

Where did Hitler get the funds and the backing to achieve power in 1933 Germany?

Did these funds come only from prominent German bankers and industrialists or did they also come from foreign investors?

What was their motivation?

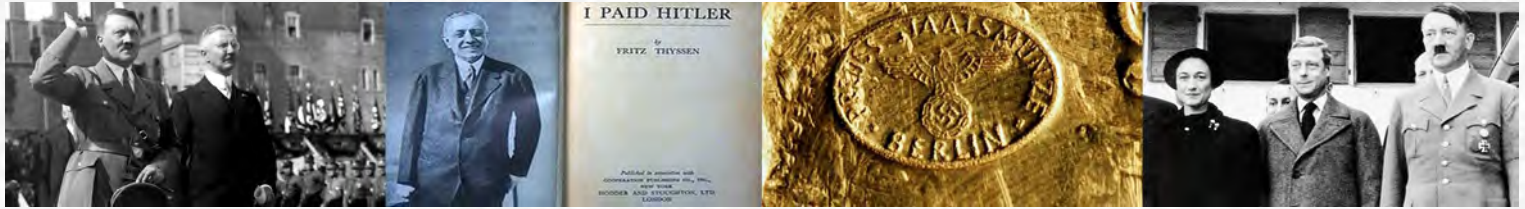
And were they aware of his plans and later atrocities?

HITLER'S
Money Trail
„the truth revealed“

4x48 min.
HD

MAIN CONCEPT: Where did Hitler get the funds to achieve power in 1933 Germany and finance his movement? Did these funds come only from prominent German bankers and industrialists or did they also come from foreign investors and upstanding corporations that exist today? What was their motivation? And were they aware of his plans and future atrocities?

SERIES DESCRIPTION: One can't fully understand or appreciate the cleverness and complexity involved with financing the rise of the Third Reich or the chilling connection between money, power, and terror in the twentieth century, until you uncover Hitler's Money trail. Based on recent investigations of forgotten and hidden documents and the discovery of secret bank funds in Switzerland, this series covers an often overlooked side of The Führer, often portrayed as the political and military leader, but rarely as the economist who managed to persuade and even intimidate investors, who bankrolled his rise within the Nazi party at first, the successful political campaigns that took him to power, and the subsequent remilitarization and expansion of the Third Reich. Referring to testimonials of well renowned specialists, revealing archives and dramatic reenactments, these 4 episodes unveil the complex financial network behind Hitler and the Nazi Party that spread well beyond German borders, comprised of well known financial, industrial and political figures, including Jewish investors. Were they aware of the imperialist ambitions, racial ideologies and the atrocities that were committed using their money? Discover the whole truth behind the story of the anonymous penniless Austrian immigrant that would turn a bankrupt country into a deadly threat to all of mankind.



MAIN TOPICS

- The legal and illegal methods Hitler used to get the funds to achieve power in 1933.
- The German managers who helped and executed Hitler's financial plans.
- The multi billion dollar profits made by German bankers and industrialists with their public and secret deals with Hitler and his associates.
- How concentration camps became suppliers of slave labor and the profits made from the Holocaust, for German investors and investors from Allied countries.
- Famous Nazi supporters and sympathizers from Allied countries like Edward VIII, his partner Wallis Simpson, Henry Ford and John D. Rockefeller.
- Allied country industrialists and bankers that kept dealing with Nazi Germany, establishing factories and offices in the Third Reich, and financing scientific experiments used on the inhabitants of the death camps.

METHOD & SOURCES

- Unique access to archive footage, dramatic recreation, exclusive interviews and graphics.
- Reenactments of individual stories bringing a fresh historical picture to life.
- Interviews with specialists, economists and experts.

Based on research of the experts: **Prof. Frank McDonough** (Liverpool University), **Prof. Thomas Weber** (Aberdeen University), **James Pool** (The Author of "Who financed Hitler")



EPISODE 1 - THE RISE OF THE NAZIS

In this episode we begin with a short introduction that takes us to post World War I Germany, where various small political movements were emerging as an answer to that period of instability, leading the government's intelligence to infiltrate these organizations in order to avoid their growth and prevent an eminent revolution or even a potential civil war. We will follow one of these special agents, ordered to closely watch a secret meeting of the DAP (German Worker's Party - the predecessor of the NSDAP, aka NAZI Party) in Munich. But instead of informing his superiors, he ended up embracing the party's ideals and would intervene in a discussion at one of the meetings, revealing great oratory skills and would even be invited to join the movement - his name was Adolf Hitler.

We follow the history of the party, not so much by repeating well-known and already well-documented facts, but from a financial perspective in looking for the sources of income and direct financiers who contributed to the growth of the party: the creation of its paramilitary militias and how these were used also to apply less legal methods to increase the party's financial resources, along with the sale of literature, newspapers and even daily products (including a brand of tobacco named Anti-Semit). We will try to identify its early members, including key people who, although not so prominent, played a major role in the financing of the party, not so much as investors but above all as managers and/or fundraisers like Franz Xaver Schwarz, Philipp Bouhler or Max Amann, who would become the financial brains behind Hitler.

Our research for the names of bankers, industrialists and businessmen that bankrolled the early Nazis leads us to an article published by the New York Times on 20 December 1922, accusing American industrialist Henry Ford of supporting the movement by financing the party's headquarters, the SA's uniforms and pistols, as well as two cars. We will also look into similar accusations that were made by the Berliner Tageblatt.

Yet it is known that in 1924, Henry Ford met with prominent Nazi Kurt Ludecke (who was introduced to him by Siegfried Wagner, the son of the composer Richard Wagner) and denied him support to his party. Were those news reports published 2 years before true and if yes, what was the reason for cancelling his support? We will also try to prove the veracity of Ford's claims that he wasn't the real author of his anti-semitic articles that would later be published in 4 volumes by the Nazis under the title "The International Jew".

The episode breaks in the Beer Hall Putsch that led to Hitler's imprisonment and almost to the extinguishment of the party, and tries to find who financed his exclusive privileged conditions in Landsberg prison.

Next we analyze the reorganization after Hitler's premature release, as well as the progress made in the German elections and compare the results with the investment made by other industrialists and bankers who joined.

This includes the sponsorship of Lufthansa, that allowed Hitler to tour all over Germany in an unprecedented number of cities that together with the frequent broadcasting of his speeches, increased his popularity massively.

Among the notable German investors, we will dedicate special attention to businessman Wilhelm Keppler who became a member of the party in 1927, industrialist Fritz Thyssen (even though he was a member of the German National People's party), and banker Hjalmar Schacht, the president of the Reichsbank, who would play a crucial role in the fundraising for the Nazi cause and the petition signed by other notable business people and industrialists requesting Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor.

This episode closes with the search for the truth behind a pamphlet published in Holland in 1933, written by "Sydney Warburg", the pen name of an anonymous insider who claims to have met the Nazis 3 times between 1929 and 1933, representing his own Warburg family, the JP Morgan's Guarantee Trust, John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Henri Deterding, while funding 32 million USD on their behalf. Through reenactments of the described meetings we will compare the accusations in the book, with proven facts and other unclassified documents that we will have exclusive access to, that can link the mentioned companies with Hitler's ascension to power.



EPISODE 2 - THE GERMAN REBIRTH

This episode begins with a small introduction of the first days of Hitler as Chancellor of Germany and the optimistic atmosphere that reigned in the country due to the apparent economic miracle that occurred in the following months, illustrated by archive footage from that period. This is a sequence that questions how it was possible for a country that was bankrupted by the harsh post-war compensation plans as well as the global economic crisis to perform such a recovery and at the same time become one of the most powerful armies in the world.

We will then illustrate how less than one month after becoming Chancellor, Hitler met secretly with 20 to 25 German industrialists at Hermann Göring's house on February the 20th. The aim of this meeting was to raise financial support for the following Federal Elections to be held on March the 5th. Through a dramatic reenactment we will reveal the names of the companies that pledged support to the Nazi cause, their motivations, as well as the financial amounts given to the party, including the dodgy payment methods used.

The foreign investors will also be revealed through the diaries of US Ambassador in Berlin William Dodd, where he describes in detail how representatives of American banks and companies met with him after Hitler took power and showed willingness to establish business relationships with the Reich. In one of the dramatizations we can actually even show how Henry Mann of the National City Bank and Winthrop W. Aldrich of the Chase Bank met directly with Hitler and how both declared their satisfaction to the diplomat.

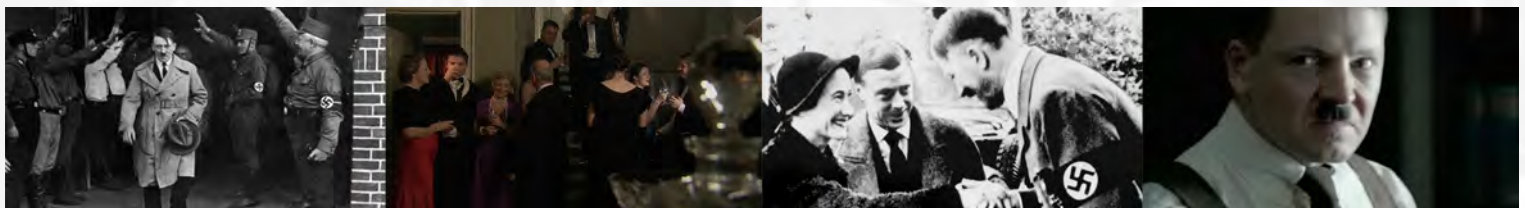
A description follows of how the Nazi regime managed to deal with the fulfillment of the promises made to the voters and succeeded in increasing the country's reputation and its people's pride, with an apparent economic miracle, that yet would be achieved thanks to a risky deficit financing scheme introduced by Reichsbank President Hjalmar Schacht and other methods applied by the regime, some of them even fraudulent or beyond legality.

The fact that Mefo bills (credit bonds used in the deficit financing) were used to dissimulate military expenses leads to the following investigation in this episode: the German rearmament. It will be proven which companies were involved in manufacturing military equipment, not only from inside Germany, like IG Farben, Friedrich Krupp AG (yet we will include the fact that Gustav Krupp was a former Nazi critic who would later turn into a fervent supporter) as well as foreign companies like Rockefeller's Standard Oil, which would give an important contribution for the development of synthesized replacements of fuel that would prove vital to the German war machine and even the already mentioned Ford GM, whose European factories would also manufacture trucks for the Wehrmacht.

It is also important to mention several foreign banks that would facilitate large transactions that ended up financing the Führer's ambitions, mainly those who served as a base for German industrialist Fritz Thyssen and we will look at recently declassified documents that put notable American figures like Prescott Bush (father and grandfather of both ex-presidents Bush) into Hitler's Money trail.

We will discover the relationship between Hitler and notable European monarchy, like the Dukes of Windsor or Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich of Russia. Were they really Nazi Monarchs or did the simple promise of restitution of the throne made by the Führer play a role? And was their support only political or was there some kind of financial contribution on their behalf? These are some of the questions that our researchers will try to answer.

This episode ends in the eve of the Second World War and the scandal of how Montagu Norman authorized that the Czechoslovak gold reserves that were trusted to the Bank of England through the BIS were handed to the German invaders. Why did he authorize this act of treachery and are the allegations that he was a Nazi sympathizer true? Recently declassified documents found by our investigation in Basel, Switzerland can give us the answer.



EPISODE 3 - THE BUSINESS OF WAR

This episode starts with a brief introduction about the invasion of Poland and the declaration of war from France and England, followed by the immediate expropriation of private properties as well as local businesses and industries that would soon give a major contribution to the German economy.

We will concentrate above all on the role of the former financiers of the Nazi party in the invasion and their reaction to the declaration of war, investigating if they either cancelled their support to the Nazis or on the contrary took benefits from it, like having their Polish assets untouched, local competition reduced or even extinguished and if some of the expropriated businesses and industries were given to them.

In the case of those partners who opposed the invasion we will describe the particular case of industrialist Fritz Thyssen, who ended up arrested and expelled from both the party and the Reichstag and had his companies nationalized.

While covering those who were pro invasion, special attention will be given to the foreign investors, especially those who may have been based in the countries who declared war on Germany and try to find out if there were any violations of the Trading with the Enemy act.

In the case of the American corporations that had either bankrolled the Nazis or were dealing with prominent Hitler's financiers in Germany, it will be investigated which ones actually profited from the German war effort, its territorial expansion and even possible slave labour while their country was neutral in the first years of the conflict.

We will reveal a report from a French government commission regarding the seizure of about one-hundred Jewish bank accounts in the French delegations of at least five American banks: Chase Manhattan, J.P Morgan, Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, Bank of the City of New York and American Express.

The episode continues with the aftermath of the attack in Pearl Harbour by looking deeply into which American corporations ceased their businesses with the Nazi regime and which ones carried on, including declassified documents that may prove that New York-based Union Banking Corporation (UBC), directed by Prescott Bush (father and grandfather of the 2 late American presidents of the same surname) was dealing with Thyssen's interests 8 months after the US entered the war.

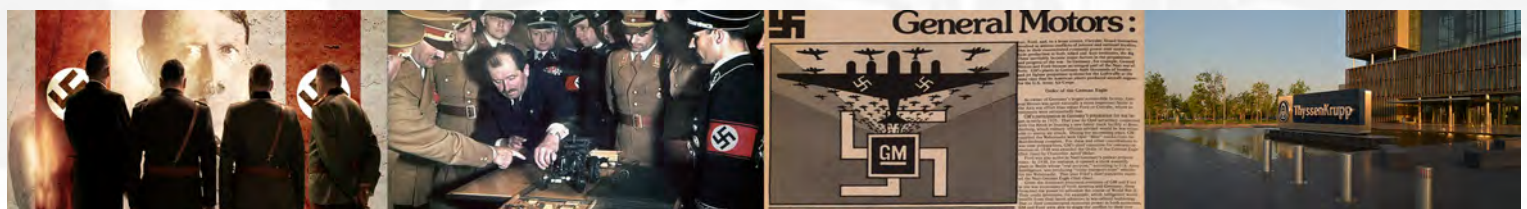
There will also be a close look at the friendship between former Reichsbank president Hjalmar Schacht and Bank of England's Governor Montagu Norman and the true story behind an alleged meeting between both in neutral Sweden.

This sets the tone for the role of the neutral countries like Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey in contributing to the German war effort by supplying metals essential for the production of armament and ammunitions or even other goods like canned food that would prove vital to the troops on the battlefield.

We will also find out how these countries were a good base for dummy companies that served as a front to cover secret deals from the Reich with other corporations and perhaps even nations, the bank system in neutral Switzerland being a key element in the Nazi money laundering scheme, and even the bank of the Vatican is supposed to be involved.

The Holocaust will not be forgotten and we will research how the extermination of 6.000.000 jews benefited several industries and businesses in Germany and perhaps even abroad, either through the plunder of Jewish properties and businesses or the use of slave labour in their factories or directly from concentration camps. This includes the allegations of the financing of Josef Mengele's eugenics research by the Rockefeller foundation.

- We close the episode with the question of how much was profited during the war by those who financed Hitler, and how much they were aware of the atrocities and crimes that were being committed while they were making money out of death, suffering and destruction.



EPISODE 4 - THE PLUNDER

The episode opens with a montage of archive footage regarding the last days of the war in Europe and the Nazi defeat, which dissolves into a reenactment of American troops entering a city that was previously bombarded and finding out that many important factories were standing virtually unscratched among the rubble.

This opens a discussion of why such industries that were contributing to the German war machine were left untouched while whole blocks where civilians lived were razed to the ground and launches our investigation on possible connections between these companies and allied based banks or corporations, and our search for the whole truth behind it.

From here we move to a calculation of the profits made by those who directly or indirectly financed Hitler and the Nazis during the war, and raising the question of what were the consequences that they faced for their involvement.

As an answer, we move into the re-enactment of the Nuremberg Trials, most notably the IG Farben, Krupp and Flick trials, where we will describe the crimes of which they were accused, trying to understand if their motivation was purely financial or also ideological and if they were aware of the atrocities that were committed for their own benefit.

We will also question if the relatively light sentences that those war criminals received in the end of the trial may have been influenced by potential connections with allied based corporations.

This chapter is completed with the destiny of some of the most prominent financiers after they were released from prison. While some, like Nazi Publisher Max Amann, died in poverty, the majority of them managed to return to the business world, achieving notable post war careers many times dealing with the very same corporations that helped Hitler into power.

The next dramatization shows how American soldiers discovered a large treasure hidden inside a mine in Merkers, Germany.

A documentation follows of other similar findings spread all over the former occupied territories and a calculation of how much the Nazis may have plundered during the war and how much was recovered.

This is the cue for the research of what may have been the destination of the missing part of the plunder by investigating Aktion Feuerland, an escape plan designed by Martin Bormann that aimed to send the Nazi treasure abroad, mostly to South America, but may have counted with banking and logistic support from companies based in neutral countries and even perhaps in allied countries.

We will dig deep also into allegations that corrupt allied soldiers may have taken part of the plunder for their own profit or even moved by anti-communist ideology, helped the Germans in shipping their loot.

In this last case we will try to prove if the theory that OSS director in Bern Alan Dulles may have helped to ship part of the plunder using his connections with the Vatican is true or false.

This sequence closes with the open question of where the rest of the plunder may be today and ongoing conspiracy theories and treasure hunting rumours.

We finalize this episode with a retracement of Hitler's money trail and graphic representation of the vast web of financing that involved the nazis followed by a reflection on how greed can be an enemy of peace and will try to compare the hidden deals in the backstage of the Second World War with more modern and even current conflicts.



OUR EXPERTS

Sir Richard John Evans



British historian and former Regius Professor of History at the University of Cambridge and President of Cambridge's Wolfson College, he is the current Provost of Gresham College in London. Regarded as one of the most renowned specialists in the History of Hitler and the Nazi regime, he is the author of several books, including the critically acclaimed three-volume *The Third Reich Trilogy* (2003–2008), one of the most complete publications dedicated to this theme. He has been a frequent interviewed guest in notorious documentaries including *Revealed* (Ep. Hitler's Private World), *Valkyrie: The Plot to Kill Hitler*, *Mystery Files* (Ep. Hitler), *Secret History* (Ep. Hitler's Hidden Drug Habit), *Secrets of the Third Reich* (Ep. Hitler's Madness) and *Hitler: Germany's Fatal Attraction*.

James Pool



BA degree with honours in history and a MA degree in communications from the University of Cincinnati. He is the acclaimed author and world expert of two best selling history books that have been translated into eight languages: "**Who Financed Hitler**" and "**Hitler and His Secret Partners**", based on interviews that he conducted with some of the people involved with the Führer and the Nazi regime, being one of the most extraordinary testimonials of the backstage of Hitler's power and his links to the chemical-pharmaceutical cartel.

Frank McDonough



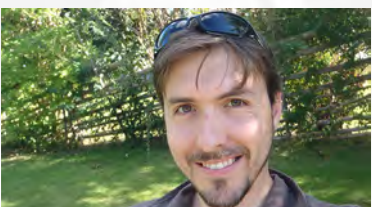
Professor of International History in the History Department of the School of Humanities and Social Science at Liverpool John Moores University. Specialist in History of the Third Reich and Anglo-German relations between the world wars, having authored several books, including *Hitler and Nazi Germany*, *Hitler and the Rise of the Nazi Party* and *The Origins of the Second World War: An international Perspective*. He was the Historical consultant and one of the featured guests for the award winning episode *A Tale of Two Rival Cities* for BBC's *History of the world* and featured also in many other documentaries, including *Nazi Secrets* (National Geographic), *The Story of the Swastika* (BBC1), *7 Days That Made the Führer* (Channel 5) or *The Rise of the Nazi Party* (Discovery channel's *Quest TV*).

Michael Burleigh



British historian specialized in Nazi Germany, graduated in Medieval and Modern History at University College London. Held posts at New College, Oxford and the London School of Economics, as well as Distinguished Research Professor in Modern History at Cardiff. He has also been Raoul Wallenberg Chair of Human Rights at Rutgers University in New Jersey, William Rand Kenan Professor of History at Washington & Lee University in Virginia, and Kratter Visiting Professor at Stanford University, California. Among his many books are included the award winning best seller *The Third Reich: A New History*, *Ethics and Extermination: Reflections on Nazi Genocide and Confronting the Nazi Past*. He is also writes for English dailies *Daily Telegraph*, *The Times* and *Daily Mail*. His documentary film credits include writing the award winning Channel 4's documentaries *Selling Murder: The Killing Films of the Third Reich* and *Heil Herbie: The Story of the Volkswagen Beetle*, as well as one of the featured interviews on *Hitler's Victory*.

Alex J. Kay



British historian who has been described as "a leading scholar on the Third Reich and German history", a graduate from Humboldt University in Berlin and current teacher at Potsdam University, being the author of 4 books and several articles for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Der Tagesspiegel* and *der Freitag*. He has collaborated with many historical institutions as the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the Institute of Contemporary History Munich-Berlin and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on War Consequences.



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