

The Myth of the Twentieth Century

Alfred Rosenberg

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The Myth of the Twentieth Century (German: Der Mythus des zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts) by Alfred Rosenberg, one of the principal ideologues of the Nazi party and editor of the Nazi paper Volkischer Beobachter. It was the most influential Nazi text after Hitler's Mein Kampf. The titular "myth" is "the myth of blood, which under the sign of the swastika unchains the racial world-revolution. It is the awakening of the race soul, which after long sleep victoriously ends the race...

The Myth of the Twentieth Century Details

Date : Published December 1st 1982 by Legion for the Survival of Freedom (first published 1930)

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Dai	uma	says

Mind numbing garbage

Dan Mackay says

Historically interesting

Read this due to a historical interest in Nazi Germany. Explains the philosophy of Blood & Soil. Antisemitic and racist, but still an interesting read.

Gary Beauregard Bottomley says

Worst book ever! I heartily recommend it.

Ann Coulter and Laura Ingraham write just as hateful and incoherent books as this one was, but they are only read by watchers of Fox News, Brietbart and other alt-right followers of Donald Trump. This book made a difference and laid a foundation for the Nazis. Just as with Donald Trump it's hard to say which spawns which, did Trump enable the hate within people, or did the 48% who voted for him enable Trump and his alt-right ravings? Was Rosenberg the reflection or the image? (This book was a mega bestseller in its day).

If you want to understand what's happening in America and how we got to where we are now, I would strongly recommend this book. I despise 'exceptionalism' and 'patriotism' as paradigms for virtue. That's what the author is really getting at with his race based 'Nordic' and 'Aryan' superiority standpoint. The book is muddled and incoherent, but coherence is not necessary in order to sway people over to hate.

The book reads as if one was watching Sean Hannity. All one needs to do is change Jews or Negroes or Mulatto (that's Rosenberg's language of course) for Muslims, Mexicans or Immigrants. BTW, this week Hannity defended pedophilia while defending that Republican judge in the Alabama Senate race (11/15/2017). Even this book, didn't go that far.

Hannah Arendt in her book 'Totalitarians' mentioned this book and gave it a prominent role for its part it had in solidifying the Nazi movement. She also has a definition for the Enlightenment when paraphrased goes like this: "all people are humans". That is what this author (Rosenberg) and all followers of Donald Trump and fascist can't stand. Their belief in their own exceptionalism and patriotism means they are special because of who they were born as and therefore are more special, more human, than the other, and they are certain within their cult of epistemic closure and that for any knowledge of fact that disparages their world view it must be an alternative fact and must not be believed even if that means they will support a pedophiliac for senate!

There is a back-to-nature anti-technology theme within this book. This book is probably what Heidegger was

referring to in 'An Introduction to Metaphysics' when he was defending the Nazi movement in Germany and praising its return to folk ways. Also, the Unabomber within his Manifesto overlaps with a lot of thought that is within this book.

The author is weird. Jesus was not a Jew, he was Aryan, he'll say. Race is everything and blacks, Jews, and Mulattos are impure and inferior as are women and a whole lot of other such rubbish. Honor, duty, ideas, folk beliefs, and nationalism trump all values and the Pope can't be trusted and so on and so on. Within his mad ramblings there is large overlap with modern day Trump Republicans, fascist and alt-right haters in as much as they all despise humanism, democracy (equality and fairness), and modernity and believe freedom for the sake of freedom is an ultimate good. To them, only some people are human and those do not include brown, black, Muslim and anyone their special status deem as not members of their selective cult.

The author tosses around a lot of history misleadingly. He muddles his philosophies for his own end purpose of white supremacy. Meister Eckhart is his religious hero for his denial of self for the nation and a return to immanent truths within the individual not the community, he quotes Schopenhauer explicitly for his will as representation of the ideal (in case you haven't read Schopenhauer, he is very much attuned to Rev. Berkeley and they think it is our ideas that reign supreme not substance. Trump and his ilk dress their hate up in antimaterialism rhetoric also), and Nietzsche implicitly for his primal cry for instinct to return us back to 'folk values', Leibnitz for 'monads' being the window into the world and other such clap trap.

I would not attack him for his misreading of philosophy (or history) because the refutations would get lost in the trees and the forest is really his monstrous race based beliefs deriving from his German exceptionalism and patriotism (oh, if only the Germans weren't 'stabbed in the back' in 1919 by their Jewish bankers and their own leaders as he states! What a more Nordic world we could have all had! Or equivalently, the Trump backers and alt-righters belief to 'make America great again' since it has gone wrong in the past and they are afraid of the future because they don't understand the present!)

I do recommend this book if you hold your nose while reading it. It's by far one of the most influential books within the 20th century (I don't believe wiki when they say people bought it in Germany, but didn't read it. I believe they read it and assumed their neighbors did too) and modern hate differs little from the hate expressed in this book. Trump style Republicans and fascist never really change their core beliefs. Hate never goes out of fashion and they reach to the same playbook that is mostly within Rosenberg's book, but just with different characters which they make small in order to make themselves feel taller, and they hate seeing all people as humans because they are special and the others are not.

Claudia says

Ach du lieber Himmel... *feeling insulted*

Ich habs immer schon irgendwie gewusst, dass ich ein kulturell zurückgebliebener barocker alpenetrusker bin...

sowas krauses hab ich selten gelesen...

aber das mit den geflügelten etruskischen dämonen in den katholischen kirchen... das könnt doch irgendwie hinkommen...

Sunny says

i must admit to being pretty swayed by SOME of the thinking and stuff in this book, there is the obvious racist rhetoric that pulsates throughout the entirety of the book but im a sucker for books that come out with different angles on things that i took for absolute granted, the book is about nordic aryan superiorty and how the berbers of morocco, the Aryan indians, persians, greeks and a few other races all had that blonde haired blue eyed gene amalgamated in with their indigenous genes. The book talks about the warrior races of the nordic past and the myths that evolved around them as supposed to the unchallengeable role of intellectualism that penetrates most of the world today. It's heavily antijewish and claims that the jews and their capitalism that comes with them were responsible for a lot of the corruption that europe was gripped with. The book was very phlosophical in places but at the same time very assumptive about the unchallengable role that the nordic races should have and will one day play in the world. The book references a few other books that i have already ordered (Schleiermacher's soliloquies and language thought and reality). The book also talks a bit about protestantism and the deleterious effect of catholicism on the world. The book covers a lot and is fairly well written, challenging and in places ridiculous but certainly worth a read.

Lewis Weinstein says

This is Rosenberg's incomprehensible, unreadable and I think mostly unsuccessful attempt to cast Hitler's hatred in more scholarly form. He ranges pretentiously over a wide variety of topics with no regard for connection, consistency or truth. UTTER GARBAGE. Some examples ...

- Greedy for the goods of this world, the Jew moves from city to city, from land to land, and remains where he finds the least resistance to his parasitical business.
- The Jew sought domination and, until 1933, seemed stronger than us.
- Where any kind of wound is torn open in the body of a nation, the Jewish demon always eats itself into the infected part and, as a parasite, it exploits the weak hours of the great nations of this world.
- The emancipation of the Jews followed from the preaching of the insane idea of human equality.
- Every German and non German living in Germany who through word, writing and action makes himself guilty of insulting the German people will, depending upon the gravity of the case, be punished with imprisonment, jail, or death.
- the so called old testament must be abolished once and for all as a book of religion.
- England had conquered south Africa for the Jewish diamond dealers ... It had handed over control of all financial transactions to Jewish bankers ... It had allowed the opium trade to fall increasingly into Jewish hands.

Rosenberg reveals a fundamental fear of Jews, based on what I read as a clear sense of his own inferiority, much like Hitler's. All Jewish accomplishments must be viewed as the result of an unfair worldwide conspiracy to take advantage of the German (Christian) people. Only by exterminating the Jews like plague bacilli can the German people flourish.

• The law of the coming Reich will sweep here with an iron broom. It will fulfill the words of Lagarde concerning Jews. He said that one cannot convert plague bacilli, but must render them harmless as quickly as

possible.			

Leonardo says

"El tenebroso trasfondo ideológico que estaba en la raíz del nazismo apareció claramente, más que por el libro Mein Kampf'[Mi lucha] de Hitler, por la obra de Alfred Rosenberg, Mythus des 20. Jahrhunderts [Mito del siglo XX]. Este escrito vio la luz en 1930 en Munich, pero no empezó a gozar de celebridad hasta 1934." Franzen (pág.374)

Audie Alger says

Essential text for the liberal historiographer.