

**From Racist Ideation to Repressive Legislation, From Hate Speech to Genocide: The Connection between *Mein Kampf* and the Nazi Regime's Anti-Jewish Legislation of the 1930s: By Rebecca Allen**

Adolf Hitler had laid out his plans for the Jews in his book *Mein Kampf*. He wrote of his hatred towards the Jews and a need to preserve the Aryan race. He published this book almost ten years before he imposed anti-Semitic laws in Germany. His plans were available to read, and they were read, yet no one on the outside seemed to put together the pieces when the restrictive anti-Semitic laws and policies started. Either no one was able to, or no one wanted to. No one pointed to his book to say he had a plan, and he knew what he wanted to do. The world sat baffled by the horrors of the Nazi Party, and only now, looking back are they able to make the connections between the hatred filled book he wrote and the plans he carried out. Hitler would not have been able to achieve his goals without the help of his most trusted SS officers. They were in his meetings and the authors behind this Final Solution, they carried out his execution orders, and built the extermination camps he had wanted. Hitler found a profound hatred toward the Jews and let it fester, spewing that hatred onto the pages of his book. Any reader could see how passionate Hitler was for the destruction of the Jewish peoples. He wrote himself in circles much of the time, making his book much harder to read and digest. The 720-page book could have been summarized in a few short chapters, but Hitler kept expanded massively upon most of his thoughts of the Jews. He related them to parasites multiple times, and even went as far as to mock their religious beliefs by writing: "Hence today I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: *by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord.*"<sup>27</sup> Many people who are religious hold the belief that God's love is unconditional and take messages from the bible of turning the other cheek. Hitler did not want to turn, but instead eradicate the Jews from Europe. Though many millions of people died during World War II and in the concentration camps, the Jews were not erased. Their history lives on, and they rose up to demand justice for those who had done them wrong. Hitler was never able to

answer for his crimes. He committed suicide just before the war ended, hoping to escape punishment but the Jewish people did not and will never forget what happened. They continue to keep their history alive, their voices heard, and remind the World to never forget nor repeat what had happened to them. Despite a well-rounded argument with evidence from policy and personal statements of hatred, questions still exist and there is room for more research. It would be beneficial to finish a complete reading of *Mein Kampf* to try to understand Adolf Hitler's full thoughts on Jewish peoples and then explore more on how he was able to put his thoughts into policy with the ease that he was able to.