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Adolf Hitler Papers. Inclusive: 1938-1943 Bulk: 1938-1943

Summary Information

Creator	Hitler, Adolf, 1889 - 1945 Thierack, Otto Georg, 1889 - 1946
Extent (quantity/size)	2 folders
Language	German
Abstract	The Adolf Hitler Papers contain two documents signed by the Chancellor of the Third Reich, Adolf Hitler.

Subjects

Germany -- Politics and government -- 1933-1945. / Hitler, Adolf, -- 1889-1945. / Law -- Germany -- History. / Thierack, Otto Georg, -- 1889-1946. / World War, 1939-1945.

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Adolf Hitler Papers, #965, Box #1, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information Described by Adina Johnson and released on 2012-10-19. Materials inventoried by Adina Johnson.

Scope and Content

The Adolf Hitler Papers were acquired by a transfer from uncatalogued holdings on 1974 November 12. This collection includes two documents signed by Adolf Hitler, a New Year's Greeting from 1938 and a legal appointment from 1943.

Administrative/Biographical History

The Adolf Hitler Papers provide a unique insight into Hitler's leadership in Nazi Germany. Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria on 1889 April 20. After failing twice to be admitted to the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Hitler moved to Munich in 1913. At the outbreak of World War I, he volunteered for the German Army. After the war, Hitler became active in politics, joining the German Worker's Party. In 1920 he became head of propaganda for that organization, and it soon became known as the National-sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NAZI) Party. By 1930, the Nazi party held over 18 percent of the popular vote in Germany, and on 1933 January 30, President Hindenburg proclaimed Hitler the new Chancellor of Germany.

In 1934, Chancellor Hitler created the "Volksgerichtshof," "People's Court," which would become a means for legal action against anyone who dared to disagree with the Nazi regime. By 1938, Hitler limited his cabinet only to Nazi party members. In January 1938 he wrote a New Year's greeting to the German people, a hand-signed greeting that is included in these papers. In the following years, Hitler would lead the German nation and the Nazi party to invade Poland and Czechoslovakia, actions that were catalysts for World War II.

Throughout the war, Hitler maintained a personal role in all leadership decisions within the Reich. His appointment of Jakob Hauptenthal to Court Judge, bearing the Nazi seal, is included in these papers. Faced with the invasion of Allied troops on 1945 April 30, Hitler and his Mistress Eva Braun committed suicide in their bunker.

Little is known about Hitler's court appointee, Jakob Hauptenthal. At the time of his appointment, he was a "Gerichtsassessor," (Court Assessor or Deputy Judge) meaning he was "Aryan", considered to be politically reliable by the Nazis, and had passed a legal examination before the central board. The position to which he was appointed was, "Amtsgerichtsrat" a local court judge. There were 2,052 local courts in the German legal system. Hauptenthal was never tried for any war crimes and served as a local magistrate in Daun, Germany, from 1951-1971.

Otto Georg Thierack also signed Hauptenthal's appointment. He was head of the Volksgerichtshof until 1942, when he became Hitler's Minister of Justice. Thierack wrote several "Letters to All Judges" which encouraged harsher punishments for Jews and others who opposed Nazi goals. He committed suicide on 1946 November 22, before he could be tried in the Nuremberg Trials.

Hitler's legacy remains one of dictatorship, terror, racism, and genocide. He was responsible for the Holocaust that killed millions, as well as countless other horrors. Because of this legacy, and the impact of World War II, Hitler is still seen as one of the most important figures in Western history. Thierack was considered to be one of his most loyal allies throughout Hitler's reign of terror.

Related Resources

Related citations

- "Adolf Hitler (dictator of Germany) -- Britannica Online Encyclopedia", n.d.
- Germany Army Service Forces Headquarters. "Army Service Forces Manual." *Civil Affairs Handbook: Germany 3* (February 29, 1944): [1].
- Herz, John H. "German Administration Under the Nazi Regime." *The American Political Science Review* 40, no. 4 (1946): 682-702. [periodical]
- "Hitler Ties Courts Close to the Party: Names Thierack, a Tried Nazi Henchman, Justice Minister -- Anxiety Held Indicated." *New York Times*, New York, N.Y., August 25, 1942. [newspaper]
- "The Justice Ministry For Consumer Protection--Rhineland." *Government. Daun--About Us*, October 12, 2012.

Luedke. "Drei Kugeln." Der Spiegel, October 21, 1968.

"Nazi Minister Promises To Make Laws to Order". New York Times, New York, N.Y., August 30, 1942. [newspaper]

"People's Court." Time 23, no. 20 (May 14, 1934): 23. Academic Search Complete, EBSCOhost (accessed October 12, 2012).

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "Background: First Letter to all Judges." Holocaust Encyclopedia, May 11, 2012.

Wachsmann, Nikolaus. "'Annihilation through Labor': The Killing of State Prisoners in the Third Reich." The Journal of Modern History 71, no. 3 (1999): 624-659. [periodical]

Archival Arrangement

Prior to this finding aid, the Adolf Hitler papers were not organized and there was no inventory of the collection. Currently, the Adolf Hitler Papers are arranged in one series: I. Literary Productions.

Series 1: Literary Productions. 1938-1943

Administrative/Biographical History

This series contains two documents related to Adolf Hitler's leadership of the Nazi party. First is an unaddressed, signed New Year's greeting from Hitler to the people of Germany, dated 1938. Second is a document appointing Jakob Hauptenthal to the position of Court Judge. This document is signed by Hitler and his Minister of Justice, Otto Thierack. It contains the Nazi seal. Also included with each document is a translation to English. This series is in good condition.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 1. Literary Productions: New Year's Greeting, 1938 January

Box 1. Folder 2. Literary Productions: Appointment, 1943 August 27