



## The Trial of Adolf Hitler: The Beer Hall Putsch and the Rise of Nazi Germany

*David King*

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*The Trial of Adolf Hitler* tells the true story of the monumental criminal proceeding that thrust Hitler into the limelight after the failed beer hall putsch, provided him with an unprecedented stage for his demagoguery, and set him on his improbable path to power. Reporters from as far away as Argentina and Australia flocked to Munich for the sensational, four-week spectacle. By the end, Hitler would transform a fiasco into a stunning victory for the fledgling Nazi Party. The first book in English on the subject, *The Trial of Adolf Hitler* draws on never-before-published sources to re-create in riveting detail a haunting failure of justice with catastrophic consequences.

## **The Trial of Adolf Hitler: The Beer Hall Putsch and the Rise of Nazi Germany Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Trial of Adolf Hitler: The Beer Hall Putsch and the Rise of Nazi Germany for online ebook**

### **Martin Mostek says**

Well researched and written account of so called Beerhalle-putch and following trial in Munich in 1923/4. Putsch itself seemed at first as fiasco consigning Adolf Hitler and his early Nazis into footnotes of history. Yet, as David King recount in his lively and vivid narration, especially trial which followed helped to shape future carrier of unsuccessful conspirator of bungled, yet bloody attempt to overthrow government first in Bavaria then in all Germany. Hitler exploited trial followed by both local people and world media to turn into his own tribune and his own prosecution of authorities ensnared by him in putch and also of Weimar republic regime as such.

More than twenty people died during the putch, other crimes were committed by Nazi thugs - theft, arson, kidnap, antisemitic attacks, none of them dealt with at trial which in itself ended with perverse verdict - harshest sentence handed down was 5 years in mild prison for Hitler, even shorter terms for others, acquittal for the rest. And in years time Hitler was released. He used that time to write Mein Kampf and prepare for his march to power.

We all know what followed, yet it is important to learn how it all began and how improbable and laughable Munich beer-putchist lookend - for a time.

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### **Pirate says**

David King's book on French mass murderer Dr Petiot -- not quite Dr Finlay nor Dr Marcus Welby -- was outstanding and this one is too. Drawing on newspapers from all round the world provides an interesting insight and early assessment of Hitler and also highlights how being already on probation he should have been banged up and deported to Austria at the end of his sentence. The Austrians had the good taste to reject him though for history's sake it is a shame they weren't pressured into doing so. Instead the corporal outperformed his master General Ludendorff, whose mainaical conspiracy theories at the time were more outlandish than Hitler's. Allowed free rein by a judge who sympathised with his far right views -- indeed who had been the judge in his first trial and knew about his being on probation -- he took to his stage brilliantly and instead of being cowed or subdued by a more prepossessing judge launched himself onto the world stage in a manner in which his pathetic putsch and indeed his own performance that day would have left him ridiculed. This is very much a what if moment in history and sadly as superbly borne out by King's book one that had catastrophic global consequences.

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### **Eric says**

This was a great book and definitely started connecting the dots as far as how he came to power. Because of this putsch and trial, it helped him gain popularity.

The main reason for this attempt at overthrowing Germany was because of WWI which was blamed mostly on Germany, the Versailles Treaty basically broke Germany and they were in ruins.

Hitler was basically saying he was going to reunite Germany and make them great again. The putsch failed,

and there were riots and murders but the trial was just about high treason...he wasn't even brought up on charges of inciting the riot or the murders.

The judge was partial to Hitler...and because of that he was given leniency on his conviction and then he was paroled 5 months after he was incarcerated.

At the end of the book in the epilogue it talks about all the what-ifs. Apparently this trial and its publicity and his incarceration made him more famous and helped catapult him to notoriety and eventually would help him become in power of Germany...chilling when you think about it.

At first I thought the book was boring but then really got into it in the end with how this relates to what happened.

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### **kanmanir says**

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### **Carlos says**

This book chronicles one of the crucial moments of Adolf Hitler's life, after failing to overthrow the Weimar Republic in a failed putsch in 1923 him and his coconspirators were put in front of a court and charged with high treason, it should have been an easy conviction, there were thousands of witnesses, there was kidnapping of government officials, there was deaths , there were racist remarks and race violence against Jewish and minorities in Munich. But Hitler received the most lenient sentence, he wasn't deported (he was an Austrian citizen), and he emerged more powerful than ever , ready to start gathering power in his party and outside of it . Why did this happen ? , why the situation in Munich was such that it let him get away with it ? .This book answers those questions with well researched statements and very good narrative. Perfect book for anyone interested in the rise of the Nazi party.

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### **Paul says**

The Trial of Adolf Hitler – Could he have been stopped?

Historian David King asks a challenging question over the course of his book, The Trial of Adolf Hitler, could he have been stopped? That is a question that the reader will continue to ask themselves throughout the book, and that is what good historians do, make you question! King maybe a full-time writer now, but has taught European History and is a former Fulbright Scholar at Cambridge.

The Weimar Republic was doomed from its existence, as many Germans thought their leadership had sold them down river at Versailles and beyond. At home there was much revolutionary activity, of all political shades, and one attempted coup has become more well-known than others.

23rd November 1923, a little known regional politician attempted to bring down the German government and emulate the Italian Fascist Benito Mussolini. Hitler and his brownshirts had surrounded the

Bürgerbraükeller as Herman Göring, Rudolf Hess and Hitler attempted to storm the stage and fired a shot into the roof. Fuelled by alcohol, and with the attempted coup failing he tried to do a deal, it did not work. He was later arrested in his pyjamas.

Hitler was charged with High Treason, and as an Austrian could and should have been deported back there if found guilty. But the failings of the trial judge and the Munich elite, especially as the presiding judge allows Hitler to turn his defence in to an attack on the political system. Saying that the presiding judge was known for being somewhat soft on those from the right of Bavarian politics. So, when the verdicts were delivered on April's Fools Day 1924 and were unsurprisingly lenient. Hitler and three comrades were sentenced to 5 years but served about nine months and was out of prison by the end of 1924.

This book is concerned with the actual trial and uses the papers and other contemporary records, such as trial transcripts and prison archives. What King delivers is more a less a minute by minute account of the trial, giving the reader an excellent narrative of the events. The book is brilliantly researched, written in a style that is easy for the reader to engage with the narrative, he brings to life the chaos nature of life at the time.

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### **John says**

More like 4.5 stars, due to some breeziness of style and a bit too much conjecture here and there. Overall, an engrossing and chilling read. Watching Hitler become HITLER is sobering and says a lot about the power of demagoguery in bad times. Hitler was partly the center of a confluence of events and trends, and a gadfly who struck a chord with some people at a critical historical point. This book gives you a much clearer sense of what led to the rise of Hitler, how bullheadedness and delusion -- far more than genius -- fueled his cultivation of power. The book is humanizing, but it does not stray for one minute from its detailed delineation of Hitler's transformation into a mad visionary whose narrative of humiliation and glory became a path to power.

One of the things I most appreciated about this book was the context it provided. The chaos and complexity of the historical moment, through the putsch and the trial, is laid out plainly and in detail. The book gave me a deep sense of how elements from the Treaty of Versailles to the disrupted state of German politics created well-tilled ground for Hitler to plant his ideas. And the trial itself gave him a platform and a bullhorn for him to spread and elaborate his notion of a destiny for Germany. It is fascinating and disquieting to watch it all unfold, and realize that Hitler's rise was neither inevitable nor totalizing.

I highly recommend reading this book.

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### **Abhishek says**

A fantastic book to end the year with for me! I immensely enjoy historical tales; many of them hold more adventure and mystery mysticism than you would find in a fantasy novel. When written with an astute hand, the historical story takes a shape and form that gives it a mythical appearance. Imagine then, a 30-something man shouting and screaming nationalistic ideologies in a beer hall, rallying people to overthrow the existing

republic, marching on with his supporters in the streets of Munich, being shot at by the police that would lead to deaths of many men in his party, somehow escaping but only to be taken in by the authorities in a couple of days. Then imagine a grand trial being arranged, a trial to see if this man and his supporters should be charged for high treason, a trial that despite the evident facts in front of it was not an open-and-shut case, a trial in which this man's image would grow even further, a trial whose conclusion would only strengthen the man's ideologies and set him on course to one day usurp the top-most position in his country's government (which incidentally was not his country to begin with) and begin what would later be termed as World War II - a war that destroyed millions of lives. That man, of course, is Adolf Hitler. A time in his life when even failures worked in his favour, when justice bent to allow him to climb higher.

*The Trial of Adolf Hitler* is a well-documented and masterly written book, giving a chronology of events of the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923 and the trial held afterwards. David King beautifully pieces each moment of history surrounding the putsch into this massive jigsaw puzzle which takes us right there on the streets of Munich with an excitement and fervor that could only have been matched and surpassed by those who had actually lived that moment. He gives us more than a glimpse of the personalities of two highly important men in that march, Adolf Hitler and General Ludendorff. If you are a history fanatic, then you may want to get your hands on this one piece of history that may be less remembered, but in hindsight possibly set the ball rolling for Hitler's rise...

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### **Steve says**

An excellent book as well as very interesting!!! This book tells of Adolf Hitler who tried unsuccessfully to attempt to overthrow the government in Germany and started the Beer Hall Putsch on November 8, 1923 at a beer hall in Munich. He was arrested and put on trial and was sentenced at Landsberg prison. While in prison, He wrote Mein Kampf-My Struggle. He wrote the book and had ideas to set up a government party and how to exterminate his opponents. Years later in January 1933, He established the Nazi Party and became the dictator of Germany.

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### **Vaibhav Kumar says**

After failing to overthrow the Weimar Republic in a putsch, Hitler and his co-allies were put in front of a court to get charged with high treason. Although there were thousands of witnesses supporting all of their crimes, Hitler still emerged as the most powerful dictator of his time. He was allowed to stay in Munich and not deport to his native land.

How he managed to turn the failure of the court into his victory? How he managed to turn all odds against him in his favour? Could he have been stopped?

"The Trial of Adolf Hitler" by David King is comprehensively written book that answers numerous questions supported by well-researched facts. It is a must-read for all those who are interested in perceiving the rise of the Adolf Hitler and Nazi Party.

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## **victor harris says**

Another high 4 rating. Good coverage of an often overlooked episode in the ascent of Hitler and the Nazis. The trial and sentencing was basically a farce. After the putsch, the trial was held in Munich where pro-Nazi sentiments and media were in sympathy with the revolutionaries, this provided a non-stop cheering gallery for Hitler to spew his hateful screeds. In effect, by giving him a platform and not restraining him at the trial, he became a much more visible national figure. The judge in the case was very partial to the right-wing agenda and that was manifest in his lenient sentencing. Hitler and the others had committed treason but were sentenced as if they had engaged in a trivial street brawl. Then at the prison, Hitler was treated as royalty and virtually all his whims were accommodated. Due to a procedural mix up, he was also given an early release on parole, which enabled him to resume his destructive ways. There are times in the book where the courtroom saga gets a little repetitious, but it is a provocative work and it makes one wonder what the trajectory of history might have been had Hitler and the Nazis been stopped in their tracks by a more pro-government judge.

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## **Matti Karjalainen says**

David Kingin "Hitlerin oikeudenkäynti: vallankaappausyritys 1923 ja natsi-Saksan nousu" (Otava, 2017) valikoitui lukulistalleeni kun vierailin kesälomareissullani Münchenissä tutustumassa kaupungin mielenkiintoiseen historiaan kansallissosialistisen puolueen syntykaupunkina. Se käsittää Adolf Hitlerin natsipuolueen epäonnistunutta oluthuonevallankaappausta, joka päätti laukaustenvaihtoon ja useamman ihmisen kuolemaan Odeonsplatzilla.

Lain koura tavoitti paenneen Hitlerin, joka liittolaisineen marskitettiin oikeuden eteen. Seurannut oikeudenkäynti oli kuitenkin melkoinen mahalasku, jota jo aikalaiset pitivät täydellisenä farssina. Hitlerille tarjoutui mahdollisuus puhua melkein rajoittamattomasti ja levittää poliittista sanomaansa julkisuuteen. Lisäksi hänen tuomionsa oli naurettavan pieni, mikä kertoo sekä oikeudenkäynnin puheenjohtajana toimineen Georg Neidhardtin oikeistolaisesta aatemaailmasta.

David King kuvaa tapahtumia kiinnostavasti ja asiantuntevasti. Vaikka Hitleristä ja natseista on kirjoitettu paljon, ei vallankaappauksesta ja oikeudenkäynnistä taida olla englanniksi (suomesta puhumattakaan) erityisen paljon materiaalia, vaikka ne käänivät maailmanhistorian rattaita merkittäväällä tavalla.

Ai niin, tosiaan: vierailin lomallani vallankaappausyrityksen alkupisteenä toimineen Bürgerbraukellerin sijaintipaikalla. Vanhaa oluthuone hävitettiin maan tasalle 1970-luvulla, ja nykyisin sen paikalla sijaitsee - kuinkas ollakaan - kirjasto!

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## **Rajiv Chopra says**

This is a good book. It has been written in quite the racy manner, and this does make it fairly easy to read.

Is it authoritative ? I am not quite the expert to comment on that. One reviewer did mention that David King did not cover Hitler's relationship with some of the other members of the Nazi party, particularly those of a somewhat sexual nature. However, I don't think that this was the subject of the book.

The trial itself has been covered quite well, and the absolute travesty of justice has been revealed well. He does mention that Geli Raubal was Hitler's mistress, however, other books don't imply this. Also, other books say that Hitler was vegetarian, which is at variance with what David King seems to imply. I point these out merely to ask - which version is accurate? If indeed it is shown that David King's was inaccurate, then it may cast some doubts on the scholarship of the book

However, does it reveal the essential facts, or story, of the proceedings? Yes  
Does the book clearly highlight the importance of this botched trial in helping Hitler's rise to fame and power? Yes

So, if the book is to be judged on these questions, he has done an admirable job indeed.

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### **Susan says**

On November, 8th, 1923, Hitler, who was suffering from toothache, left his rented room for the offices of the National Socialist newspaper, edited by Alfred Rosenberg. Due to inflation, the paper cost five billion marks. Hitler told Rosenberg, and the half-American Ernst Hanfstaengl, to be at the Burgenbrau beer cellar that evening – “The moment for action has come!”

This then, is the story of the ‘Beer Hall Putsch,’ which Hitler managed to turn from a disaster, into something of a victory. I must admit that I have always been a little hazy on the details of this event and learnt a lot from this book that I did not know before. Beer halls were popular venues for political meetings at that time and there were an estimated 3000 people there when Hitler pushed his way through the crowd, intent on overthrowing the government.

By the time Hitler had stumbled onto the stage, brandishing a pistol and bluffing that the army barracks and police headquarters had been occupied, there was extreme post-war disillusionment. The political situation led the population to drift to the extremes of the Far Right and Communism. There was an instable currency, people’s life savings had been wiped away by hyperinflation, there was an uncertain future and Italy’s Benito Mussolini was seen as a dynamic leader and role model.

Much of this book deals with the details of the failed attempt by Hitler to seize power. The event is outlined in detail, with Hitler’s Assault Squad (Stosstrupp Hitler), consisting of about 125 men, forming the core of the later SS, and many familiar names, such as Hermann Göring, being involved – and others, such as Goebbels, being inspired to strike up a correspondence with Hitler after his arrest.

After the shooting, and the violence, Hitler – rather ignominiously – fled the scene and went into hiding. When his hiding place was uncovered, he dramatically tried to commit suicide, but was dissuaded from doing so. Once under arrest, he was again (seemingly, rather easily) convinced not to try to harm himself, when he stated he was going on hunger strike. In fact, once confined at the Landsberg, progressive prison, he found he had a comfortable room and many privileges. Indeed, the author makes a good argument that, had Hitler not been arrested, he would not have been the later success he was. At the time, and until much too late, he was not really taken seriously. One reporter said he seemed, “like a travelling salesman for a clothing firm,” rather than a political leader.

Having been arrested, Hitler could have faced a harsh sentence and possible deportation from Germany. Instead, he was tried, not by jury, but by a tribunal of judges. Along with the other defendants, he was

charged with high treason, but not with the number of other possible charges that they could have faced. The presiding judge, Georg Neithardt, was ingratiating, polite and allowed Hitler to give endless speeches and perform for the crowds who flocked to see him. Having been given a slap on the wrist by the Court, he later had time to write, "Mein Kampf," while receiving visitors, parading his thoughts to a non critical audience and gaining the confidence he needed to turn himself into the leader of the National Socialist Party. This is a fascinating read and extremely well written, with lots of detail both on the Putsch and the trial. It helps explain how Hitler transformed himself from a man with a pistol and a half baked plan, into an assured leader, with the backing to put his bizarre ideas into print and his political ideas into practice.

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### **Leah says**

Abandoned at 17% as it wasn't holding my interest. Not read enough to write a review. A mismatch between author's style and reader's preferences, I think.

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