

## HITLER'S POLITICAL IDEAS

Hitler's fiery oratory helped to build the Nazis into a powerful force. The following selections, taken from Hitler's speeches, provide insights into his ideas about power, leadership, and race.

### Force and Struggle

At Munich, March 15, 1929: If men wish to live, then they are forced to kill others. The entire struggle for survival is a conquest of the means of existence . . . As long as there are people on this earth, there will be nations against nations and they will be forced to protect their vital rights in the same way as the individual is forced to protect his rights.

One is either the hammer or the anvil. We confess that it is our purpose to prepare the German people again for the role of the hammer. For ten years we have preached, and our deepest concern is: How can we again achieve power? We admit freely and openly that if our movement is victorious, we will be concerned day and night with the question of how to produce the armed forces which are forbidden us by the peace treaty [Treaty of Versailles]. We solemnly confess that we consider everyone a scoundrel who does not try day and night to figure out a way to violate this treaty, for we have never recognized this treaty . . .

We will take every step which strengthens our arms, which augments the number of our forces, and which increases the strength of our people . . .

### Leadership

At Nuremberg, September 14, 1935: We will harden ourselves to such an extent that any storm will find us strong. We will never forget that the sum total of all virtues and all

strength can be effective only when it is subservient to one will and to one command . . .

Nothing is possible unless one will commands, a will which has to be obeyed by others, beginning at the top and ending only at the very bottom . . .

We must train our people so that whenever someone has been appointed to command, the others will recognize it as their duty to obey him, for it can happen that an hour later they will be called upon to command and they can do it then only if others in turn obey. This is the expression of an authoritarian state—not of a weak, babbling democracy—of an authoritarian state where everyone is proud to obey, because he knows: I will likewise be obeyed when I must take command.

### The Superiority of Aryans

At Munich, April 2, 1927: We see before us the Aryan race which is . . . the bearer of all culture, the true representative of all humanity. All inventions in the field of transportation must be credited to the members of a particular race. Our entire industrial science is without exception the work of the Nordics. All great composers from Beethoven to Richard Wagner are Aryans, even though they were born in Italy or France . . . Man owes everything that is of any importance to the principle of struggle and to one race which has carried itself forward successfully. Take away the Nordic Germany and nothing remains . . .

1. What did Hitler mean when he said, "One is either the hammer or the anvil"?

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2. What was Hitler's concept of leadership?

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3. What two adjectives did Hitler use to describe democracy? \_\_\_\_\_  
Given his idea of leadership, why did he oppose democracy?

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4. According to Hitler, what were three achievements of the Aryan race?

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