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Hitler in the Movies: Finding Der Führer on Film

Sidney Homan, Hernán Vera

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In *Hitler in the Movies: Finding Der Führer on Film*, a Shakespearean and a sociologist explore the fascination our popular culture has with Adolf Hitler. What made him … Hitler? Do our explanations tell us more about the perceiver than the actual historical figure? We ask such question by viewing the Hitler character in the movies. How have directors, actors, film critics, and audiences accounted for this monster in a medium that reflects public tastes and opinions?

The book first looks at comedic films, such as Chaplain's *The Great Dictator* or Ernst Lubitsch's *To Be or Not to Be* (1942), along with the Mel Brooks's 1983 version. Then, there is the Hitler of fantasy, from trash films like *The Saved Hitler's Brain* to a serious work like *The Boys from Brazil* where Hitler is cloned. Psychological portraits include Anthony Hopkins's *The Bunker*, the surreal *The Empty Mirror*, and *Max*, a portrait of Hitler in his days in Vienna as a would-be artist. Documentaries and docudramas range from Leni Reinfenstahl's iconic *The Triumph of the Will* or *The Hidden Führer*, to the controversial *Hitler: A Film from Germany* and Quentin Tarantino's fanciful *Inglourious Basterds*.

Hitler in the Movies also considers the ways Der Führer remains today, as a ghostly presence, if not an actual character. Why is he still with us in everything from political smears to video games to merchandise? In trying to explain this and the man himself, what might we learn about ourselves and our society?

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thinking way. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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