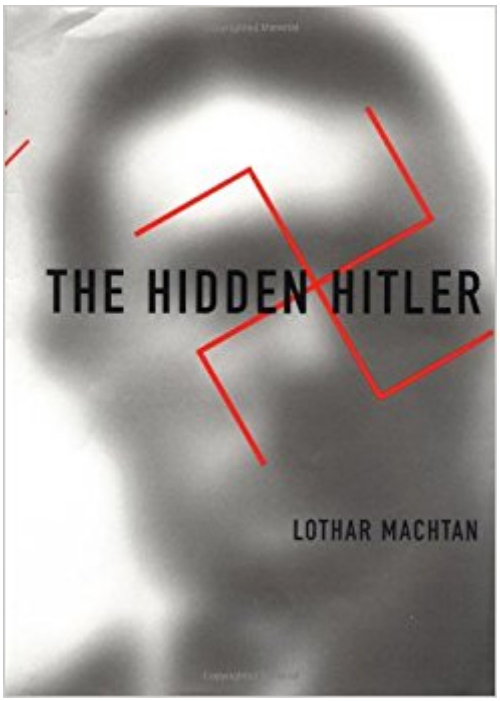
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The Hidden Hitler



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Synopsis

Adolf Hitler. No other figure in contemporary history is associated with such far-reaching historical impact and such monstrous crimes. His name alone is emblematic of world war and Holocaust. If only because of the barbarity for which he is responsible, Adolf Hitler has become an anxiety neurosis, a vision of horror. And that is why he remains even now as he was to many of his contemporaries: an incomprehensible mystery. In the half century since his death, he has been the subject of over 120,000 publications, and yet the historian John Lukacs, who has tried to impose some sort of order on the chaotic jumble, comes to the significant conclusion that "We are far from done with Hitler."What Hitler did in history has been amply documented in the monumental work of historians and biographers such Alan Bullock, Joachim Fest, Hans Mommsen and Ian Kershaw. Who Hitler was, however, as a person, what anchored him emotionally, has either eluded or been of little interest to writers who often burden themselves with the search for the origin of his evil as the explanation for his life and its consequences. Drawing from a wealth of archival sources, much of which has been long overlooked by historians, The Hidden Hitler focuses on Hitler the man. Lothar Machtan’s controversial thesis is that Adolf Hitler was homosexual, and that one cannot begin to understand him, his entry into politics, and the early Nazi movement without a clear understanding of this aspect of his identity. The Hidden Hitler documents the homosexual milieu in which the young Hitler lived and thrived from his early years in Vienna, through the beginnings of his political career in Munich, and during his years as the FÃ Â¸hrer. Machtan documents a succession of homosexual and homosexually inclined men among Hitler’s most intimate friends and supporters, including August Kubizek, Rudolf HÃ¢â ¬Â usler, Reinhold Hanisch, Ernst Schmidt, Ernst RÃ‹â hm, Dietrich Eckart, Rudolf Hess, Emil Maurice, "Putzi" Hanfstaengl and Kurt Ludecke. Of these, Eckart and RÃ‹â hm were pivotal to his entry into politics. Machtan also unearths surprising new documents that attest to Hitler’s homosexuality in those early years. Of particular importance is the "Mend Protocol," portions of which appear for the first time in this book. While it is doubtful that Hitler was sexually active in any way (gay or straight) after 1933, his homosexual past, nevertheless, was his Achilles’ heel. It threatened him politically and left him open to blackmail by his most intimate associates. The assasination of Ernst RÃ‹â hm, along with roughly 150 other men over a four day period in 1934, served as a chilling message to all with knowledge, or access to knowledge, about the FÃ Â¸hrer’s past life.Recent books on the Nazi movement have argued that the Third Reich was a fundamentally sordid regime. Machtan provides powerful new evidence in support of this view. This side of Hitler and his "Munich clique," as Goebbels put it, has never been so vividly evoked. As an intimate portrait of Hitler and as a surprising portrait of the homoerotic nature of the early Nazi

movement, The Hidden Hitler is a major and certainly controversial contribution to the biographical literature. Anyone who has read any previous biographer of Adolf Hitler will read The Hidden Hitler and wonder, "how could they have missed entirely the homosexuality of Hitler and his entourage?"

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Customer Reviews

The first of Machtan’s works to be translated into English, this is certain to be controversial. A professor of modern and current history at the University of Bremen, Germany, and the author of several scholarly books on 19th-century Germany, Machtan here presents a documented study of Hitler’s homosexuality and its impact upon his life and career. Machtan asserts that Hitler’s homosexuality was known to some of his associates by the beginning of World War I and later in Vienna. As he became prominent, some of his associates in homoerotic circles of the Nazi movement attempted to blackmail him. These homoerotic undercurrents and Hitler’s response to blackmail provide a hitherto neglected perspective on the questions surrounding the origins and development of Nazism. Although documenting homosexuality is a difficult task for historians of periods in which gays were oppressed and repressed, Machtan is able to provide evidence for his assertions as well as a nuanced and readable study of Hitler’s sexuality. Libraries that own Joachim Fest’s seminal Hitler (LJ 7/74) and Ian Kershaw’s Hitler, 1889-1936: Hubris (LJ 1/99) and Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis (LJ 11/1/00), as well as a selection of the works of George Mosse on Nazi culture, should acquire this work. Barbara Walden, Univ. of Wisconsin, MadisonCopyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

This professor of modern history at Bremen University in Germany argues, with persuasive power, that to fully understand the Third Reich, one must realize that Hitler was homosexual and understand the homoerotic nature of the Nazi movement. No question--this book will be heavily requested and stir much debate. Brad HooperCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

It was disturbing to read about Hitler's supposed homosexuality since, he had done (prior to the war) a lot of good for the Germans when the rest of the world suffered under the great depression. Machtan, like a modern Sherlock Holmes, takes pieces and tidbits of Hitler's life, his associates, their associates, the social milieu which gives all of this an insightful context, eyewitness testimony by wives of associates, and people generally in Hitler's circle, his childhood friends and their motives for speaking "nicely" about Hitler, for which they were well rewarded with pensions, posts. No proof can be expected short of compromising pictures. Just like there is no solid evidence that the mafia had compromising photos of J Edgar Hoover, against the fact that he denied the mafia existed for decades. Much circumstantial evidence is analyzed an you must be compelled to think that Hitler might in fact have been a homosexual. The extent he went to seize police records of the time he wandered Vienna, the inconsistencies of how he was able to survive decently without a proper job, cannot be from the sales of painted postcards. He lived far beyond that. Read and decide for yourself. I am not saying Hitler was homosexual, but this books makes a very strong case. Machtan picked over seemingly small clues that led to bigger ones, till a trail of questions begs for an answer. Machtan was like a dogged detective, following every clue, not tossing them aside after only a superficial look. He goes deeper and connects the dots in a brilliant manner, Enjoy this stimulating book and it will give you a fresh outlook. The Nazi hierarchy was filled with homosexuals. Where there is smoke is a possible (note I say possible) fire

The item was as described. The price was great. It arrived shortly. A good resource.

A well documented presentation of Hitler's homosexuality and its impact on history.

Hitler did his very best to hide his homosexual history.After reading The Hidden Hitler and The Pink Swastika a very clear picture exposes Hitler and his lovers. I keep asking myself how could the world not have known. Lothar Machtan has done a great job of enlightening us with this book. This was not a subject that I desired to read about. It is thoroughly disgusting to me. However it is

extremely important to know and understand how homosexuals are effecting not only history but our future as well. The world is now being desensitized by people who practice homosexual sex. The subject is not pretty. It is not only crucial to know how it was involved in history, but who and how it is involved in shaping our current world. Great book.

a great insight into a side of hitler which is usually ignored

Very interesting book!

Contrary to the abundant negative reviews of Lothar Machtan’s THE HIDDEN HITLER there is something to be gained by reading this at times lugubrious treatise on the impact of Hitler’s implied homosexuality in attempting to understand the singular horror of his existence. That "something" is a heightened understanding of the times and the events and the state of development of psychology that could produce such a beast. And after all is said and written, Hitler never could have existed in a vacuum: there were needs birthed by politcal and sociological climes that somehow needed a promised (read "messianic") figure.If astute writers such as Christopher Isherwood were able to observe and report the decadence of Berlin, the "roaring 20’s" atmosphere not unlike that concurrently throbbing in the USA, then the milieu in which the young misfit artist Adolf and his bohemian comrades seems conducive to the development of early indicators that the gay life was not to be ignored. The author of this historically based biography merely substantiates and documents evidences of Hitler’s private life, later assigning some of the Fuhrer’s bizarre rantings and misdeeds as attempts to conceal a factor that could have dethroned him and his Nazi Party.Is the author saying that Hitler was a beast because he was homosexual? No, and as a matter of fact the extent to which this book is footnoted and referenced really ends up a seemingly pointless process without premise. Yes, it is interesting to explore the psyches of the monsters of history. But what, in the end, is the point? We are not enlightened as to why this man could become a genocidal maniac, and even more frustrating, we are not given clues as to why the gays of the period were incarcerated, tortured and burned in the same camps and ovens with the Jews.This is probably a minor but meaningful addition to the exploration of Hitler and his time, but it is only for those who have a high tolerance for ambiguous minutia.

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