

EARTH'S LAST
EMPIRE

THE FINAL GAME OF THRONES

JOHN HAGEE

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MY JERUSALEM

Jerusalem is the only place on earth that is called the city of God. Benjamin Disraeli, prime minister to the United Kingdom under Queen Victoria, once said, “The view of Jerusalem is the history of the world—it is more, it is the history of earth and of heaven.”

My personal encounter with Jerusalem began as an affair of the heart—this City of God connected heaven and earth within my soul. Once I stepped foot on its sacred soil, it became my Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, the center of the universe.

Jerusalem, the City of Gold.

Jerusalem, the undivided capital of the Covenant nation of Israel.

*Jerusalem, the place that the God of Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob calls home.*

Jerusalem, the experience that forever changed my life.

From the moment I first walked the ancient cobblestone streets of that Holy City, I sensed a divine presence there—a type of supernatural peace known nowhere else. I have traveled the world, but only Jerusalem has felt like home.

Jerusalem is where Abraham, the father of all who believe, placed his beloved son, Isaac, on the altar of sacrifice at Mount Moriah, reflecting his absolute faith in God Almighty!

Jerusalem is the city King David conquered over three thousand years ago, making it the eternal capital of Israel!

Jerusalem is where Jeremiah and Isaiah penned the principles of righteousness that became the moral foundations of civilization.

Jerusalem is where a rabbi named Jesus of Nazareth established the covenants of my faith that are chiseled in the depths of my soul.

Jerusalem is where Messiah will rule the earth for one thousand years of perfect peace in the world to come.

Jerusalem is where God Almighty, the King of the universe, will establish His Eternal Throne.

Jerusalem is the city that holds my heart.

When I first prayed at the Western Wall, I stood next to a rabbi who bowed his head at every mention of God's Holy Name. I knew the Lord was listening to his prayer and to mine. At that very moment, I heard the Lord speak to my heart to bring Christians and Jews together in an atmosphere of unconditional love and mutual respect. It was a seemingly impossible task were it not for the help of the Almighty.

I entered Jerusalem a pilgrim . . . and walked out of its gates a Zionist. I believe all that the Holy Scriptures say of Jerusalem and have dedicated my life to sharing these truths with the world.

All of Zion rejoiced as Jerusalem celebrated its Jubilee, and we pray that God's continued favor will be its cherished hope for tomorrow. Yes, this holy place has forever changed my life.

Jerusalem is everlasting, for it is the "port city on the shore of eternity."¹

CHAPTER 5

THE BIRTH OF THE EMPIRES

This agglomeration which was called and which still calls itself the Holy Roman Empire was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire. (Voltaire)

An empire is a political concept in which one state dominates over another state, or a series of states. An emperor or monarch commonly rules over an empire. On the simplest level, the control of the “core state” over the “peripheral state or states” is accomplished through military occupation or other formal political intervention, but it can also include economic, cultural, religious, and ideological influence.¹

Since the beginning of time, it has been man’s desire to rule over others. Conquerors have taken lands by force, by treaties, and, at times, by persuasion. Those who lived in these seized domains would either give their allegiance to the new leaders or face death. History is cluttered with kingdoms that rose and fell from power,

which are now forgotten and consigned to obscure and dusty corners of empty libraries.

The desire to amass an empire, with all of its inherent wealth and power, has never escaped man's prideful nature. However, as civilization has evolved, so too have the mechanisms of gaining and holding power. In today's world, at least in the familiar cultural confines of Western civilization, most men seeking an empire attempt to do so through business agreements and mergers rather than by bloody battles.

The notion of emperors and empires is outdated in most parts of the world. And in some cases, individual freedom and democratic forms of government have replaced violent conquests and authoritarian rule. It is important to remember that democracies that are governments ruled by the people are relatively new concepts when placed in the scope of human history. Yet what goes around comes around, and in some places of the world, the means of attaining power by force is once again gaining ground.

America is an oddity in world history. Since our independence, the idea of being conquered and subjugated to a ruler is foreign to us. As a nation, we have never known an emperor or a king. We were birthed from a revolution against tyranny and have remained intact even after a devastating Civil War. Additionally, since the end of World War II, we have managed to quell any further full-scale worldwide conflicts. This is mainly due to political pandering, intimidating arms races, and dubious diplomacy. However, because we can play "the game" so well, we have been lulled into a false sense of security, and that bubble is about to burst. The Fourth Reich is coming.

THE EVIL EMPIRE TO COME

When we hear the word *empire*, we automatically think of some of the largest, most powerful, and highly influential kingdoms that have

crossed the world stage of history. The top five empires that come to mind are the Persian, Roman, Arab (Caliphate), Mongol, and British. However, few of us would consider Germany as one of the most dominant empires ever to exist.

The German word *reich* means empire or kingdom, and it has been used to describe three historical periods during which Germany aspired to dominate Europe and expand its power across the world. These Reichs were precursors to the future Fourth Reich, which will force the citizens of the world to live under the political, religious, and financial dictatorship of one man: the Antichrist.

The Antichrist will make his entrance on the world stage promising peace, but instead will initiate the most massive, vicious, global bloodbath the world has even known. World War I and II, both products of the imperial ambitions of the Second and Third Reich, will pale in comparison to the coming death and destruction foretold by prophets accompanying the Fourth Reich.

The day is quickly coming when billions of people will enthusiastically choose to surrender their freedom and even their souls to a satanic empire. The Antichrist will force every person on planet Earth to take his mark on their right hand or forehead. Refusal to do so will result in decapitation. After three and a half years, his primary target will be the Jewish people. As we have learned, this will not be the first time man has attempted to eradicate God's Chosen. The pages of history are filled with stories of emperors and empires who shared a common hatred for the Jews, but where are they now?

Pharaoh's horsemen and chariots chased the Jews through the Red Sea, and God turned them into fish food (Exodus 15:19).

Where is the Babylonian Empire? Gone.

Where is the Medo-Persian Empire? Gone.

Where is the Greek Empire? Gone.

Where is the Roman Empire? Gone.

Where are the goose-stepping barbarians who followed Adolf Hitler? Gone. Buried in the boneyard of ancient history to be forgotten forever.

Where is Israel? Israel lives!

In every age and culture where the Jewish people have settled, they were treated as unwanted and undesirable enemies. I have already written about the long, sordid history of anti-Semitism and its murderous consequences.

The fact of the matter is, Satan's obsession with eradicating the Jewish people began in the Garden of Eden. However, God Almighty made a provision for all humankind when He promised that the seed of the woman (Jesus) would bruise the head of the serpent (Satan) (Genesis 3:15). This war against the Jews will continue in the Fourth Reich until Satan is ultimately defeated and thrown into the eternal lake of fire.

The Fourth Reich, which the Antichrist will rule, will be earth's last empire until the glorious return of the Messiah, who will establish an Eternal Kingdom on the new earth in the New Jerusalem.

THE GERMAN EMPIRES

I feel it is important to give a brief account of the German Reichs, and the times and events surrounding them, in order for you to have a better understanding of the background that led to the infamous Third Reich and why these empires are the precursor for the coming Fourth Reich.

The following pages will briefly cover the birth of the First Reich (962–1806), the Second Reich (1871–1918), and the infamous Third Reich of Hitler (1933–1945).

This is not a mere history lesson. Many people are unaware of the deep-rooted anti-Semitic foundations these empires were built upon. Satan, from the gates of Genesis, has sown seeds of hatred,

prejudice, jealousy, and lust for power that led ordinary people to commit grotesque acts of evil without even a prick of conscience. However, the Word of God has warned us,

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron. (1 Timothy 4:1–2)

FROM THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

The Roman Empire, founded by Julius Caesar and his successors, ruled a powerful kingdom on three continents for five hundred years. However, the empire began to crumble during the reign of Constantine, who initiated a split between the eastern and western portions of the kingdom. This led to the abandonment and disintegration of the Western Roman Empire in Europe.²

Remember, it was Emperor Constantine who forcibly separated Christianity from its Jewish origins. He then merged Christianity with paganism to institute a form of state-sponsored religion. It seems fair to point out that Constantine left behind an empire that would be forcibly ripped apart by internal and external forces. A classic example of “you reap what you sow.”

As Roman power weakened in Europe, the Germanic tribes asserted dominance over the region. In the year 410 CE, German Visigoth warriors sacked Rome, which by then was the capital city of only the western half of the former glorious Roman Empire. This invasion sent shock waves throughout Europe.

By 476 CE, the Western Roman Empire’s ruler, Romulus Augustulus, was forced to surrender to the German chieftain Odoacer. Thus the Roman Empire in the west died, while its stronger and

wealthier eastern half, the Byzantine Empire, continued to dominate the Middle East until it finally fell to the Ottoman Turks during the fifteenth century.³

Between the fall of the Western Roman Empire and the establishment of the Holy Roman Empire (First Reich), central Europe contained hundreds of small kingdoms ruled by tribal chieftains, warlords, and minor kings. It was also within this period that the Roman Catholic Church split into the Orthodox Church in the east and the Roman Catholic Church in the west.

The Roman Catholic Church remained a powerful religious and political institution, as the conquering Germanic tribes chose to convert to Catholicism.⁴ Eventually, the Western Roman Catholic Church would provide the key to unifying the independent tribes and kingdoms into one empire.

THE FIRST REICH—

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE (962–1806)

The Holy Roman Empire, or First Reich, was established in 962 CE. It was centered in Germany and soon stretched across central Europe, including present-day northern Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Slovenia, parts of eastern France, and western Poland.⁵ This empire began with the crowning of Otto the Great and lasted for more than eight hundred years.

Otto was the strongest of the warring Germanic kings, squashing several rebellions, which helped to protect the Roman Catholic Church and its territories. These successful campaigns won the support of Pope John XII, who crowned the German king as the head of a new Roman Empire, anointing him as emperor.

There had been several previous attempts to establish a new Roman Empire since Pope Leo III crowned the Frankish conqueror

Charlemagne in the year 800 CE. However, until Otto I succeeded in the unification and subjugation of the many different regions of central Europe under his rule, the new Roman Empire had not truly existed.⁶

The link between Otto's empire and the ancient Roman Empire was established through the medieval concept of *translatio imperii*. This model was rooted in the Catholic philosopher Saint Augustine's theological division of world history into seven ages, with the final age being the reign of Christ on earth.⁷

Catholic writers during the fourth and fifth centuries built on Augustine's theory and began viewing four of the ages as a succession of world empires: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome—the four kingdoms of Daniel's vision. In order to define the transition of power between the ages of history from one empire to the next, these medieval writers created the idea of *translatio imperii*, which literally means “translation of empire.”⁸

Following this line of logic, Otto's establishment of the Roman Empire represented the sixth world empire that would exist until the second coming of Christ, which was compatible with Augustine's philosophy. In this way, during the Middle Ages it was generally believed that Otto was the natural successor to the empire of Charlemagne, who had been the successor of the original Roman Empire.

Yet this assumption of self-grandeur did not occur suddenly. Otto I aspired to be the emperor of only Germany and Italy, with the blessing of the pope to give him added legitimacy. However, it was his son, Otto II, who added “Roman” to his title of emperor. It was his way of competing with the Byzantine emperor, who had ambitions of reacquiring control of southern Italy.⁹

By the reign of Emperor Conrad II (1027–1039)—the name of the kingdom became commonly known as the Roman Empire

(referring to Germany). In the first few centuries of the Golden Era, the German emperor was the most powerful political and religious figure in Europe. He was regarded as the guardian of the church, and his office had supreme authority over the pope. He had the power to appoint or unseat the pope in Rome as he desired.

The emperor's supremacy was eventually challenged when Pope Gregory VII (1073–1085) asserted his independence from the emperor of the Roman Empire, Henry IV (1056–1105). This struggle between the political and religious authorities prompted megalomaniac Emperor Frederick I (1157), also known as “Red Beard,” to rename his empire “the Holy Roman Empire.”¹⁰ His ambition for power was limitless, and he considered himself second only to God. Red Beard's intended goal was to rule over Italy and the Pope.

Because of this sustained contention, the Holy Roman Empire not only lost territory in Italy but also the guaranteed support of the Catholic Church. By the thirteenth century, the German kingdom (aka Holy Roman Empire) had rivals in France and Italy for imperial power in Europe. In one of the great ironies of history, the Holy Roman Empire “was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire,” as noted by eighteenth-century French philosopher Voltaire.¹¹

Yet the name remained, and so did the idea that Germany should be the guardian of Christendom.

The Guardian of Christianity

Germany's self-appointed guardianship would eventually become the foundation to its cultural and ethnical convictions of superiority and natural right of rulership over Europe. Every empire in history has believed in its own superiority, and Germany was no different.

By the early sixteenth century, competing forces were pulling the Holy Roman Empire apart both politically and religiously. Not only was the empire in crisis, but so was the Catholic Church. The

lines of succession had become unclear, and multiple contenders fought each other for the titles of emperor and pope. Like previous empires in history, the First Reich looked around for a scapegoat to take the blame for their internal woes and decided that the Jews were responsible.

The historical treatment of Jews in Europe had been growing successively worse over the centuries. The divergence of power between the emperors and the popes, and its subsequent effect on the supremacy of papal authority over every Christian kingdom in Europe, resulted in an expansion of religious law and a hardening of church doctrine. This stringent policy gradually emphasized corporal punishment for sin and apostasy, and the Jews were the natural target.¹² Heresy, which any observant Jew was guilty of by the standards of medieval Christian theology, became a crime punishable by torture, imprisonment, or death.

By the late tenth century, Jewish communities in Europe began to suffer increased violent attacks from their Christian neighbors who viewed them with suspicion and resentment. Earlier popes made some occasional statements against the forced conversion of Jews to Christianity. However, others insisted the Jews at least deserved protection from physical harm. Nevertheless, this fleeting attitude of tolerance disappeared as the church grew more powerful and the empire's grip on its territories grew more precarious. In competition for supreme authority over Europe's citizens, the church and the empire both exploited the latent anti-Jewish feelings of medieval Christians to their own advantage.

By the twelfth century, European Jews were routinely accused of blood libel and their religious books burned as dangerous heretical teachings; they were forced out of many occupations and segregated into ghettos. The period of the Crusades produced extreme feelings of hatred for religious outsiders, which included the Jews,

and precipitated several shocking massacres, especially in Germany's Rhineland.¹³

In previous chapters, I have well documented the persecution of the Jews by the church during this time. It is worth repeating that edicts such as requiring Jews to wear identifying clothing later inspired Hitler when he formed the Third Reich. This forced practice of identification and selective ostracism also foreshadows the prophesy of the coming Fourth Reich, which will require those left behind to either take the mark of the Beast or be killed.

Although by the thirteenth century the Holy Roman Empire no longer enjoyed the status of being the pope's chosen kingdom in Europe, it still upheld church law to give legitimacy to its claim as the guardian of Christendom. Convinced by his advisors that the Jewish religion was a threat to not only Christianity but also the stability of his empire, Holy Roman emperor Maximilian I ordered all Jewish books other than the Hebrew Bible to be gathered and burned in 1509.¹⁴ Increasingly, Jews were treated as dangerous intruders in Germany and a threat to both the church and the empire.

The tensions between Pope Leo X and the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V were exacerbated by Martin Luther's rebellion against the Catholic Church in 1517 that precipitated the Protestant Reformation.¹⁵ Luther's challenge to papal authority led to a crackdown on perceived heretics everywhere, especially against the Jews.

The Holy Roman Empire feared losing its authority because of Luther's teachings and decided to help eradicate the "heretic Jews" by forcibly expelling them from parts of their empire. This practice spread across Europe during the Middle Ages, resulting in the banishment of entire Jewish communities.

In 1670, Holy Roman emperor Leopold I issued an order that all Jews had to leave Austria by August 1. This was the second time Jewish citizens of Austria had been banished by the empire—the first

expulsion took place in 1421 and lasted over two hundred years.¹⁶

Sadly, as I mentioned earlier, Luther himself later contributed to the poisonous atmosphere of anti-Semitism growing in Germany and throughout Europe by publishing his scathing epistles against the Jews. Germany's population would eventually split into nearly equal portions of Catholics and Protestants by the time Hitler came to power. Both religious camps shared the same animosity toward the Jews, thanks in part to Luther and his venomous hatred that spread through Europe like wildfire.

As time went on, the Holy Roman Empire was gradually forced to concede much of its centralized authority to the princes and rulers of its local territories. During its final two hundred years, the empire existed more on paper and in the imaginations of its people than in reality.

Nonetheless, up until the very end of the Holy Roman Empire, Jewish communities were subjected to cruel and bigoted treatment. In 1802, just four years before the empire dissolved, a Jewish delegation pleaded with Emperor Francis II (1792–1806) to grant them the rights of German citizens and abolish their many restrictions, including the discriminatory poll tax that German Jews had to pay in order to enter any town or province. Their request was denied.¹⁷

Weakened by internal feuds and the political impact of the French Revolution, the Holy Roman Empire finally dissolved in 1806 when the emperor abdicated the throne in order to avoid being overthrown by Napoleon Bonaparte's triumphant march across Europe.¹⁸

BETWEEN THE REICHS

Napoleon fancied himself the successor of the ancient Roman Empire, just as the Holy Roman Empire had believed it inherited that mantle through *translatio imperii*. At first, it seemed that

Napoleon Bonaparte might be a different kind of emperor, one who was willing to give the Jews of Europe the rights of citizenship and who promised to allow the Jews to return to their homeland after his attempt to conquer Palestine, but those hopes were soon dashed.¹⁹

Napoleon's "Infamous Decree," published two years after he unseated the Holy Roman Empire, imposed economic restrictions on eastern European Jews and limited their freedom of movement across the continent. Napoleon's short-lived reign was the catalyst for major social upheaval in Europe that actually strengthened the perceived conflict between Jews who remained loyal to the Torah and their righteous traditions, versus those who assimilated to the new idea of modern nationalism.

Another important effect of Napoleon's conquest of Europe was the change in the balance of power between the Roman Catholic Church and the kingdoms of Europe.²⁰ Prior to the conquest, the pope had enjoyed supremacy over the kings and queens of Europe since the thirteenth century. Heads of state had acted as enforcers of the church and relied upon papal support to retain control.

However, after Napoleon rose to power, he oversaw a movement to secularize much of the national government and placed himself above the authority of the pope. Napoleon's example changed how future European rulers viewed the relationship between church and state.

After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo by the British Alliance in 1815, Pope Pius VII (1800–1823) tried to reassert his authority, but the Catholic Church never regained the same level of political power it had enjoyed during the days of the Holy Roman Empire. Napoleon Bonaparte may have successfully ended the First Reich, but it had already left an indelible mark on the culture of Germany. For sixty-five years, Germany's imperial ambitions would lie dormant, but would once again rise as the Second Reich.

North German Confederation

During the six and a half decades after Napoleon's defeat, the disjointed German states attempted to regroup under new leadership but struggled to come to a lasting agreement. Initially, thirty-nine German states struck a bargain for a mutual defense pact, but once again, the lust for ultimate power led to a war between rival German leaders and resulted in victory by the Prussian state.

In 1866, the ambitious Prussian prime minister Otto von Bismarck established the North German Confederation and succeeded in unifying twenty-two of the thirty-nine German states under his authority.²¹ This laid the foundation for the rise of the Second Reich. The confederation united the twenty-two states under a single judicial and legal code, and placed economic authority in the hands of the federal government. The individual states would retain control of their religious and educational affairs.

France declared war against the North German Confederation in 1870 because it feared the Prussians' ambition of German unification would shift the balance of power in Europe. However, France's declaration backfired and caused the remaining seventeen German states to affirm their loyalty to Prussian king William I.

It was during this Franco-Prussian War that the bitter seeds of World War I were sown by the rivalry of France and Austria against Germany. At the end of the war, Germany decided to humiliate their defeated enemies by imposing a debt of 5 billion francs. This was a foreshadowing of their own future humiliation via the Treaty of Versailles after Germany's defeat in World War I, which ultimately led to World War II.²²

German Emancipation of the Jews

In 1812, Prussia had passed a law allowing its Jewish residents to claim all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of Prussian

citizens. When Prussia became the dominant member of the North German Confederation, this citizenship was extended to all Jews within the confederation. Then after German unification in 1871, all German Jews were declared legal citizens for the first time in Germany's history.

This law, however, did not remove the deep anti-Semitic root that had been planted centuries earlier. Even though the German government could see the advantage of securing the loyalty of the Jewish people by giving them citizenship, their fellow German countrymen deeply resented this change in the social tradition.²³

THE SECOND REICH (1871–1918)

The Second Reich was formed in January 1871 when Prussian king William I was declared emperor of the united German states. The new German Empire, called the *Deutsches Kaiserreich*, retained most of the North German Confederation's constitutional provisions, and annexed the conquered French province of Alsace-Lorraine into their empire against the will of its French population.²⁴

At this time, Chancellor Otto von Bismarck led the German Empire into a direct confrontation with the Catholic Church that further ingrained the idea in German culture of their government's inherent authority over church doctrine. Bismarck strongly objected to the 1870 ruling of the First Vatican Council that conferred infallibility upon the office of the pope, so he led the German Catholic people to split off and form their own Old Catholic Church.²⁵ He did this more for political reasons than for any strong religious conviction.

Bismarck secularized marriage for the first time, removed Roman Catholic officials from government, and seized control of education from the church. In hindsight, these moves were the beginning of a trend toward preparing German citizens to replace the authority

of the church with a combined religious and political loyalty to the state.

A key philosophical foundation of Bismarck's approach to government authority was his belief that he needed to give the German people a "common enemy" in order to unify them and maintain control. This philosophy still remains the preferred way for dictators and despots to distract their people from internal problems and hold on to power.

Throughout his time as chancellor, Bismarck chose various "enemies" to unite the German people. First with foreign wars, then by fighting the Roman Catholic Church, and later by targeting the socialist politics of Karl Marx.²⁶

In several ways, Otto von Bismarck paved the way for Adolf Hitler's ascension to power. Bismarck laid the groundwork for instituting the German state's national government. He gave the chancellorship supreme authority and effectively overturned centuries of local German political autonomy. Following Bismarck's model, Hitler recognized that the best way to secure control of the German people was to present a common enemy. Both men were ruthless, calculating, and determined to elevate the power of the state over the church.

German Nationalism

During the Second Reich, the growing nationalism of the German people demanded that the empire seek to expand. Bismarck had built his career out of provoking conflict with neighboring states in order to keep the German people unified under his leadership. However, in the later years of his rule, he found himself having to play an increasingly complicated game of substituting one fake enemy for another as he instigated minor conflicts along all of Germany's borders to appease factions within the empire.²⁷

Chancellor Bismarck governed for nearly twenty years, but failed to create a system of government that could survive once he was no longer holding the reins. When the original kaiser (emperor), William I, died and his son, the crown prince, died shortly afterward, the German Empire was left in the hands of a young emperor, William II, who had no loyalty to Bismarck. Asserting his constitutional authority, Emperor William II forced Bismarck to resign in 1890, which began the demise of the Second Reich.²⁸

However, the young emperor was unprepared to deal with the challenges Germany faced as it entered the twentieth century. Bismarck's two decades of cultivating war with France as a means to solidify the German people's nationalism resulted in a mutual animosity between the two countries. In addition, Germany found itself increasingly isolated from foreign allies who had been alienated by Bismarck's policies of hostility.

Emperor William II made a catastrophic miscalculation by not acknowledging the limits to Germany's power. While Bismarck had been wise enough to try to restrain the German people's appetite for imperial expansion, the new kaiser foolishly believed the conquest for new territory was his and Germany's supreme mandate.

By 1914, William II had gained popular support for a confrontation against France and Russia, setting in motion a military build-up that he was powerless to stop.²⁹ That June, World War I began, and it became a self-perpetuating calamity. It evolved into one of the deadliest conflicts in human history, with more than 16 million people losing their lives, including nearly 1.8 million Germans. Germany had expected the war to be over in six months; instead, it lasted four years.

In order to end the war and sign a peace agreement with the Allied powers, Germany was required to transition its government

to a constitutional monarchy. However, faced with an internal revolt, Emperor William II abdicated his throne.

As a result, the German party of the Socialist Democrats, combined with the established military leadership to form a new democratic republic.³⁰ This effectively ended the Second Reich, and introduced the disastrous period between 1918 and 1933 known as the Weimar Republic.

THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC (1918–1933)

The aftermath of World War I created feelings of humiliation, shame, frustration, and resentment among the German people, and it was the Weimar Republic that took the blame for it. In reality, those most responsible for the war and the accompanying economic disasters handed their fiasco over to this newly formed democracy, a type of government that had not previously existed in Germany. To make matters worse, the very essence of democracy found in the Weimar Bill of Right and free elections, which was now available to all German citizens including the Jewish people, had a devastating side effect. The repercussions of the war produced an aggressive increase in anti-Semitic sentiment among Germans who strongly resented their Jewish neighbors being given increased freedoms while they felt theirs had been stripped away.³¹

German Jews had bravely fought alongside their Christian counterparts during World War I. However, anti-Semitic propaganda was spewing a different tale. The Jews were portrayed as slackers who avoided fighting on the front lines. During the post–World War I revolution of 1918–1919, angry mobs in Munich and Berlin viciously attacked Jewish citizens.

Long before Hitler rose to power, the German people were already venting their frustrations and anger over losing the war by

blaming the Jews. The evil propaganda espoused by both the state and the church that had circulated in Germany for centuries had successfully persuaded average German citizens that all their problems could be rationally attributed to the Jews.

A DICHOTOMY OF MORALITY

By the late nineteenth century, Germany was one of the most cultured and educated countries in Europe. It published the most books, had the highest literacy rate, and housed some of the most prestigious institutions of higher education in the civilized world. This is the era into which Adolf Hitler was born.

During his reign, Hitler's top ten advisors were learned economists, lawyers, and philosophers. Others were recognized ambassadors and experts on world affairs. Another was a specialist in designing mass transportation and infrastructure. They had strong family units, enjoyed the arts, and were passionate about their beliefs. One could easily conclude that Hitler's inner circle was, at the very least, the best Germany had to offer.

However, during this same time, the state had elevated its power and prestige over the church. The so-called "guardians of Christianity" had morphed into something incredibly evil. Even though nearly 98 percent of the German population considered themselves Christians, it was becoming increasingly obvious that neither culture, education, nor religion guaranteed the making of a God-honoring society.

Christianity had eroded throughout Europe, and as the Third Reich rose to power, any religion that worshipped anyone above Hitler was unacceptable. The Nazis had their own brand of "religion"; it was the highest form of self-adulation since Lucifer fell from the Third Heaven.

Their ultimate goal was to oppose traditional Christian values

and replace them with a “reformed religion” that would fully incorporate Nazi principles. Instruction of conventional Christian doctrines in schools was first made optional, then altogether replaced with mandatory teachings about Nazi philosophies. Eventually, the crucifix was replaced with photos of Adolf Hitler as the Nazi regime became the new state religion of the Third Reich.

Hitler surrounded himself with an elite gang of fanatical yes-men. The führer’s neurotic leadership, coupled with the men’s obsessive commitment to his warped ideology, generated political, economic, and social institutions of legitimized terror, leading to the imminent annihilation of the Jewish people. These same highly intelligent and educated men, who were later found to be “normal” after receiving psychological exams during the Nuremberg trials, were participants in the most indescribable atrocities ever known to man against the Jewish people. Unbelievably, most claimed they were simply following orders and that their actions were warranted, while few regretted what they had done.

Yet, on the surface, everything seemed copasetic—everything appeared to be in excellent order. These men went to church and sang the hymns, worshipped baby Jesus, heard the homilies, and kissed the toe of the Virgin Mary. Then these monsters left their places of worship, and with cold-blooded deliberation commanded Mary’s descendants into the gas chambers and flung their dead bodies into the ovens.

These “guardians of Christianity” were actually sent by hell itself to destroy God’s Chosen.

THE RISE OF THE THIRD REICH (1933–1945)

The impact of the previous two Reichs had perfectly positioned the German people to accept and follow Adolf Hitler’s satanic cult called Nazism:

- The Holy Roman Empire established a mythology of grandeur among the German people that enabled centuries of their leaders to exploit the inherent national German pride in their superiority and right to safeguard the “Christian” culture of Europe.
- The struggle between the emperors of the First and Second Reichs and the Catholic Church had gradually established a tradition that placed the people’s ultimate loyalty in the hands of the state over the church, even in matters of deciding religious doctrine.
- The anti-Semitic policies pursued by the Holy Roman Empire and the Catholic Church and the Protestant Reformation, coupled with the propaganda taught during the Middle Ages, were later resurrected and used to remind German Christians that “the Jews have always been our enemy” and a threat to the stability of the nation.

By the time the Nazis came on the scene as a political force in the 1920s, Germany was split almost evenly between Catholics and Protestants. While Catholics had their own issues with anti-Semitic theology, Martin Luther’s legacy had trained Protestants to hate and despise the Jews just as much.

A strong element of economic jealousy was also prevalent within German anti-Semitism. After World War I, the ascent of the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (the Nazis) reinvigorated the old beliefs that Jews were unfairly profiting off their Christian neighbors.

Adolf Hitler was a product of his own time. He understood that his fellow countrymen were disillusioned with the status quo, and more than anything, Hitler desired Germany to regain world supremacy as it had during the First and Second Reichs. Undoubtedly, he was an admirer of Chancellor Bismarck, who was considered

a hero to the German nationalists and honored as the founder of the Second Reich.

Hitler was also fully convinced that the Jewish people were evil and were the perpetrators of all the failures his country had endured. It was not difficult for him to persuade the German people that the Jews were their enemies and worthy of the worst possible abuse.

The time was ripe for the birth of the Third Reich.

THE BLITZKRIEG OF A DEMONIC DICTATORSHIP

The following is a timeline of Hitler's meteoric rise to power and the numerous "decrees" he put into motion within days of winning his election in 1933. It is important to note that Hitler became both chancellor and führer of Germany in less than two years—taking total control of his evil empire. I have included this graphic representation to demonstrate how quickly the geopolitical climate of the world can change, ushering forth the Antichrist and his Fourth Reich.

THE BLITZKRIEG OF DICTATORSHIP

1889

Adolf Hitler born

1914–1918

- Hitler serves in World War I
- Promoted to corporal

1919–1920

Hitler joins German Workers' Party—renamed National Socialist German Workers' Party—Nazi

1921

Hitler Becomes Nazi Party Leader

- Party grows to 70,000 members
- Storm troopers (brownshirts) formed

1923–1925

- Hitler is imprisoned for leading a failed revolution against Weimar Republic
- Writes *Mein Kampf*

1925–1929

Hitler is released and reestablishes and reorganizes the Nazi Party

October 1929–January 29, 1933

The World Economic Crisis

- Begins the demise of the Weimar Republic democratic system
- One-third of labor force is unemployed

October 1929–January 29, 1933 (cont.)

- Article 48 of Constitution invoked to govern by “decree”
- German government now ruled by a presidential dictatorship
- Nazis and Communists deliberately create disorder and chaos in the streets
- Nazis deliberately and systematically intensify German anti-Semitism

January 30, 1933

- **Adolf Hitler appointed chancellor**
- Nazi Party gains a third of the seats in the Reichstag (parliament)
- Death of Weimar Republic

February 1, 1933

- “Decree for the Protection of the German People”**
- Prohibits public assembly or publications by parties not sanctioned by government
 - Rounds up Communists and Social Democrats, thereby crippling anti-government campaigns

February 8, 1933

Hitler approves rearmament and rebuilding of military forces

February 20, 1933

Hermann Göring secures financial backing from twenty leading German industrialists and financiers to rebuild and maintain economy

February 27, 1933

The Reichstag Fire

- Set by a mentally unstable 25-year-old male. Hitler uses it to blame Communists.

February 28, 1933

“Decree of the Reich President for the Protection of the People and State” (aka “Reichstag Fire Decree”)

This decree, which was never lifted during the twelve years of the Reich, *immediately*:

- Suspends free speech and freedom of the press
- Restricts right to public assembly and free association
- Suspends right to private postal correspondence and telephone communication
- Authorizes house searches and confiscation of property
- Allows imprisonment without trial
- Authorizes SA/SS to take over state police forces
- Provides the foundation for future injustices and atrocities against Jews

March 5, 1933

Joseph Goebbels Appointed Propaganda Chief

- Takes control of all forms of media outlets (film, radio, newspapers), fueling fear and distrust of Jews

Heinrich Himmler Appointed Head of SS

- The *Schutzstaffel* (or SS) is the “Protective Echelon” of the Nazi Party
- **Himmler opens the first concentration camp**
 - Social Democratic and Communist opponents are sent to the camp along with “intellectual elites” aka Jewish college professors who opposes the Nazi Party
 - “Führer Principle” is propagated—Hitler has all the solutions—whatever he says is right. Anyone questioning the führer commits treason and is either sent to the concentration camp or executed

March 23, 1933

“Law to Remove the Distress of the People and the State”

- Also known as the “Enabling Act”
- The chancellor is authorized to prepare laws
- The cabinet (handpicked by the chancellor) enacts the laws
- The official government paper, headed by Goebbels, publishes the decrees of the Reich
- The SS enforces the laws

April 7, 1933

“Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service”

- Immediately disqualifies all non-Aryans for civil service jobs. The law primarily targets:
 - Jews
 - individuals married to Jews
 - someone with one Jewish grandparent
- Allows the government to force anyone into retirement (Jewish sympathizers)
- Directly and immediately impacts faculty in schools and universities

May 2, 1933

Communist Workers’ Party Union Abolished

- All assets are seized
- Union is replaced by German Labor Front

July 14, 1933

“Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases”

- Compulsory sterilization for those the government deemed dangerous as sources of:
 - disease
 - racial pollution
 - criminal tendencies
 - genetically inferiority or impurity
 - incapacity to change due to bloodline

July 14, 1933 (cont.)

- Hitler combines his anti-Semitism with broader plans to purify the Aryan race

July 20, 1933**The Reich Concordat**

- The Reich is officially recognized by the Vatican as the Third Reich (Holy Roman Empire)
- The Nazi Party is declared the only legitimate political party in Germany—solidifying Hitler’s dictatorship

December 1, 1933**“Law to Ensure the Unity of Party and State”**

- Hitler states, “The National Socialist German Labor Party [Nazi Party] is the bearer of the concept of the German State and is inseparable from the state.”

1934**The Führer Principle**

- “Hitler is Germany and Germany is Hitler. Whatever he does is necessary. Whatever he does is successful. Clearly the führer has divine blessing.” (Rudolf Hess)

June 30–July 2, 1934

“Operation Hummingbird”

- The elimination of the SA’s (brownshirts) leadership through executions and targeted assassinations makes the SS the only paramilitary force with Heinrich Himmler, SS Commandant:
 - believes race purity can be achieved by eliminating “biological corruption”
 - declares SS officers have to be free of Jews in their genealogy from 1750 forward
 - maintains the right to approve or reject proposed marriages of members

September 10–16, 1935

Nuremberg Rally

- Establishes clear racial criterion for German citizens
- Bans intermarriage/sexual relations between German Jews and Aryan Germans

September 17, 1935

Systematic State Seizure of Jewish Property

- Confiscates all property and assets
- Restricts buying and selling of said property
- Expels families from Germany—penniless

November 9–10, 1938

Kristallnacht

- Nazis declare it was part of an international Jewish conspiracy
- Goebbels recommends “spontaneous” outbreak against Jews—countrywide campaign ensues
- 100 dead; 7,000 Jewish businesses and 267 synagogues destroyed

January 30, 1939

Hitler’s Prophecy

“Today I will once more be a prophet: If the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!” (Adolf Hitler)

September 1, 1939

- Germany invades Poland
- War in the European theatre begins

January 20, 1942

The Wannsee Conference and the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question”

- Himmler establishes special unit of the SS:
Einsatzkommandos—mobile killing units
 - mission: exterminate Jews, Polish intellectuals, Romanis, homosexuals, Communists, and NKVD (Russian police)
 - ultimate goal: to murder more than 11 million Jews, including those in England, Ireland, Finland, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland
- Himmler, now the authority over the Jewish Question, enlists Reinhard Heydrich and other specialists in the systematic deportation and killing of Jews on a massive scale

April 30, 1945

Adolf Hitler commits suicide

May 8, 1945

Victory in Europe is declared

**World War II—Cost of Human Life
in the European Theater Alone**

- Over 6 million Jews systematically murdered in ghettos and concentration camps
- 22 million soldiers killed
- Over 49.8 million civilians are murdered

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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