "I don't think that any has been a fallacy in America. Our presidents in place. I think we should trouble is that this whole correct. I've seen it. There's a lurking Nazi in the world. To me cause so many people



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Signing Munich Pact with Chamberlain, 1938



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Photos by Wide W

HITLER

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sources to make corrections, and presenting all sides of an
 issue. A man who clearly enjoys being interviewed for a
 change, Mr. Toland discusses his method with almost as
 much excitement as his subject.
 He explained his thrust was to "find out everything and
 put it down. I've been criticized by some people, especially
 the intellectuals, because I write without thesis. . . . I have
 a Japanese ideograph over my desk, and I look at it often.
 It says 'cleanse your mind.' I try to make my mind just a
 receptacle so that I don't let my prejudices and myself
 come into my writing. A lot of people don't like that. They
 like an author to lead them on. I don't. I believe it's my
 duty to tell you everything and let you draw your own con-
 clusions: . . . I keep my opinions to a minimum."

'Stab in the back' theory
 Despite the objective stance of his book, Mr. Toland does
 of course have his own opinions about Hitler and the Ger-
 mans. He partly attributes Hitler's rise to power to Ger-
 many's defeat in World War I.
 "His great political appeal," said Mr. Toland, "was the
 'stab in the back' theory that Germans lost World War I not
 because of the military but because the strikers, the Com-
 munist, and the Jews back home had stabbed them in the
 back. . . . If it hadn't been for that state of mind Hitler
 couldn't have seized upon it. This was a nation thrown down
 to the bottom, a strong, proud, intelligent, hard-working
 people, and this madman just happened to get control of
 it. It was a tremendous stroke of ill luck for the world."
 "I don't think that anyone but Hitler could have done it."
 I've never seen in my study of history where one man
 really moved history. . . . If there had not been Hitler there
 would not have been a Nazi party, there never would have
 been a final solution, there never would have been a war, I
 believe. The chances of this ever happening were one in a
 trillion trillion. And the fact that this one gifted madman
 should come into power at the same time that he had the
 possibility of eliminating all these people and of changing
 the world - the odds against it are unbelievable."

Mr. Toland preferred not to comment directly on sim-
 ilarities between Hitler's regime and on recent political
 events in the U.S., but he did go so far as to say, "I found
 some rather startling parallels between Hitler's inner circle
 and Nixon's, between the supreme patriots who are devoted
 completely to their chief and believe the end justifies the
 means. . . . Both Hitler and Nixon knew that they were
 right for the country and that the country absolutely de-
 pended on them so anything they did was justified."
 "I don't think that a great man has to be ruthless. This
 has been a fallacy in American policy that ruthlessness is a
 must. Our presidents have been too powerful in the first
 place. I think we should have more of a chairman type. The
 trouble is that this whole myth about power corrupting is
 correct. I've seen it happen to such nice people. . . .
 There's a lurking Nazi in all of us. There's a lurking Hitler
 in the world. . . . To me the book is a cautionary tale be-
 cause . . . so many people have forgotten Hitler."

Best view to date of Hitler's life

Adolf Hitler, by John Toland. New York: Doubleday & Co. 1,035
pp. \$14.95.

By Joseph G. Harrison

We shall never have a definitive biography of Adolf Hitler. Ab-
 solutely first-rate ones, yes (of which John Toland's is an admir-
 able and outstanding example). But definitive, no. Hitler was too
 inextricably complex, too confusingly contradictory, too soaringly
 visionary at one moment and appallingly ruthless at the next - in
 short, too overtoweringly deviant from the human norm ever to
 be satisfactorily pinned down by pen.

The best we can look for is a gradual accumulation of judg-
 ments and reports which can help us put Hitler and the National
 Socialist movement in a little clearer and deeper perspective in
 the hope that mankind can learn thereby.

Almost a century before Hitler assumed power in 1933 the sen-
 sitive German-Jewish poet Heinrich Heine wrote: "German thun-
 der is truly German; it takes its time. But it will come, and when
 it crashes it will crash as nothing in history crashed before. . . .
 A drama will be performed which will make the French Revolu-
 tion seem like a pretty idyll. . . . Never doubt it, the hour will
 come."

When it came it indeed was the single greatest crashing in
 world history. Not the decline of the Roman Empire, not the in-
 vasion of the Huns, not the devastation of the 14th century's Black
 Death can be compared with the continents-convulsing effects
 wrought by that one disastrously warped but extreme genius. For,
 never doubt, Adolf Hitler was an evil genius, however much we
 loathe the burden of his deeds. Speaking of the qualities which
 gave Hitler "the mastery of all discussions," an Oxford-educated
 German statesman who knew him well spoke of "his infallible
 memory, which enabled him to answer with the utmost precision
 questions on the remotest problems under consideration; his pres-
 ence of mind in discussions; the clarity with which he could re-
 duce the most intricate question to a simple - sometimes too
 simple - formula; his skill in summing up concisely the results of
 a long debate; and his cleverness in approaching a well-known
 and long-discussed problem from a new angle."

To these qualities were added "an undeflectable will, mesmeric
 oratorical skill, the power to shut out all concepts which con-
 flicted with his own, an almost uncanny ability to perceive the
 mental state of an individual or a multitude, and a personal mag-
 netism dominating almost all who met with him. Of him the well-
 known and liberal American economist J. Kenneth Galbraith said
 as late as 1973, "Hitler also anticipated modern economic policy."
 And we know that as far back as 1924 Hitler had said that an ef-
 fective way to cut unemployment would be to construct a national
 road network and mass-manufacture a small economical car,
 ideas which resulted in Germany's famous autobahns and the
 Volkswagen.

Patriotism has been termed "the last refuge of scoundrels,"
 but in Hitler's case it was the first. In his twenties as a soldier in
 the German Army, his colonel wrote of him: "There was no cir-
 cumstance or situation that would have prevented him from vol-
 unteering for the most difficult, arduous and dangerous tasks and
 he was always ready to sacrifice life and tranquility for his Fa-
 therland and for others." For it was the perversion of these other-
 wise admirable qualities which led him to the twinned malign con-
 victions that Germany had the right to expand at its neighbor's
 expense and that "the Jew lives and serves his own law but never
 that of the people or the nation where he has become a citizen."

Although more than 30 years have passed since Hitler com-
 mitted suicide in his Berlin bunker, the world owes it to its own
 safety and sense of decency to try to understand how such a
 scourge as Nazism could have fallen upon mankind. John Toland's
 biography is the best such source of information and judgment we
 have had to date. Dispassionate in spirit, exhaustive in detail (it
 runs to some 450,000 words), smoothly readable, it spreads Hit-
 ler's life, his actions, his words before one, leaving it to the
 reader to draw his own conclusions. Thus the book is not a dia-
 tribe - beyond the more than sufficient condemnation which stem
 from Hitler's own deeds and words. Nor does the author avail
 himself of the almost limitless possibilities for psychological and
 pathological judgment. Yet the material is there in abundance for
 whoever wishes to probe more deeply into Hitler's inner mental
 recesses.

Joseph Harrison served as managing editor and chief edi-
 torial writer during a Monitor career spanning four decades.

ER why and its Toland



With Goering during the war



With Il Duce, Benito Mussolini

Photos by Wide World Photos, Alex Gottryd, AP, and Keystone