

# Echoes of Destiny: Unveiling Adolf Hitler's Childhood Struggles in Mein Kampf

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## Abstract

This paper explores the early life of Adolf Hitler as narrated in his autobiography "Mein Kampf," focusing on the formative experiences that shaped his aspirations and ideology. It delves into Hitler's childhood in Austria examining the impact of familial struggles, personal losses, and societal influences on his character. The narrative unfolds through key milestones, such as Hitler's pursuit of art, the rejection from the Academy of Arts, and his descent into poverty in Vienna. The paper emphasises Hitler's evolving worldview fueled by a desire to unite Germany and Austria, and analyses the socio-economic challenges that contributed to his radicalization. Through Hitler's lens, the paper sheds light on the transformative moments that ultimately shaped one of history's most infamous figures

## Keywords

Adolf Hitler Childhood, Personal Losses, Academy of arts, Poverty in Vienna.

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Adolf begins his autobiography "The Mein Kampf" [My Struggle] by saying "My destiny was born in Austria in Braunau Am Inn". Why must be said that fate, When everyone loves their hometown, Adolf also did not hate his country. He hated the fact that his country was divided into two parts. Adolf's aim is to unite Germany and Austria together and to make Germany a world power. Adolf wants to unite Austria with Germany not only for economic development but to unite the Germans. The politicians of other countries are dividing us for their political benefits. The Germans in Austria had to join hands with Germany. He wanted the body of the Germans to be buried in Germany.

In 20th April 1889 Adolf was born to Alois Hitler and Clara couple as a fourth child. . Every child is good by birth but the child's character changes according to their parents, friends, and the environment in which the child lives. It is impossible for a human to become a bad human in a single day. Some critical situation pushes human to do bad things. Adolf became a tyrant because of the many sufferings he faced during his childhood. Adolf at a young age saw the death of his three brothers and a sister. It was a first and a great loss for Adolf.

Also Adolf's parents did not supported him. Adolf's father was a drunkard. So, Hitler's father drunk daily and beat Adolf and his mother Clara. Adolf's family doctor Endowed says that Clara would take Adolf to him when she was beaten by his father. Clara asks the doctor to treat Adolf even though she had been wounded severely than Adolf. Doctor Endowed also says that he did not see any family love like Adolf's mother had for Adolf. Days pass and Adolf goes to high school. There Adolf comes to understand the purpose of his life. Hitler's history teacher is "Dr. Leopold Poetsch" in the

Linz school where he studied.

Dr. Leopold Poetsch loved Germany very much. We can understand how much Dr. Leopold pouch loves German and German nationalism from his teaching. What does German nationalism mean? Before Germany and Austria were the same countries namely Germany. Due to some conflict, Germany and Austria were divided. But the people from Germany and Austria were speaking the same language, they come from the same native place. When Germany and Austria join together, then only Germany will become powerful. People who firmly to the annexation of Germany and Austria is known as German nationalist. Adolf's history teacher Leopold Poetsch was one of them.

Adolf learns many lessons from his history teacher Poetsch. So Adolf also gets that fire from his teacher. Since his childhood he has a desire of making a powerful place like German which cannot be defeated by any other country. Adolf's father died when he reached the age of 13. But he continued his school with the help of his mother's supportiveness. Because of his father's desire. Adolf's father wishes him to become a good position in the Civil Service. But Adolf does not like to go to school. Shortly after his father's death, Adolf was affected by lung disease. Because of this lung disease, Adolf did not go to school for one year. Later Adolf comes to Vienna in Germany. Adolf at the age of 16 came to Vienna in Germany with some of his paintings, because Adolf chooses the field of painting and art. So, He came to the "Academy of Arts" in Vienna in Germany.

Despite lacking friends or relatives in the city, Adolf harbored a conviction that he would be chosen as one of the 28 students. Armed with his ten finest paintings, Adolf approached the entrance exam fueled by his lifelong aspiration

to become an artist, with no alternative path in mind. However, news of his mother's passing marked the second devastating loss in his life, prompting Adolf's return to his hometown. His mother's demise abruptly halted all his grand plans, succumbing to a prolonged and hopeless illness. Although he had revered his father, Adolf's love for his mother intensified the impact of her death, leaving him facing a swift and daunting decision. With his father's modest savings depleted by his mother's illness, Adolf's orphan's pension barely sustained him, compelling him to fend for himself. Armed with only a bag of clothes and an unwavering determination, Adolf returned to Vienna, intending to settle there for the foreseeable future.

Hoping to emulate his father's achievements from half a century before, Adolf found himself in the enchanting city once again, brimming with anticipation, impatience, and unwavering confidence as he awaited the results of his entrance exam. However, the news of his rejection hit him like a sudden bolt of lightning. Determined to understand the reason behind this unexpected outcome, he sought counsel from the head of the Academy, who pointed out that while his drawings lacked the finesse for painting, his true talent lay in architecture. Despite the disappointment of being denied entry into the School of painting, Adolf was intrigued by the newfound revelation about his potential in architecture, despite having never received formal instruction in the field. Departing from Hansen's magnificent building, Adolf grappled with a newfound inner conflict, sparked by the sudden clarity about his abilities, which had eluded him for some time. Within days, he embraced the belief that he would one day become an architect.

As he contemplates the path ahead, Adolf realizes the enormity of the challenges before him. The obstacles he had once stubbornly overlooked during his secondary school years now loom large, exacting a bitter toll. Admission to the Vienna School of Architecture necessitated attendance at the Building School of Technology, which, in turn, required graduation and passing final exams from an intermediate school—credentials Adolf lacked. It appeared that his cherished dream of pursuing art was now rendered seemingly impossible.

Adolf drew inspiration from his father's journey, from a humble farm boy and shoemaker to a respected state official, believing that his own upbringing provided even richer soil for success. Despite the formidable obstacles ahead, Adolf was determined to overcome them, fueled by the memory of his father's resilience. His early experiences, rooted in Braunau Am Inn, shaped his worldview profoundly. With a fervent desire to unite Germany and Austria, he expressed both love for his country and frustration at its division. The challenges of losing siblings and enduring difficult family circumstances further molded his tumultuous childhood.

Hitler's teacher, Dr. Leopold Poetsch, instilled in him a strong sense of German nationalism emphasising the historical unity of Germany and Austria. Despite facing rejection from the Academy of Arts in Vienna, Hitler redirected his am-

bitions toward architecture and was influenced by his father's journey from a farm boy to a state official.

Vienna became a testing ground for Hitler's resilience, where poverty and hunger accompanied his pursuit of artistic endeavours. This period exposed him to a different facets of life, breaking the confines of his lower-middle-class upbringing. The challenges shaped his perception of people and the world. In essence, Hitler's early life planted seeds of both ambition and resentment, which would later contribute to his controversial and destructive ideologies.

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