**Adolf Hitler (Mein Kampf) or My Struggle**

In November 1923, Hitler attempted to overthrow the state government in Bavaria as the first step in bringing down the German Republic. But the Nazis quickly scattered when the Bavarian police opened fire. Hitler was arrested and sentenced to five years’ imprisonment – he served only nine months. While in prison, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* in which he presented his views. The book came to be regarded as an authoritative expression of the Nazi world-view and served as a kind of sacred writing for the Nazi movement.

Hitler thought- a patchwork of nineteenth century anti-Semitic, Social Darwinist ideas – contrasted sharply with the core values of both the Christian and Enlightenment traditions. Central to Hitler’s views, was a racial mythology: a heroic Germanic race that was descended from the ancient Aryans who once swept across Europe, and was battling for survival against racial inferiors. In the following passages excerpted from *Mein Kampf*, Hitler presents his views of race, of propaganda, and of the Nazi territorial goals.

**THE PRIMACY OF RACE**

The Aryan people of North America, whose population consists in by far the largest part of Germanic elements who mixed but little with colored peoples, shows a different culture than from the cultures of South and Central America. The Germanic inhabitant of the American Continent, who has remained racially pure and unmixed, rose to be the master of the continent; he will remain the master as long as he does not fall a victim to mixing of the blood. The result of racial mixing is the following:

1. Lowering of the level of the higher race
2. Physical and intellectual regression and hence the beginning of a sickness

Blood mixture results in a drop of the racial level and the sole cause of dying cultures; for men do not perish as a result of lost wars, but by the loss of resistance which is contained only in pure blood.

A state which in this age of racial poisoning dedicates itself to the care of its best racial elements must dome day become lord of the earth….

(Hitler believed in the white Aryan race who is pure and should not racially mix with any other people. A mixing of any kind results in an inferior race and a loss of power.)

**ANTI-SEMITISM**

The mightiest counterpart to the Aryan is the Jew… The Jewish people, despite all apparent intellectually qualities, is without any true culture, and especially without any culture of its own. For what culture they do possess is the property of other peoples, and for the most part it is ruined in his hands.......and so the Jew today is the greatest agitator for the complete destruction of Germany…

**PROPAGANDA**

The receptivity of the great masses is very limited, their intelligence is small, but their power of forgetting is enormous. In consequence of these facts, all effective propaganda must be limited to a very few points and must harp on these slogans until the last member of the public understands what you want them to understand by your slogan…

(Hitler believed that the masses could only hold on to a few basic points and you could not talk about a many-sided topic. Keep it simple, short, and repeat the same point over and over again until everyone remembers what you said)

**LEBENSRAUM** (Living Space)

Only an adequately large space on this earth assures a nation of freedom of existence…If we speak of soil in Europe today, we can primarily have in mind only Russia and her border states…

(Hitler believes that living space is the one of the reasons why Germany must expand and conquer other countries.)

Questions to answer:

1. What was Hitler imprisoned for?
2. According to Hitler, who is the true dominant race?
3. What are the 4 basic points made in the excerpts from *Mein Kampf*?
4. According to Hitler, what are the 2 results in the Primacy of Race?
5. The Aryan Race will be racially inferior if what happens?
6. Who is the mightiest counterpart to the Aryans?
7. What does he think about the ordinary person?