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Excerpts from Hitler's *Mein Kampf*

For Adolf Hitler, anti-Semitism was an unalterable creed, something which permeated his thinking and the thinking of the Nazi leadership. The Jew was Hitler's personal enemy, from his days in Vienna to his dying day in Berlin, where he called once more for the destruction of "the prisoner of all peoples: international Jewry."

In *Mein Kampf*, written in 1925, Hitler displayed a violent anti-Semitism with roots in traditional and racial anti-Jewish attitudes.

- A. "The personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew . . ."
- B. "I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the almighty creator. By defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord . . ."
- C. "With satanic joy in his face, the black-haired Jewish youth lurks in wait for the unsuspecting girl whom he defiles with his blood, thus stealing her from her people . . ."
- D. "In the course of the centuries their outward appearance had become Europeanized and had taken on a human look; in fact, I even took them for Germans . . ."
- E. "Wherever I went, I began to see Jews, and the more I saw, the more sharply they became distinguished in my eyes from the rest of humanity . . ."
- F. "The Jew was never in possession of a culture of his own, the foundations of his intellectual work was always provided by others . . ."
- G. "I learned to look for the Jew in all branches of cultural and artistic life . . ."
- H. "The Jew is always a parasite in the body of other people. . . . He is and remains the typical parasite, a sponger who like a noxious bacillus keeps spreading as soon as a favorable medium invites him. And the effect of his existence is also like that of spongers; wherever he appears, the host people dies out after a shorter or longer period . . ."

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*. Translated by Ralph Manheim (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1971), .

QUESTIONS

1. Take one of Hitler's reasons for hating the Jews and refute it.
2. Why was the climate in Germany in the late 1920s and early 1930s ripe for blaming Jews and scapegoats?