

The Hitler Book – The secret dossier prepared for Stalin from the interrogations of Hitler's closest personal aides. Edited by Henrik Eberle and Matthias Uhl with a foreword by Richard Overy.  
John Murray 2005.

The Third Reich in Power by Richard J. Evans.  
Penguin Allen Lane 2005.

The passage of time does not dim the steady flow of books about the Third Reich, the enormity of its crimes and the life and career of its major protagonists. The quality varies as much as the subject matter, and occasionally a book is published which – much to one's surprise that such a thing is possible – manages to be different.

*The Hitler Book* is one such text, based as it is on material gathered by the Soviet secret police in 1945 and 1946 for an NKVD dossier with the eponymous title. While much of the broader information is known from other sources what makes the Hitler Book truly compelling is the very personal material it contains about Hitler and his inner circle, covering the war years but most particularly its final months when everything was falling apart outside and inside the Führerbunker, and about Hitler's suicide and the deaths of his closest aides.

*The Third Reich in Power* is the second volume in Professor Richard Evans' extraordinary and magisterial trilogy about the reign of Germany's most infamous leader. The first volume dealt with the Nazis' rise to power, this covers the period from the summer of 1933 to the outbreak of war in 1939. As with its predecessor, the detail in *The Third Reich in Power* is exhaustive without being overwhelming, and Evans' style is such as to move the reader along easily as the events, some of them deeply disturbing, unfold. There are copious notes to each chapter and a magnificent bibliography for those wishing to do further reading.

On the strength of the second volume once the trilogy is finished it will be an unsurpassable record of Europe's most terrible period during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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