HITLER IS NO FOOL

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Hitler is no fool by Karl Billinger

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KARL BILLINGER

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Trieste

The Book and the Author

When it became apparent that Hitler's *Mein Kampf* was to be taken seriously, there was a rush in various countries to make this book available in completely unexpurgated form to readers throughout the civilized world.

This book does not purport to be another translation of *Mein Kampf*. It is, however, an entirely accurate and faithful description of Hitler's world program. The original *Mein Kampf* is an extremely long book, and that is not its most formidable feature from the standpoint of the reader. Hitler's style is notoriously bad even in German, and the organization of his book makes it extremely difficult for the reader to acquire a clear picture of his thesis. *Hitler Is No Fool* corrects this fault by the simple process of gathering together the widely scattered Hitlerian views on the Jews, democracies, war, peace, racial theories, etc., and arranging these topics in an orderly form. We learn how Hitler came to power, why anti-Semitism is an inevitable part of fascism, and why the real facts of Hitler's life are not told in his book.

The author is a young German, now taking out his American citizenship papers. He opposed Hitler during the early Nazi days and spent many terrible months in a concentration camp, which he described in his famous first book, *Fatherland*. This present volume is further proof of his really great ability as a writer. The book presents a most penetrating analysis of Hitler and his policies, proving conclusively that the man is not to be taken lightly and that continued attempts to laugh him off will play directly into his hands.

Hitler Is No Fool

BY KARL BILLINGER

AUTHOR OF "FATHERLAND"

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Preface

TODAY, after more than six years of feverish activities, Nazi Germany is still a mystery to the man in the streets of America. To him the Third Reich appears as a one-man show. He resents a social order built upon terror and fear and is indignant when he reads about Jewish pogroms, threats of invasion, and conquests of weak countries. But he is at an utter loss to explain the miraculous career of the "Austrian housepainter." He might, perhaps, pity the German people. But the longer he sees them ruled by a "fool" or a "madman," the more will his pity change into contempt, the more will his feeling grow that the Germans, after all, deserve a Government which they apparently are not able or even willing to overthrow.

For this man in the street the present book is written. It wants to acquaint him with the chief exponent of German fascism, with his ideas and plans and, moreover, with the forces he represents. The best way of doing it might still be to go back to the most authoritative source, Hitler's own book. The world would have been spared much guessing about the essence and aims of the National Socialist regime had it taken the trouble to study the Fuehrer's work carefully. History has seldom offered the opportunity of learning from a dictator himself his most guarded designs before he has been able to carry them out.

But how are we to know that Hitler who has told so many lies, broken so many promises, and violated so many solemn treaties did not veil and distort the truth in his book? Even a liar will tell

the truth if it is more advantageous than lying. There was a time in Hitler's life when nothing but frankness would help his career.

Let us for a moment return to the years when *Mein Kampf* was written. In November, 1923, in Munich Hitler led his first violent assault upon the Weimar Republic. However, the insurrection proved a fiasco. The Army upon whose support Hitler had counted did not follow him, and the police turned their guns upon the traitors, even though the famous General Ludendorff, the brain of the German Armies in the War, marched in the front rank. On the eve of the insurrection Hitler, revolver in hand, made the solemn vow, "Either I am victorious by tomorrow afternoon, or I shall be a dead man!" Under the bullets of the police he chose to preserve himself for the German people and fled to the Bavarian mountains, to the family of his friend Hanfstaengl.

Shortly after the insurrection he was taken into custody and brought before a People's Court which sentenced him to five years' "honorable imprisonment," the minimum punishment for high treason.

The Nazi movement had suffered its first major defeat. The Hitler Party was outlawed and began to disintegrate. Army officers and industrial backers withdrew their support. Hitler had compromised himself too greatly.

At the same time stabilization of the currency and the first foreign gold loan made the German economic situation look a little more hopeful. The inflation with its fantastic rise of prices had hit the lower middle class especially hard. It had robbed it of all its savings and had driven it into the arms of political reaction. Now, however, with the prospect of better times ahead, the small shopkeepers, artisans, peasants derived new hope and were less ready to listen to the reactionaries' attack upon the Republic.

The end of the year 1923 marked a turning point also for the German revolutionary movement. It became clear by then that its