

Hitler's Speeches Key

A. Speech at Munich on March 15, 1929

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

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

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?
 - 1) The German citizens (voters) and military
 - 2) Hitler Youth rally
 - 3) German voters

2. For what occasion or purpose was each speech written?
 - 1) To persuade the German citizens and army to join his party and follow his commands. He is stating that the German Reich will again become the hammer and beat down its' enemies. He plans to do everything in his power to defeat the Treaty of Versailles (which denied them the ability to build a bigger army). He states that those who try to defeat this attempt will be destroyed.
 - 2) To persuade the people to obey his command. That they should be proud to obey just as one day they may be obeyed by others.
 - 3) To support his annexation of Austria (unification). He states that this vote will be a bloodless unification. One that future generations of Germans will recognize with pride.

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:
 - 1) Analogy: Germany = hammer; enemies = anvil
 - 2) Paradox: "If men wish to live, then they are forced to kill others."
 - 3) Hyperbole: "we will dash anyone to pieces who dares to hinder us..."

 - b. Identify the method(s) of organization the speaker uses, and explain the effect of each on the speech as a whole: Chronological; Problem Solution; Cause/Effect; Spatial; Comparison/Contrast
 - 1) Problem/Solution - A. kill to live B. Defeat the Treaty of Versailles
 - 2) Causal - One has to obey commanders. To command is to first obey.
 - 3) Causal - vote yes for a unified Germany

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

Highlighted areas

- d. Write a question to the speaker that is left unanswered by the speech.
 - 1) Is there no other solution to survival than killing?
 - 2) Is there never room for a mediator to solve differences?
 - 3) Why was Germany forbidden to produce armies?
 - 4) Is obedience blind?
 - 5) Can't refusal to obey be allowed in certain circumstances?
 - 6) How do the Austrians feel about unification?

4. What kinds of arguments are used?
logical, emotional
5. What kinds of propaganda techniques (bandwagon, plain folks, testimonials) are used?
Bandwagon in all three - everybody needs to get onboard with his policies.
Transfer - killing people is okay if it is in the interest of survival of your kind
Name calling - democracy is weak and babbling, compared to an authoritarian state
Plain Folks - God allowed him to return to his homeland (theirs also)

Give one example of each, if possible.

6. What kinds of appeals (ethos, pathos, and logos) are used in the speech?
ethos - refers to the “we” of the Nazi party and what they plan to do
logos - those in command must be obeyed
pathos - future generations will be proud of your actions for unification

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.

Expository, **Persuasive**, Descriptive, Narrative

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