

Re-print of Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' unleashes row in Germany

1) BERLIN – For the first time since Adolf Hitler's death, Germany is publishing the Nazi leader's political **treatise** "Mein Kampf," unleashing a highly charged row over whether the text is an **inflammatory** racist **diatribe** or a useful educational tool.

2) The 70-year copyright on the text, written by Hitler between 1924 and 1926 and banned by **the Allies** at the end of World War II, expires at the end of the year, opening the way for a critical edition with explanatory sections and some 3,500 **annotations**.

3) In January the 2,000 page, two-volume work will go on sale after about three years of labor by scholars at Munich's Institute for Contemporary History.

4) Hitler wrote most of the first, highly **autobiographical**, volume while **incarcerated** in Landsberg prison after his failed Munich coup attempt in 1923. After his release, he wrote much of the second volume at his mountain retreat near Berchtesgaden.

5) In the book, a mix of personal experience and political ideology, he outlined his strategy. A best-seller after he became chancellor in 1933, it had by 1945 sold 12 million copies and been translated into 18 languages.

6) The publication is a big step for Germany, which is still struggling with the legacy of the Nazi era and the Holocaust.

7) Polls show deeply divided public opinion. A YouGov survey last month said 51 percent of Germans oppose a continuation of the ban. The state of Bavaria has until now repeatedly used the copyright transferred to it by the Allies to prevent a reprint.

8) Hitler biographer Peter Longerich told Reuters that Germans have reached a stage where taboos are being broken.

9) "We are probably entering a phase in which you can do more with Hitler and texts about him than you did 10 or 20 years ago. In the age of mass media, taboos are constantly broken and texts cannot be locked away," he told Reuters.

10) Other **watersheds** include the 2004 film "Downfall," which explored the last days of Hitler's life, to this year's hit film "Look Who's Back," an **adaptation** of a satirical novel about the reappearance of Hitler in modern times and becoming a celebrity.

11) Keenly aware of the controversy surrounding "Mein Kampf," the Munich institute has stressed that the aim is to **deconstruct** propaganda and undermine any symbolic power the book still has.

12) "The aim ... is to present 'Mein Kampf' as a **salient** source document for contemporary history, to describe the context of the **genesis** of Hitler's world view," it said.

13) To prevent any commercial exploitation of the sensitive text, the Institute is self-publishing. The first print run is expected to be up to about 4,000 copies.

14) The Central Council of Jews in Germany has reservations, arguing the text, described by some community leaders as an "anti-**Semitic** diatribe," should remain banned.

15) "After the expiry of the copyright, there is a very big risk that this sorry effort of a work will be more widely available," Council President Josef Schuster said in a statement.

16) Yet Schuster acknowledged that understanding it is important in explaining Nazism and the Holocaust. "So there is nothing to object to if an academic edition with commentary is available for research and teaching," he added.

17) German authorities have made clear anyone reprinting an unedited version will be subject to incitement laws.

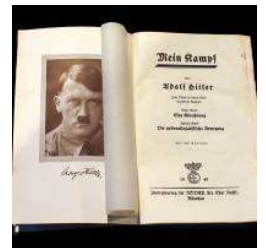
18) But Germany's teachers association wants it used in schools.

19) "A professional treatment of excerpts in lessons can help immunize against political extremism," association head Josef Kraus told Handelsblatt. 【Dec 24, 2015/Reuters】

1 **treatise** 論文 **inflammatory** 扇動的な **diatribe** 痛烈な非難 2 **the Allies** 連合軍 **critical edition** 校訂版 **annotation** 注釈 4 **autobiographical** 自叙伝風の **incarcerate** 投獄する 10 **watershed** 分岐点、転機 **adaptation** 改作、脚色 11 **deconstruct** 脱構築理論を用いて論ずる 12 **salient** 顕著な **genesis** 起こり 14 **Semitic** ユダヤ人の

★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. What do you know about Hitler? What was his ideology?
2. Why is his book been banned?
3. What can you say about the reprinting of Hitler's autobiography?
4. The article mentioned about mass media breaking taboos. Please comment on this statement.
5. If you were a teacher, would you like to use the book in the class?
Which level of education do you think will it be suitable?
6. Make sentences using the following words: row, inflammatory, autobiographical, incarcerate, watershed, adaptation, genesis, Semitic and propaganda.



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