

# Booklist

Ascent of Evil: The Story of Mein Kampf.

July 2017. 52min. EPF Media, DVD, \$100.

REVIEW. First published August 7, 2017 (Booklist Online).

Written during Adolf Hitler's imprisonment for treason in the 1930s, Mein Kampf (My Struggle) is still widely available. In this thought-provoking documentary, interviewed historians from Germany and France (in voice-over translation) see the book as a blueprint for Hitler's advance into Europe. Onscreen excerpts highlight Hitler's disdain for Jews and struggle to preserve racial purity. Though the book was first dismissed as a political rant, it became increasingly popular as Hitler's power grew. It eventually was required reading for German students and given away free to the general public, boosting circulation. Although other countries were not eager to engage in war, world leaders grew increasingly concerned. Filled with archival war and postwar footage and thoughtful commentary, this program underscores the power of the written word to shape political thought. Includes an extensive study guide. Candace Smith

This title has been recommended for young adult readers:

YA/General Interest: Interesting overview of Hitler's rise in Germany and the beginnings of WWII for older history students. —Candace Smith