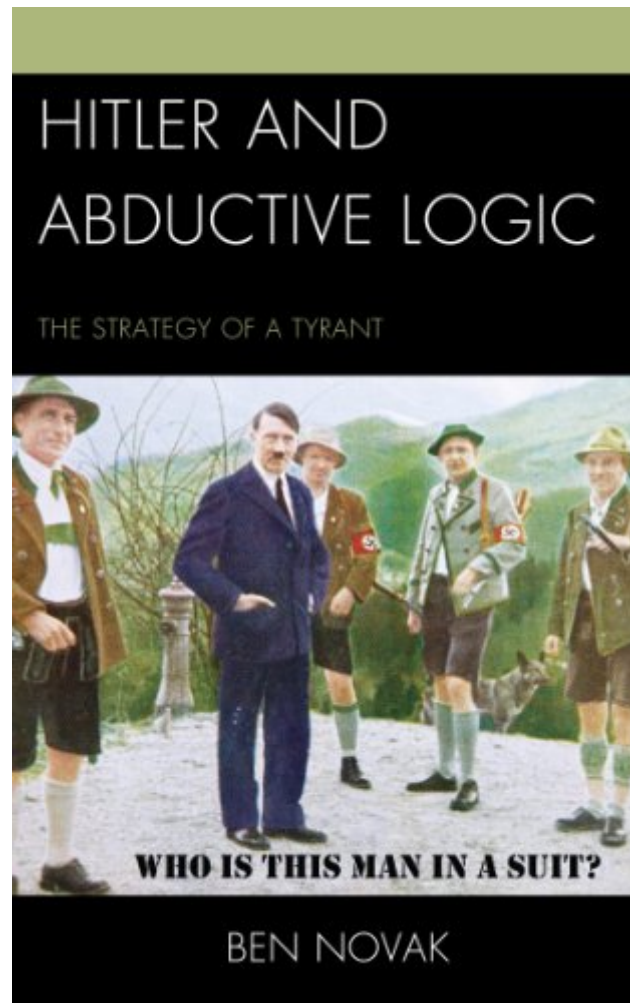


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Hitler And Abductive Logic: The Strategy Of A Tyrant



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

Anyone who has read a couple of the major biographies of Adolf Hitler cannot fail to note how mysterious they make the man. Joachim Fest says he is an unperson whose personality scarcely arouses our attention, while Ian Kershaw says that he has no personality, no private life, and is a void. Yet this nobody, this nothing in a few years created the largest, most disciplined mass movement in European history dedicated to little more than the advancement of this one person's career. How did this man do it? The historians and biographers leave us scratching our heads. Finally, Ben Novak presents an explanation. Hitler's personality was imbued and permeated by a new form of logic that had burst on the stage at about the time Hitler was born, in the form of Sherlock Holmes detective stories. Hitler saw the potential of applying the same logic that made Holmes famous to politics. To Hitler, politics was just a series of cases to solve. Novak shows how Hitler shaped his worldview, his speeches, his book, and his political movement using this logic. But

there is more. Rather than just arguing that Hitler learned and used a certain form of logic that gave him the advantage over all of his rivals and opponents, there is a second part of Novak's book that may be even more valuable. In the later chapters of the work, he applies abductive logic to solving some of the mysteries of Hitler's youth that have baffled all scholars. In doing so, Novak shows how abductive logic is a vital part of Karl May's stories, which Hitler read incessantly as a youth, and how these would have affected his schooling and the development of his burgeoning mind. All in all, this is the first book on Hitler that makes any sense of the man and his effects in history.

As an amateur in the field of both abductive logic and the specifics of Adolf Hitler's rise to power, Ben Novak's treatment of both subjects was surprisingly accessible. It was originally written as Novak's PhD dissertation and has been adapted and expanded in book form to make it even easier reading for the average person. In short, it's not the sort of dry, dense tome too often characteristic of academia. The book seeks to convey, first, an understanding of "abductive logic" as a third form of logic in addition to inductive and deductive logic. And second, it suggests how demagogues like Hitler may have used abduction to achieve their rise to power. If you're not at all familiar with the difference between the three forms of logic, start here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abductive_reasoningIn Chapter 1, Novak raises the stark question of how historians and biographers tend to treat Hitler as a sort of mysterious and inexplicable figure. The point, of course, is that to explain such an historically significant tyrant like Hitler as "inexplicable" is really no explanation whatsoever. In Chapter 2 Novak introduces abductive logic as a new and different form of logic, and one Hitler used to such great and terrible effect. It's Novak's hypothesis, then, that Hitler's political success and global and historical disastrousness can be attributed to how he used abduction to defeat his political opponents and confound historians. This book is a great introduction to abductive logic both in theory and in practice.

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