

## **31 Similarities between Hitler and President Bush**

by Edward Jayne

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When President Bush decided to invade Iraq, his spokesmen began comparing Saddam Hussein to Adolph Hitler, the most monstrous figure in modern history. Everybody was therefore shocked when a high German bureaucrat turned the tables by comparing Bush himself with Hitler. As to be expected, she (the bureaucrat) was forced to resign because of her extreme disrespect for an American president. However, the resemblance sticks--there are too many similarities to be ignored, some of which may be listed here.

1. Like Hitler, President Bush was not elected by a majority, but was forced to engage in political maneuvering in order to gain office.
2. Like Hitler, Bush began to curtail civil liberties in response to a well-publicized disaster, in Hitler's case the Reichstag fire, in Bush's case the 9-11 catastrophe.
3. Like Hitler, Bush went on to pursue a reckless foreign policy without the mandate of the electorate and despite the opposition of most foreign nations.
4. Like Hitler, Bush has gladdened his conservative base by lashing out against foreign enemies. Just as Hitler cited international communism to justify Germany's military buildup, Bush has used Al Qaeda and the so-called Axis of Evil to justify our current military buildup. Paradoxically none of the nations in this axis--Iraq, Iran and North Korea--have had much of anything to do with each other.
5. Like Hitler, Bush has resorted to militarism in order to help surmount economic recession (or depression as it was called during the thirties). First he initiated war preparations to help subsidize defense industries (Halliburton, Bechtel, Carlyle Group, etc.) and presumably the rest of the economy on a trickle-down basis. Now he subsidizes the very same corporations to rebuild Iraq, once again without competitive bidding and at extravagant profit levels.
6. Like Hitler, Bush exudes populist enthusiasm in his patriotic speeches but primarily serves the wealthy classes. As he himself jokes, he treats them as his true political "base." Like Hitler, Bush also makes a big issue of freedom and democracy in his public pronouncements while pursuing policies exactly the opposite.
7. Like Hitler, Bush envisages our nation's unique historic destiny almost as a religious cause sanctioned by God. Just as Hitler did for Germany, he takes pride in his "providential" role in spreading his version of Americanism throughout the entire world.
8. Like Hitler, Bush promotes a future world order that guarantees his own nation's hegemonic supremacy rather than cooperative harmony under the authority of the United Nations (or League of Nations).

9. Like Hitler, Bush quickly makes and breaks diplomatic ties, and he offers generous promises that he soon abandons, as in the cases of Mexico, Russia, Afghanistan, and even New York City and New Orleans. The same goes for federal domestic programs. Since 2001, many leaders of these programs have learned to dread his public praise, since this was almost inevitably followed by severe cuts in their budgets.
10. Like Hitler, Bush scraps international treaties, most notably the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of Land Mines, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Kyoto Global Warming Accord, and the International Criminal Court.
11. Like Hitler, Bush repeats lies often enough that they come to be accepted as the truth. Bush and his spokesmen argued, for example, that they had taken every measure possible to avoid war, that an invasion of Iraq would diminish (not intensify) the terrorist threat against the U.S., that Iraq was linked with Al Qaeda, and that nothing whatsoever was achieved by U.N. inspectors to warrant the postponement of U.S. invasion plans. All of this was false. They also insisted that Iraq hid numerous “weapons of mass destruction” which it did not possess since the mid-90s, and they refused to acknowledge the absence of a nuclear weapons program in Iraq since the early nineties. As perhaps to be expected, they indignantly accused those who disagreed with them of deception and evasiveness.
12. Like Hitler, Bush incessantly shifted his arguments to justify invading Iraq--from Iraq’s WMD threat to the elimination of Saddam Hussein, to his supposed Al Qaeda connection, to the creation of Iraqi democracy in the Middle East as a model for neighboring states, and back again to the WMD threat. As soon as one excuse for the war was challenged, Bush advanced to another, but only to shift back again at another time.
13. Like Hitler, Bush and his cohorts emphasize the ruthlessness of their enemies in order to justify their own. Just as Hitler cited communist brutality to justify even greater violence on the part of Germany, the Bush team justified the invasion of Iraq by emphasizing Hussein’s despicable crimes against Kurds, Iranians, and Iraqi Shi’ites over the past twenty-five years. Unfortunately, most of these crimes were committed when Iraq was a client-ally of the U.S. Our government supplied Hussein with illegal weapons (poison gas included) as well as sixty U.S. advisors at about the time when these weapons were put to use (see NYT, Aug. 18, 2002). Also, U.S. aid to Iraq was actually doubled after the use of these weapons as announced to Hussein by President Reagan’s special envoy Donald Rumsfeld during one of his two friendly trips to Iraq.
14. Like Hitler, Bush takes pride in his status as a “War President,” and his global ambition makes him perhaps the most dangerous leader in our nation’s history, a “rogue” chief executive capable of waging any number of illegal preemptive wars, for example against Syria, Iran, Korea, and even Venezuela. He fully acknowledges his willingness to engage in wars of “choice” additional to wars of necessity. Sooner or later this strategy can be expected to oblige universal conscription as well as a full-scale war economy.
15. Like Hitler, Bush continues to pursue war without cutting back on the peacetime economy. Additional to unprecedented low interest rates thanks to the Federal Reserve,

he has actually reduced federal taxes twice by substantial amounts, especially for the top one percent of U.S. taxpayers, while conducting the invasion and occupation of Iraq. As a result, President Clinton's \$230 billion budget surplus has declined to a \$450 billion deficit, an unprecedented \$700 billion turnaround in less than four years.

16. Like Hitler, Bush possesses a war machine much bigger and more effective than the military capabilities of other nations. With the extra financing obliged by the defeat and occupation of Iraq, Bush now relies on a "defense" budget that exceeds the combined military expenditures of the rest of the world.
17. Like Hitler, Bush depends on an axis of collaborative allies, which he describes as a "coalition of the willing," in order to give the impression of a broad popular alliance. These allies include the U.K. as compared to Mussolini's Italy, and Spain and Bulgaria, as compared to, well, Spain and Bulgaria, both of which were aligned with the Nazi cause during Hitler's reign. For the most part, this connection has been disastrous to the nations involved. Prime Minister Blair's government has been ruined in England, and a surprising election defeat has eliminated Spain from the Coalition. Also, the Philippines have withdrawn their troops from Iraq to save the life of a single hostage, and other defections can be expected in the future.
18. Like Hitler, Bush is willing to go to war over the objections of the U.N. (League of Nations). His Iraq invasion was illegal and therefore a war crime in light of Articles 41 and 42 of the U.N. Charter, which require two Security Council votes, not one, preceding such an action. U.S. and U.K. delegates actually withdrew their motion to the Security Council obliged by Article 42 to be granted permission to invade Iraq. They did this in order to prevent the second vote once it was plain that other delegates were satisfied with the findings of U.N. inspectors that no weapons of mass destruction had yet been found. Bush also showed while this was happening that he has no qualms about bribing, bullying, and insulting U.N. members, even tapping their telephone lines to determine whether the U.S.-UK resolution would win the vote before the Security Council.
19. Like Hitler, Bush launches unilateral invasions on a supposedly preemptive basis. Just as Hitler convinced the German public to think of Poland as a threat to Germany in 1939 (for example in his Sept. 19 speech), Bush wants Americans to think of Iraq as having been a "potential" threat to our national security--indeed as one of the instigators of the 9-11 attack despite a complete lack of evidence to support this claim except for the testimony of a single al Qaeda operative after intensive torture to obtain this response.
20. Like Hitler, Bush began warfare on a single front (al Qaeda quartered in Afghanistan), but then expanded it to a second front with Iraq, only to be confronted with North Korea and Iran as potential third and fourth fronts. Much the same thing happened for Hitler when he advanced German military operations from Spain to Poland and France, then to Yugoslavia before invading the USSR in 1941. Today, Bush seems prevented by the excessive costs of the Iraqi debacle from going to war elsewhere, but not through any lack of desire.
21. Like Hitler, Bush depends on a military strategy that features a "shock and awe" blitzkrieg beginning with devastating air strikes, then an invasion led by heavy armored

columns. And, like Hitler, Bush is willing to engage in totalitarian occupation practices in order to eradicate the resistance movement produced by this approach.

22. Like Hitler, Bush has no compunctions about inflicting high levels of bloodshed against the nations we invade. As well as can be determined, something on the order of a 40-1 kill ratio is taking place with American troops enjoying the benefit of overwhelming fire power, including depleted nuclear tipped bullets and white phosphorous bombs (described as “Whiskey Pete” by the soldiers who use them), the latter serving as chemical weapons that burn skin to the bone. The reason Iraqi casualty figures are imprecise is because the U.S. military has either avoided making any estimates or refrained from disclosing them to the public. The latter seems more likely.
23. Like Hitler, Bush is perfectly willing to sacrifice life as part of his official duty. This would be indicated by the 152 prisoners executed during his service as governor of Texas. No other governor in the history of the United States has executed so many. And today, like Hitler, Bush is willing to eradicate entire villages and cities, in Hitler’s case most obviously Warsaw, in Bush’s case most obviously Fallujah.
24. Like Hitler, Bush is willing to use concentration camps and despicable torture practices to obtain quick information that might be useful in combating insurgents. While serving as a legal counsel for the White House, Alberto Gonzales, wrote at least one memo to justify the use of torture, and the Pentagon has provided guidelines for interrogation practices at Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib, and an indeterminate number of secret torture facilities across the world, including those of foreign governments to which prisoners are “renditioned” for this purpose. At least a couple dozen prisoners, including an Iraqi general, have been killed while being tortured. Others are actually tortured as soon as they are captured in their houses. Meanwhile, an indeterminate number of prisoners are kept incommunicado in concentration camps without any opportunity to appeal their status as prisoners. As well as can be determined, many of them--perhaps the majority--should be protected by the Geneva Conventions from being detained in this fashion into the indefinite future, either because they were legitimate soldiers when captured (for example Taliban conscripts) or are totally innocent civilians fingered by personal enemies or by happenstance caught in sweeps. As for the insurgents themselves, lest we forget, Washington’s entire Continental Army could have been captured, imprisoned, and tortured on exactly the same grounds--that they lacked official military status in defending their land against a foreign occupier.
25. Like Hitler, Bush has no qualms about imposing “regime change” by installing Quisling-style client governments backed by a U.S. military occupation with both political and economic control entirely in the hands of Americans. It is no surprise that Iyad Alawi, Iraq’s temporary prime minister, was once affiliated with the CIA and has been reliably reported by the Australian press to have executed six hooded prisoners with a handgun to their heads just a day or two before his ascent to office.
26. Like Hitler, Bush has extended both official secrecy and government intrusion into private lives to unprecedented levels. He uses the threat of terrorism to justify extraordinary domestic powers granted by the Patriot Act, which permits even the books we check out of public libraries to be kept on record by federal agents.

27. Like Hitler, Bush depends on a propaganda machine to guarantee sympathetic news management. Despite vigorous protestations to the contrary, his spokesmen time and again resort to public warnings of possible terrorist attacks to crowd from headlines embarrassing news stories and positive coverage of Democratic Party activities. War correspondents are “imbedded” to guarantee favorable reports, and supportive coverage by the media is similarly guaranteed by wealthy media owners sympathetic with Bush. The most obvious case is the Fox news channel, owned and controlled by Rupert Murdoch. Not surprisingly, recent polls indicate that the majority of Fox viewers still think Saddam Hussein played a role in the 9-11 attack despite overwhelming evidence otherwise.
28. Like Hitler, Bush increasingly reduces the circle of aides he feels he can trust as the failure of his war strategy becomes increasingly obvious. Just as Hitler spent his final days isolated in his headquarters, Bush is now said to be spending most of his time with Karl Rove, the Vice President, Condoleezza Rice, Karen Hughes, and a few others.
29. Like Hitler, Bush has become obsessed with his vision of conflict between good (U.S. patriotism) and evil (anti-Americanism). Many in contact with the White House are said to be worried that he is beginning to lose touch with reality--perhaps resulting from the use of anti-depressant drugs that seriously distort his judgment.
30. Like Hitler, Bush takes pleasure in the mythology of frontier justice. As a youth Hitler read and memorized the western novels of Karl May, while Bush retains into his maturity his fascination with simplistic cowboy values. He also exaggerates a cowboy twang despite his C-average elitist education at Andover, Yale, and Harvard.
31. Like Hitler, Bush misconstrues Darwinism, in Hitler’s case by treating the Aryan race as being superior on an evolutionary basis, in Bush’s case by rejecting science for fundamentalist creationism.

Of course countless differences may be listed between Hitler and President Bush, most of which are to the credit of Bush. Paradoxically, it is also to Bush’s credit that he is losing public support on a massive scale without our nation having yet endured a major catastrophe bigger than the occupation of Iraq (equivalent to Hitler’s occupation of Spain). Nevertheless, the resemblances listed here are striking, especially since Bush’s first term in office must be compared with Hitler’s performance as German Chancellor through the year 1938, toward the beginning of the chain of events that culminated in World War II. For many today, George W. Bush seems the worst and most dangerous U.S. president in recent memory (for me since Roosevelt)--if not in the entire history of the United States.

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