

## Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler (1889–1945) was the German leader of the Nazis during World War II. He was responsible for the Holocaust as well as starting World War II by invading Poland in 1939. Born in Austria, Hitler served in the German army during World War I. He was shocked by Germany's defeat. He became leader of the Nazi Party and used speeches to persuade people to follow his nationalist (promoting his country as the best) and anti-semitic (anti-Jewish) ideas. By criticizing Jews and political opponents for Germany's defeat and poverty after the war, he made it easy to blame them for the country's problems. Hitler eventually became dictator (ruler with no legal opposition) of Germany. World War II began when he moved his troops into Poland, and other countries moved to defend it. During the war, Hitler approved the murder of millions of people in what became known as the Holocaust. When the Russian army approached his bunker in Berlin, he locked himself in and eventually took his own life. Hitler has since become a symbol of evil for his acts.



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