



# Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow

*By Susan Campbell Bartoletti*

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**Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow** By Susan Campbell Bartoletti

In her first full-length nonfiction title since winning the Robert F. Sibert Award, Susan Campbell Bartoletti explores the riveting and often chilling story of Germany's powerful Hitler Youth groups.

"I begin with the young. We older ones are used up . . . But my magnificent youngsters! Look at these men and boys! What material! With them, I can create a new world." --Adolf Hitler, Nuremberg 1933

By the time Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, 3.5 million children belonged to the Hitler Youth. It would become the largest youth group in history. Susan Campbell Bartoletti explores how Hitler gained the loyalty, trust, and passion of so many of Germany's young people. Her research includes telling interviews with surviving Hitler Youth members.

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## **Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow** By Susan Campbell Bartoletti Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 5-8—Hitler's plans for the future of Germany relied significantly on its young people, and this excellent history shows how he attempted to carry out his mission with the establishment of the Hitler Youth, or *Hitlerjugend*, in 1926. With a focus on the years between 1933 and the end of the war in 1945, Bartoletti explains the roles that millions of boys and girls unwittingly played in the horrors of the Third Reich. The book is structured around 12 young individuals and their experiences, which clearly demonstrate how they were victims of leaders who took advantage of their innocence and enthusiasm for evil means. Their stories evolve from patriotic devotion to Hitler and zeal to join, to doubt, confusion, and disillusion. (An epilogue adds a powerful what-became-of-them relevance.) The large period photographs are a primary component and they include Nazi propaganda showing happy and healthy teens as well as the reality of concentration camps and young people with large guns. The final chapter superbly summarizes the weighty significance of this part of the 20th century and challenges young readers to prevent history from repeating itself. Bartoletti lets many of the subjects' words, emotions, and deeds speak for themselves, bringing them together clearly to tell this story unlike anyone else has.—*Andrew Medlar, Chicago Public Library, IL*

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From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 7-10. What was it like to be a teenager in Germany under Hitler? Bartoletti draws on oral histories, diaries, letters, and her own extensive interviews with Holocaust survivors, Hitler Youth, resisters, and bystanders to tell the history from the viewpoints of people who were there. Most of the accounts and photos bring close the experiences of those who followed Hitler and fought for the Nazis, revealing why they joined, how Hitler used them, what it was like. Henry Mentelmann, for example, talks about Kristallnacht, when Hitler Youth and Storm Troopers wrecked Jewish homes and stores, and remembers thinking that the victims deserved what they got. The stirring photos tell more of the story. One particularly moving picture shows young Germans undergoing de-Nazification by watching images of people in the camps. The handsome book design, with black-and-white historical photos on every double-page spread, will draw in readers and help spark deep discussion, which will extend beyond the Holocaust curriculum. The extensive back matter is a part of the gripping narrative. *Hazel Rochman*  
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## **Review**

"Bartoletti (Kids on Strike!) offers a unique and riveting perspective on WWII by focusing on the young people who followed Hitler from 1933-1945....Bartoletti's portrait of individuals within the Hitler Youth who failed to realize that they served "a mass murderer" is convincing, and while it does not excuse the atrocities, it certainly will allow readers to comprehend the circumstances that led to the formation of Hitler's youngest zealots."

--Publishers Weekly, May 23, 2005

\*starred review\*

"Case studies of actual participants root the work in specifics, and clear prose, thorough documentation and an attractive format with well-chosen archival photographs make this nonfiction writing at its best....Superb."

--Kirkus Reviews, April 1st, 2005

\*starred review\*

"Hitler's plans for the future of Germany relied significantly on its young people, and this excellent history shows how he attempted to carry out his mission with the establishment of the Hitler Youth....Bartoletti lets many of the subjects' words, emotions, and deeds speak for themselves, bringing them together clearly to tell this story unlike anyone else has."

--School Library Journal, June 2005

\*starred review\*

The handsome book design, with stirring black-and-white historical photos on every double-page spread, will bring in readers and help spark deep discussion..."

--Booklist, April 15th, 2005

\*starred review\*

"With clarity and apt quotation (scrupulously sourced), Bartoletti takes readers from the prewar beginnings of Hitler Youth, through its significant role in gaining Hitler the government, to its ultimate position as a feeder for the German war machine....The power of the account is matched by the many period candid and propaganda photographs, well-married to the text by strong captions and placement and an unobtrusive but period-evocative Art Deco page design."

--The Horn Book, May / June 2005

\*starred review\*

"This solid offering deserves wide readership by today's young people, and it is certain to promote extensive discussion."

--The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, June 1st, 2005

\*starred review\*

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How could so many Germans go along with Hitler's inhumane public policies that led to

the deaths of millions? This book, through the testimony of youth, successfully answers

that question. The Hitler Youth program offered its often-irnpoverished members hope,

excitement, and even power. The dangling carrot of camping trips, uniforms, and parades

enraptures tens of thousands children. From the story of its first martyr to the executions of those who left its ranks in the war's waning years, the history of the organization, and

on a wider scale the story of the Holocaust, is told against the backdrop of Germany's

youth, used as campaigners, informants, laborers, and even soldiers. The program

infiltrated churches and schools and intimidated teachers and clerics to

conform to Nazi policies of anti-Semitism, book burning, and eradication of all things "non-German." As these policies became more outrageous, many tried to leave, but by then it had become dangerous to challenge the mob mentality

. This profusely illustrated book relates the stories of youth who were - and still are - supportive of Hider's deeds as well as those who resisted, and in some cases died , trying to sway public opinion. Heartbreaking photographs include images of the i

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lottie Jowers:**

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information today can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is inside the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow as the daily resource information.

#### **Vincent Cartagena:**

Often the book Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow will bring that you the new experience of reading the book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

#### **Joan Freeman:**

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their particular reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the books. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some study before they write to their book. One of them is this Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow.

**Richard Lawrence:**

Reading a book to be new life style in this yr; every people loves to learn a book. When you study a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow offer you a new experience in reading through a book.

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