

Hitler's Speeches

A. Speech at Munich on March 15, 1929 to the German citizens (voters) and military

If men wish to live, then they are forced to kill others. The entire struggle for survival is a conquest of the means of existence, which in turn results in the elimination of others from these same sources of subsistence. As long as there are peoples on this earth, there will be nations against nations and they will be forced to protect their vital rights in the same way as the individual is forced to protect his rights.

One is either the hammer or the anvil. We confess that it is our purpose to prepare the German people again for the role of the hammer. We admit freely and openly that if our movement is victorious, we will be concerned day and night with the question of how to produce the armed forces, which are forbidden us by the peace treaty [Treaty of Versailles]. We solemnly confess that we consider everyone a scoundrel who does not try day and night to figure out a way to violate this treaty, for we have never recognized this treaty...We will take every step which strengthens our arms, which augments the number of our forces, and which increases the strength of our people. We confess further that we will dash anyone to pieces who should dare hinder us in this undertaking...Our rights will be protected only when the German Reich [country] is again supported by the point of the German dagger...

B. Speech at Nuremberg, September 14, 1935 at Hitler Youth rally

Nothing is possible unless one will commands, a will which has to be obeyed by others, beginning at the top and ending only at the very bottom. This is the expression of an authoritarian state – not of a weak, babbling democracy – of an authoritarian state where everyone is proud to obey, because he knows: I will likewise be obeyed when I must take command.

C. Speech in Austria, April 9, 1938 German voters

To justify the annexation of Austria, Hitler called for a public vote on whether the unification should stand. This is an excerpt from a speech he gave on April 9, 1938, the day before the vote. As Hitler points out in his speech, he himself was born, and grew up, in Austria.

When one day we shall be no more, then the coming generations shall be able to look back with pride upon this day, the day on which a great Volk affirmed the German community. In the past, millions of German men shed their blood for this Reich. How merciful a fate to be allowed to create this Reich today without a suffering. Now, rise, German Volk, subscribe to it, hold it tightly in your hands! I wish to thank Him who allowed me to return to my homeland so that I could return it to my German Reich! May every German realize the importance of the hour tomorrow, assess it and then bow his head in reverence before the will of the Almighty who has wrought this miracle in all of us within these past few weeks.

Vocabulary:

Volk: Folk. Hitler used this word to refer to the all Germans in the world

Reich: Kingdom. This is the word Hitler used to refer to the country of Germany.

Questions

1. For what audience was each speech written?

2. For what occasion or purpose was each speech written?

3. Aspects of the speech:
 - a. List three literary/rhetorical devices the speaker uses, and explain the effect of each on the speech as a whole:

 - b. Identify the method(s) of organization the speaker uses, and explain the effect of each on the speech as a whole:

 - c. What evidence in the speech helps you to know why it was written?

 - d. Write a question to the speaker that is left unanswered by the speech.

4. What kinds of arguments are used?

5. What kinds of propaganda techniques (bandwagon, plain folks, testimonials) are used?

Give one example of each, if possible.

6. What kinds of appeals (ethos, pathos, and logos) are used in the speech?

Give one example of each, if possible.

7. Why do you think the specific appeals were chosen and arranged as they were?

8. In one sentence, describe the author's style of writing.

9. Summarize the speech (be sure to include the speaker's purpose, intended audience, content, and tone).