

Maria Meschini

ENGL 400

Journal Entry #2: Hitler's Rhetoric

1. What is Burke's rationale behind analyzing Hitler's *Mein Kampf*?

Burke's rationale behind analyzing Hitler's *Mein Kampf* is that Hitler's past experiences of personal struggle in Vienna lead him to his future actions and ideas. Hitler was very sensitive to his living situation in Vienna. He lived in a misery, full of broken relationships, and bad habits which he accredited to impoverishment. Based on such experience he created his own political theories. Also, the Parliament of Vienna, which was his political schooling as stated by the author (Burke, p. 200), all the disagreements and vocal diasporas combine with his suffering under poverty was the basic symbol and set a base to everything that he wanted to exterminate and change for ever. Hitler's proposal for the economic and political chaos due to different economic systems and political views, was a non-economic solution. The solution of unity which went against religion and race, "Hitler's corrupt use of religious patterns come to the force." (Burke, p. 201). Hitler elevated the Aryans above everyone else due to their pure blood. Aryans were the nobly class. Hitler wanted to conquer the inferior races and exterminate them specially the Jews.

Under Burke's rationale it is possible to see that Hitler was a clear of example of an individual who deflects reality towards a horrible new way of life. Hitler deflected people's attention and reality about the real economic problem. Hitler found national susceptibility forces among the society, race and religion, and took control of it. This gave him a strong starting point for his future regime of dictatorship. The problem was economic collapsed, but he addressed it to the Jewish. Hitler saw a problem and he gave it a face because he wanted someone to take ownership of such catastrophe. Hitler created or picked his ideal enemy. The Jewish were the perfect match for. Therefore, presented things with a deflected view shaped by his past. The Jewish blood was poisoning, and their democratic ideas were not acceptable because they would create what Hitler believed as internal disunity.

2. What is Burke's overall argument about Hitler's rhetoric?

Burke's overall argument about Hitler's rhetoric is that Hitler deflected the public's attention and reality. He created a strong campaign based on a belief that he implanted in people's head by mere manipulation and brain wash in some extent. This is because he presented an economic problem not as it really was, if not he shaped by his experience in Vienna and with the Parliament. He wanted people to see exactly what he thought spiritually lived and though. Therefore, he found the way to materialize it which is was by finding and creating a common enemy for everyone. This way he was able to be listened and gain power.

3. How does Burke explain Hitler's "unification device"? What are the four important features of this device? Explain specifically how Burke describes each one of these features.

Hitler's unification device is explained by Burke as Hitler's proposal of a noneconomic solution or to an purely economic problem at that time.

The doctrine consisted of four important features:

1-The inborn dignity, Burke describes it as the natural dignity of all humans to religious and humanistic thoughts through the right thinking and the right living. Hitler had a very particular view of this Christian theology and dignity. In order to attain unification and create an inborn superiority, inferior races such as Jews had to be conquered and exterminated.

2-The projection device, Burke's description of this feature is that curative processes for susceptibilities of a problem can be handle by battling against an outside enemy. The more the insufficiencies, the more the enemies that can be added to the main or common enemy. For Hitler, such insufficiencies required the minimum change in the way of thinking he thought and was used to. This implied, eliminating people who disturbed his system and the system of his people.

3- The symbolic rebirth, Burke's description of this feature emphasizes on Hitler's doctrine of inborn racial superiority involves the change of Hitler's ancestry. This change has to be done on a materialistic way by identifying him and his people or crowd, as the main and only blood stream. Eliminating Jews would be the rebirth of a purer blood.

4- The commercial use, Burke talks about this by saying that the economic chaos was presented by Hitler to the public with a noneconomic interpretation. He deflected the attention of the crowd of such the new controversies due to the rise of new economic ideas, and he presented and attacked Jew finance as the main cause of the economic collapse. He centered the economic illness on race and religion. Saying that the Aryan was constructive, and the Jew was the destructive and the hate of everyone.

4. What are Burke's action items in the conclusion of his analysis? What does he think the readers should do?

Burke's action items in the conclusion of his analysis is his belief that Hitler has shown a very upsetting degree of power with endless repetition which can be identified through his two famous slogans "Jews not admitted" and "War victims free" (Burke, p. 217). Also, Hitler's power of show among his mass crowd, or his community. Another point is that Hitler constructed himself his own methods of offering people a world view in which they were incapable of fighting against it.

Burke think that our job as anti-Hitler Battle is stop politicians in America of committing a similar situation that Hitler did by find all possible ways of making Hitler's deflections of religions apparent in todays' society.