

# Teaching *the* Holocaust AND OTHER GENOCIDES

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## Excerpts from *Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler

For Adolf Hitler, antisemitism was an unalterable creed, something which permeated his thinking and the thinking of the Nazi leadership. The Jew was Hitler's personal enemy, from his days in Vienna to his dying day in Berlin, where he called once more for the destruction of "the prisoner of all peoples: international Jewry." In *Mein Kampf*, written in 1925, Hitler displayed a violent antisemitism with roots in traditional and racial anti-Jewish attitudes.

- "The personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew . . ."
- "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 . . ."
- "With satanic joy in his face, the black-haired Jewish youth lurks in wait for the unsuspecting girl whom he defiles with his blood, thus stealing her from her people. With every means he tries to destroy the racial foundations of the people he has set out to subjugate. . . ."
- "In the course of the centuries their outward appearance had become Europeanized and had taken on a human look; in fact, I even took them for Germans . . ."
- "Wherever I went, I began to see Jews, and the more I saw, the more sharply they became distinguished in my eyes from the rest of humanity . . ."
- "The Jew was never in possession of a culture of his own, the foundations of his intellectual work was always provided by others . . ."
- "Culturally, he contaminates art, literature, the theater, makes a mockery of natural feeling, overthrows all concepts of beauty and sublimity, of the noble and the good, and instead drags men down into the sphere of his own base nature."
- "For a racially pure people which is conscious of its blood can never be enslaved by the Jew. In this world he will forever be master over bastards and bastards alone. And so he tries systematically to lower the racial level by a continuous poisoning of individuals."
- "The Jew is always a parasite in the body of other people. . . . He is and remains the typical parasite, a sponger who like a noxious bacillus keeps spreading as soon as a favorable medium invites him. And the effect of his existence is also like that of spongers; wherever he appears, the host people dies out after a shorter or longer period . . ."

Adolf Hitler, & Manheim, R. (1969). *Mein Kampf*. With an introduction by D.C. Watt, translated by Ralph Manheim. Hutchinson.