

A MATRIARCH TO HIS PATRIARCHY: HITLER'S SEARCH FOR NAZI  
GERMANY'S MOTHER

*Alexis Wilicki*<sup>1</sup>

I. INTRODUCTION

At the hands of Führer Adolf Hitler, Nazi Germany appeared to mold into a nation heavily littered in patriarchy, housing legislation and propaganda that enforced and promoted stereotypical gender roles.<sup>2</sup> Aryan women were meant to be mothers and homemakers, raising their children to be promoters and supporters of the Führer's ideal nation, while Aryan men were meant to provide for their families and the nation by way of dedicating themselves to the workforce.<sup>3</sup> With each role acting as a calculated instrument in Adolf Hitler's pursuit toward his ideal nation, Hitler assured compliance of these pre-determined roles through legislation, which promoted the relocation of women from the workforce to the home amongst other things.<sup>4</sup> However, although these enactments appeared to move toward the development of a patriarchy, a closer look at the legislation enacted at the hands of the Führer and Hitler's personal adolescence reveal that it was not a patriarchy he sought, but a matriarch to oversee his infantile nation.<sup>5</sup>

This Article will first explore the pre-established roles of Aryan men and women in Nazi Germany, and the laws that were enacted to ensure these roles, specifically those concentrated on women. This Article will then explore the adolescence and early adulthood of Adolf Hitler as it pertains to his relationships with his mother and father, and the experiences that stemmed from those relationships. Upon this exploration, a connection will be made between Hitler's relationship with his mother, and his concentration on Aryan

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<sup>1</sup> Associate Nuremberg Editor, Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion; J.D. Candidate May 2020, Rutgers School of Law.

<sup>2</sup> Jennifer Llewellyn, Jim Southey, and Steven Thompson, *Women in Nazi Germany*, ALPHA HISTORY, <https://alphahistory.com/nazigermany/women-in-nazi-germany/> (last visited April 7, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> Graham Land, *Subservient Wombs for the Führer: The Role of Women in Nazi Germany*, HISTORY HIT (Aug. 7, 2018), <https://www.historyhit.com/the-role-of-women-in-nazi-germany/>; see also *Life for Women and the Family in Nazi Germany*, BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zxb8msg/revision/2> (last visited April 7, 2019).

<sup>4</sup> *Life for Women*, *supra* note 3.

<sup>5</sup> Karin Lynn Brashler, *Mothers for Germany: A Look at the Ideal Woman in Nazi Propoganda*, IOWA STATE UNIV. CAPSTONE THESES AND DISSERTATIONS 15, 15-16 (2015).

women during his development of Nazi Germany, to exhibit that it was not a patriarchy he sought, but a matriarchy to help nurture his metaphorical child: Nazi Germany.

## II. GENDER ROLES IN NAZI GERMANY: PRE-DETERMINED BY THE FÜHRER

In Nazi Germany, everyone had a role. Each role was established by the Führer and was expected to be actively practiced without retaliation or deviation. According to the Führer, Aryan men were expected to dedicate themselves to the workforce and protect their families, Aryan women were expected to embrace their roles as mothers and homemakers, Aryan children were expected to follow the Führer and promote his “ideal” nation, and Jews were viewed as prisoners.<sup>6</sup> It was through these roles that Hitler set the foundation for his ideal nation.

For Hitler, it was all a matter of “purity.”<sup>7</sup> He sought a nation comprised of “pure” German blood, which he referred to as the “Aryan race.” While Hitler physically identified Aryans as “blond-haired, blue eyed, and tall,” there was much more to their “purity” than physicality.<sup>8</sup> Aryans were also expected to think and act as Hitler willed, and help promote his attempts at creating “a generation of young Aryans who were totally obedient.”<sup>9</sup>

To develop this “obedient” generation, Hitler left the responsibility in the hands of women, explaining at a party conference in Nuremberg, that although women were of a “smaller world,” presumably referring to their daily activity with children and their confinement to the home, their role functioned as the foundation of the “greater world.”<sup>10</sup> Hitler then went on to pose a question, which exhibited the value he placed in women, openly asking, “[W]hat would become of the greater world if there were no

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<sup>6</sup> Land, *supra* note 3; see also *Life for Women supra* note 3; see also *Classification System in Nazi Concentration Camps*, U.S. HOLOCAUST MEM’L MUSEUM, <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/classification-system-in-nazi-concentration-camps> (last visited April 1, 2019).

<sup>7</sup> *Nazi Racism*, U.S. HOLOCAUST MEM’L MUSEUM, <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/nazi-racism> (last visited April 1, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *The Early Years of the Nazi Party*, THE HOLOCAUST EXPLAINED, <https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/the-nazi-rise-to-power/the-early-years-of-the-nazi-party/what-were-hitlers-ideas/> (last visited April 1, 2019).

<sup>10</sup> Emily Greenhouse, *The Perfect Nazi Bride*, THE NEW YORKER (Sept. 27, 2013), <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/the-perfect-nazi-bride>.

one to tend and care for the smaller one? How could the greater world survive if there were no one to make the cares of the smaller world the content of their lives?"<sup>11</sup>

With this being the strong mindset of the Führer, the Nazi party increasingly promoted and enforced the principle that it was the role of men to serve the nation by fighting, and the role of women to serve through childbearing, a battle in its own right.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, legislation was implemented to ensure adherence to these gender roles. However, this legislation focused primarily on the interest of women by providing them recognition and benefits specifically for their embrace of motherhood, gradually making Hitler's "obsession with motherhood" more evident.<sup>13</sup>

### III. HITLER'S LEGISLATIVE CONCENTRATION ON ARYAN WOMEN

Shortly into Hitler's reign, legislation was enacted that micro-managed the development of Aryan families. As early as June of 1933, the Law for the Encouragement of Marriage was endorsed to promote young Aryan men and women to marry, in hopes that they would increase the Aryan race.<sup>14</sup> Specifically, the law assured that newlyweds would be provided with a loan of one thousand marks.<sup>15</sup> However, the true benefit did not manifest until the birth of children.<sup>16</sup> For every child a couple bore, two hundred and fifty marks of that one thousand mark loan would no longer need to be repaid.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, the more children a couple bore, the more financially beneficial the law set out to be.<sup>18</sup> If a couple had at least four children, the entire loan would be retained.<sup>19</sup>

While this incentive was the start of many, it was one of the few legislative means that focused on men as the recipients.<sup>20</sup> New legislation no longer included men, and instead strictly concentrated on targeting women in such a way that rewarded them for their surrender from the workforce and active participation in

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<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Charu Gupta, *Politics of Gender: Women in Nazi Germany*, 26 *ECON. & POL. WEEKLY* 40, 40 (1991).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Life for Women*, *supra* note 3.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> *Life for Women*, *supra* note 3.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

motherhood.<sup>21</sup> For example, in June of 1933, the Law for the Reduction of Unemployment was enacted by the Nazi party as a way to induce women to exit the workforce, ultimately freeing up jobs for unemployed men and placing women in the home, where they could care for children.<sup>22</sup> In order to achieve this, women were offered financial incentives to leave their jobs behind.<sup>23</sup> Moreover, women's roles in the workforce were becoming increasingly taboo.<sup>24</sup>

Additionally, by the late 1930s, Reichsbräuteschule or Reich Bride Schools began to develop throughout Nazi Germany.<sup>25</sup> These institutions were implemented to mold "housewives out of office girls," and prep young women for marriage and motherhood.<sup>26</sup> Those who attended learned household skills, in addition to taking pledges to "raise their children in accordance with Nazi beliefs, to marry in a neo-pagan ceremony before a party official...and to be loyal to Hitler until death."<sup>27</sup> Ultimately, it was the three K's, established by Hitler, that women were meant to embrace: "kinder, küche and kirche," translating to children, kitchen, and church.<sup>28</sup>

As the motto and lifestyle in Nazi Germany became more publicized, Hitler also began to gain increased criticism, specifically targeting and labeling his treatment of women as "degrading."<sup>29</sup> However, Hitler and the Nazi party felt contrary to this criticism.<sup>30</sup> So much so that Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, the highest-ranking female in the Third Reich during 1935, who served as leader of the Nationalist Socialist Women's League, described women as the "secret queens of [Germany's] people, called upon by fate for this

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<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> Shepard B. Clough, Thomas Moodie & Carol Moodie, *Economic History of Europe: Twentieth Century* 250 (1941), <https://books.google.com/books?id=8ww7JUQgASwC&pg=PA99&lpg=PA99&dq=Displaced+person:+a+girl%27s+life+in+russia,+germany,+and+america+%22always+given+the+best+of+everything:+housing,+food,+clothing+and+schooling+for+their+children%22&source=bl&ots=zXnctj390q&sig=ACfU3U26RkOF3nZ721zTPljIQmAAWgmb7w&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiosOahl7XjAhUQa80KHS3cB5lQ6AEwAHoECAYQAQ#v=twopage&q&f=false>.

<sup>23</sup> *Life for Women*, *supra* note 3.

<sup>24</sup> Greenhouse, *supra* note 10.

<sup>25</sup> Sarah Rainey, *Nazi Bride Schools: 'These Girls were the Nucleus of the Reich'*, THE TELEGRAPH (Aug. 16, 2013), <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/10247550/Nazi-Bride-Schools-These-girls-were-the-nucleus-of-the-Reich.html>.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*; *see also* Greenhouse, *supra* note 10.

<sup>27</sup> Rainey, *supra* note 25.

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> Gupta, *supra* note 12.

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*; *see also* Greenhouse, *supra* note 10.

special task.”<sup>31</sup> Likewise, Hitler supported this description and ultimately addressed his critics, who he labeled as “opponents,” stating:

When our opponents say: You degrade women by assigning them no other task than that of childbearing, then I answer that it is not degrading to a woman to be a mother. On the contrary, it is her greatest honour. There is nothing nobler for a woman than to be the mother of the sons and daughters of the people.<sup>32</sup>

Further, Hitler reinforced this publicly stated belief with action that not only enticed women to embrace motherhood but recognized and applauded them for their compliance and dedication.<sup>33</sup>

On December 16, 1938, approximately five years into Hitler’s reign and only two short years following the institution of Reich Bride Schools, Hitler established through statutory order the Cross of Honour of the German Mother, colloquially referred to as Ehrenkreuz der Deutschen Mutter.<sup>34</sup> The purpose of the honor was to glorify motherhood and publicly recognize women according to the number of children they birthed, receiving higher recognition with greater quantities of children.<sup>35</sup>

Broken down into a class system of crosses ranging from bronze to silver to gold, with gold as the highest honor, women became eligible for the bronze cross upon the birth of their fourth child and could achieve higher rankings as the number of children they birthed increased.<sup>36</sup> Specifically, mothers who “birthed and raised” four to five children received bronze, mothers who “birthed and raised” six to seven children received silver, and mothers who “birthed and raised” eight or more children received gold.<sup>37</sup> However, birthing and raising children was not the only

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<sup>31</sup> Greenhouse, *supra* note 10.

<sup>32</sup> Gupta, *supra* note 12.

<sup>33</sup> *Gold Mother’s Cross*, THE NAT’L HOLOCAUST CENTRE AND MUSEUM, <https://www.holocaust.org.uk/gold-mothers-cross> (last visited April 6, 2019).

<sup>34</sup> *This Day In History: Hitler Institutes the Mother’s Cross*, HISTORY, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/hitler-institutes-the-mothers-cross> (last visited April 7, 2019); see also *Gold Mother’s Cross*, *supra* note 33.

<sup>35</sup> *Gold Mother’s Cross*, *supra* note 33.

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

<sup>37</sup> *Id.*

qualification required to receive, and even retain, the award.<sup>38</sup> Mothers who received the award also had to be of German blood, and act in compliance with the Nazi party by teaching their children in accordance with Nazi ideals, while ensuring that they neither neglected their children nor participated in marital infidelity.<sup>39</sup>

If mothers maintained this honor, they received treatment similar to that of war veterans, since the award was seen as a state decoration and civil order of merit.<sup>40</sup> As stated in the *Völkischer Beobachter*, a national newspaper in Nazi Germany, “the holder of the Mother’s Cross of Honour will in the future enjoy all types of privileges that we by nature have accustomed to our nation’s honoured comrades and our injured war veterans.”<sup>41</sup> Specifically, mothers awarded the Mother of the Cross were publicly provided with preferential treatment and priority by “always [being] given the best of everything: housing, food, clothing and schooling for their children.”<sup>42</sup> As recollected in the memoir of Ella E. Schnieder Hilton, who grew up in Nazi Germany, even “old people had to give up their seats on the bus or streetcar. [Mothers honored with the Mother’s Cross] were treated like royalty with the greatest respect.”<sup>43</sup>

This display of respect not only fostered Hitler’s campaign to populate the Aryan race, but also unveiled his unusually passionate approach towards motherhood.<sup>44</sup> Well known for his cold, callous attitude toward the human race, executing approximately six million Jews and more than five million non-Jews, Hitler’s respect and admiration for Aryan mothers became naturally perplexing.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> *Id.*; see also *Cross of Honour of the German Mother [Ehrenkreuz der Deutschen Mutter] – First Class*, AUSTL. WAR MEM’L, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C94089> (last visited April 11, 2019).

<sup>39</sup> *Id.*

<sup>40</sup> *The Mother’s Cross*, WITTMANN ANTIQUE MILITARIA, <http://www.wiitdaggers.com/MOTHERSCROSS.htm> (last visited April 1, 2019).

<sup>41</sup> Richard Maddox, *The German Cross of Honour For the German Mother Award, 1938-1945*, VOLUNTEER LONDON BLOG (Nov. 30, 2017), <https://iwmvolunteerlondon.wordpress.com/2017/11/30/the-german-cross-of-honour-for-the-german-mother-award-1938-1944/> (quoting VÖLKISCHER BEOBACHTER, 1938 Issue No. 25).

<sup>42</sup> Ella E. Schneider Hilton and Angela K. Hilton, *Displaced Person: A Girl’s Life in Russia, Germany, and America* 99 (2006), [https://books.google.com/books?id=TW5M7xCPJ3QC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=TW5M7xCPJ3QC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false).

<sup>43</sup> *Id.*

<sup>44</sup> Gupta, *supra* note 12.

<sup>45</sup> In addition to approximately executing six million Jews, Hitler also executed over five million non-Jews he deemed to be unfit for his “ideal” nation. Amongst these non-Jews who fell victim to Hitler’s plan were Gypsies, Jehovah’s Witness, homosexuals, African Americans, the physically disabled, the mentally disabled,

Why a man so intent on eliminating an entire population and establishing a seemingly patriarchal nation exhibited such a clear and outstanding reverence for mothers was hard to understand.<sup>46</sup> However, the connection Hitler made between the Mother's Cross and his own mother, exhibited through his intention to distribute the award on her birthday, began to reveal the foundation of Hitler's perplexing views, which arguably stemmed back to his childhood.<sup>47</sup>

### III. ADOLF HITLER'S ADOLESCENCE

The son of a doting, devoted mother and stern, callous father Adolf Hitler's childhood was far from idealistic.<sup>48</sup> Filled with abuse and dysfunction, Hitler grew up in a home where he came to fear his father and adore his mother.<sup>49</sup> As illustrated by Hitler's sister, Paula, "[m]y mother was a very soft and tender person, the compensatory element between the almost too harsh father [and she] was always there after the beatings to caress [Hitler] and bathe him in kindness."<sup>50</sup>

It was not long into Hitler's childhood that his father, Alois, became an overbearing figure in his life.<sup>51</sup> When Hitler was only six, his father retired from his life-long dedication to civil service and quickly became restless, focusing the brunt of his restlessness on

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those who politically opposed the Nazi Party, dissenting clergy, resistance fighters, prisoners of war, Slavic people, and those from the artistic community whose works Hitler condemned. See Ina R. Freeman, *The Other Victims of the Nazis*, NAT'L COUNCIL FOR THE SOC. STUDIES, <https://www.socialstudies.org/sites/default/files/publications/se/5906/590606.html> (last visited April 12, 2019).

<sup>46</sup> *Id.*; Gupta, *supra* note 12.

<sup>47</sup> The Mother's Cross, instituted in 1938, was to be annually awarded to eligible mothers on August 12<sup>th</sup>, Hitler's mother's birthday. See *This Day In History: Hitler Institutes the Mother's Cross*, HISTORY, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/hitler-institutes-the-mothers-cross> (last visited April 7, 2019).

<sup>48</sup> Sara Kettler, *Who Was Hitler's Mother?*, BIOGRAPHY.COM, <https://www.biography.com/news/who-was-hitlers-mother> (last visited April 6, 2019); see also Michael S. Rosenwald, *Hitler's Mother was 'The Only Person He Genuinely Loved.'* *Cancer Killed her Decades Before He Became a Monster*, THE WASHINGTON POST (April 20, 2017), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2017/04/20/hitlers-mother-was-only-the-person-he-genuinely-loved-breast-cancer-killed-her-decades-before-he-became-a-monster/?utm\\_term=.3d8522bfaad6](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2017/04/20/hitlers-mother-was-only-the-person-he-genuinely-loved-breast-cancer-killed-her-decades-before-he-became-a-monster/?utm_term=.3d8522bfaad6).

<sup>49</sup> Rosenwald, *supra* note 48.

<sup>50</sup> *Id.*

<sup>51</sup> John Simkin, *Alios Hitler*, SPARTACUS EDUCATIONAL, <https://spartacus-educational.com/GERhitlerA.htm> (last visited April 11, 2019).

Hitler.<sup>52</sup> Accustomed to being obeyed, due to his job as a customs officer, Alois expected nothing less from his children and acted as a “stern, distant, aggressive, and violent” father.<sup>53</sup> Hitler, described by his sister, Paula, as “a scrubby little rogue,” presented a challenge to his father, which made Hitler no stranger to his father’s abusive behavior, often undergoing beatings for his lack of compliance, specifically when it came to school.<sup>54</sup>

While Hitler longed to pursue his interest in the arts, his father heavily pushed for a career in civil service.<sup>55</sup> However, Hitler, as recollected in his autobiographical novel, *Mein Kampf*, was a strong-minded and strong-willed adolescent, unwilling to succumb to his father’s intimidating behavior, writing, “[a]s long as my father’s intention of making me a civil servant encountered only my theoretical distaste for the profession, the conflict was bearable.”<sup>56</sup> Moreover, Hitler even began to brag to his mother about his increased tolerance to his father’s beatings, stating, “[f]ather hit me thirty-two times...and I did not cry.”<sup>57</sup>

However, Hitler was not as tolerant with his father’s abusive behavior when it came to his mother, who he recollected taking strikes on his behalf in addition to receiving her own “drunken beatings.”<sup>58</sup> Witnessing these beatings only increased Hitler’s animosity toward his father, and left a lasting impression on him far past his father’s death in 1903.<sup>59</sup> Hitler confessed years later to his secretary, Christa Schroeder, “I never loved my father, but feared him. He was prone to rages and would resort to violence. My poor mother would then always be afraid for me.”<sup>60</sup>

Hitler felt a great deal of sympathy and affection for his mother, and shared a relationship with her that was the polar opposite of that which he shared with his father.<sup>61</sup> In fact, Klara Hitler, described as a “quiet” woman, who tended to spoil her son,

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<sup>52</sup> *Id.*

<sup>53</sup> *Id.*

<sup>54</sup> Rosenwald, *supra* note 48; *see also* Simkin, *supra* note 51; *Hitler’s Boyhood*, THE HISTORY PLACE, <http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/riseofhitler/boyhood.htm> (last visited April 6, 2019).

<sup>55</sup> John Simkin, *Adolf Hitler: 1889-1924*, SPARTACUS EDUCATIONAL, <https://spartacus-educational.com/GERhitler.htm> (last visited April 11, 2019).

<sup>56</sup> Simkin, *supra* note 51.

<sup>57</sup> Simkin, *supra* note 55.

<sup>58</sup> *Id.*

<sup>59</sup> *Id.*

<sup>60</sup> *Id.*; *see also* John Simkin, *Christa Schroeder*, SPARTACUS EDUCATIONAL, [https://spartacus-educational.com/Christa\\_Schroeder.htm](https://spartacus-educational.com/Christa_Schroeder.htm) (last visited April 11, 2019).

<sup>61</sup> Rosenwald, *supra* note 48.

became labeled as “the only person [Hitler] genuinely loved.”<sup>62</sup> Later, upon Alois’ death, Klara’s overindulgence of Hitler truly took form as she allowed Hitler to discontinue his schooling, and encouraged his pursuit of the arts by purchasing a grand piano and regularly accompanying him to theater productions.<sup>63</sup> It was this period of time that Hitler referred to as “the happiest days which seemed almost like a beautiful dream.”<sup>64</sup> Without the obstacle of his father, the prevailing support of his mother provided him with new life.<sup>65</sup> Her support provided Hitler with the necessary resources to pursue his own desires far from those once predetermined by his father.<sup>66</sup>

However, this period of time was short lived due to Klara’s diagnosis of breast cancer in 1907.<sup>67</sup> This diagnosis turned the tables on Hitler, leaving him to care for his mother, which he did with “overflowing tenderness,” showing his greatest exhibition of love for her.<sup>68</sup> Hitler, described as “anguishing over every moment of [his mother’s] suffering,” not only assisted with the household chores, but also relocated his mother’s bed to the warmest portion of the house, the kitchen, where he slept right by her side.<sup>69</sup> Dr. Eduard Bloch, who intimately observed Hitler’s care for his mother due to his role as Klara’s physician, recollected that “[Hitler’s] love for his mother was his most striking feature I have never witnessed a closer attachment.”<sup>70</sup> Only months later, Dr. Bloch reaffirmed his observation when Klara lost her battle to cancer in December of 1907.<sup>71</sup> Reflecting on her death, Dr. Bloch recalled, “[i]n all my career I never saw anyone so prostrate with grief as Adolf Hitler.”<sup>72</sup>

Stripped of his greatest possession at the age of eighteen, Hitler never lost sight of the tremendous value he placed on his

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<sup>62</sup> Rosenwald, *supra* note 48 (quoting Ian Kershaw, *HITLER: A BIOGRAPHY* (1991)).

<sup>63</sup> *Id.*

<sup>64</sup> *Id.*

<sup>65</sup> *Id.*

<sup>66</sup> *Id.*

<sup>67</sup> Rosenwald, *supra* note 48 (quoting Ian Kershaw, *HITLER: A BIOGRAPHY* (1991)).

<sup>68</sup> *Id.*

<sup>69</sup> *Hitler’s Mother Dies*, THE HISTORY PLACE, <http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/riseofhitler/mother.htm> (last visited April 11, 2019); see also Rosenwald, *supra* note 48.

<sup>70</sup> *Id.*; see also *Eduard Bloch- The incredible story of the Jewish Doctor who happened to be the physician of Adolf Hitler’s family*, THE VINTAGE NEWS, <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2016/08/13/eduard-bloch-the-incredible-story-of-the-jewish-doctor-who-happened-to-be-the-physician-of-adolf-hitlers-family/> (last visited April 11, 2019).

<sup>71</sup> Rosenwald, *supra* note 48.

<sup>72</sup> *Id.*

mother and her life.<sup>73</sup> Arguably, one of the greatest exhibitions of this value was shown at the peak of Hitler's reign.<sup>74</sup> With the eradication of the Jews and the Holocaust well under way, Hitler took particular care and sought out his mother's physician, Dr. Bloch, who was of Jewish heritage.<sup>75</sup> Hitler, having previously expressed his gratitude to Dr. Bloch for the care he provided to his mother during her illness, even labeling him as a "noble Jew," made inquiries to the Nazi party to confirm Dr. Bloch was still alive.<sup>76</sup> Upon confirmation, Hitler ensured Dr. Bloch and his family "safe passage" from Nazi Germany so to avoid the same fate as their fellow Jews, an action which spoke volumes about the value he placed on his mother's life.<sup>77</sup> However, while the impression Hitler's mother left on her son benefited some, specifically Dr. Bloch and Aryan mothers, the effects of Hitler's childhood ultimately established a foundation for greater harm than good, skewing his notion of family and gender roles, which he applied when assembling Nazi Germany.<sup>78</sup>

#### IV. CONCLUSION: SKEWED CHILDHOOD VIEWS SET THE FOUNDATION FOR A SKEWED NATION

Having no children of his own, Hitler embraced Nazi Germany as his offspring.<sup>79</sup> Through the establishment of stringent gender roles, Hitler nurtured Nazi Germany as he deemed fit, with men dedicated to the workforce and women in the home.<sup>80</sup> While many have interpreted Hitler's use of gender roles as Hitler's intentional establishment of a nation heavily littered in patriarchy, the influential experiences of Hitler's adolescence offer contrary evidence.<sup>81</sup>

Having shared in an abrasive relationship with his father, Hitler recognized his father as little more than an obstacle in life,

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<sup>73</sup> *Id.*; see also *This Day In History*, *supra* note 47.

<sup>74</sup> Rosenwald, *supra* note 48.

<sup>75</sup> *Id.*

<sup>76</sup> *Id.*

<sup>77</sup> *Id.*

<sup>78</sup> *Id.*; see also Hilton, *supra* note 42; see also Land, *supra* note 3.

<sup>79</sup> Katie Serena, *The Hitler Family is Alive and Well- But They're Determined to End the Bloodline*, ALL THAT IS INTERESTING (Dec. 5, 2018), <https://allthatsinteresting.com/hitlers-descendants>.

<sup>80</sup> Land, *supra* note 3; see also *Life for Women*, *supra* note 3.

<sup>81</sup> See *Hitler's Speech to the National Socialist Women's League (September 8, 1934)*, GERMAN HISTORY IN DOCUMENTS AND IMAGES, [http://ghdi.ghdi-dc.org/pdf/eng/English67\\_Exeter.pdf](http://ghdi.ghdi-dc.org/pdf/eng/English67_Exeter.pdf) (last visited April 21, 2019).

while recognizing his mother's dotting, supportive nature as one that ensured him life.<sup>82</sup> Consequentially, these two relationships left a lasting impression on the Führer, whose words and actions in adulthood reflected the experiences he shared with his parents during childhood.<sup>83</sup> Specifically, Hitler, well into adulthood, recollected his father as one he "never loved, but feared," while granting his mother great reverence well-after her death through establishment of laws that promoted and honorably decorated motherhood, in addition to safeguarding her Jewish doctor from the genocide he executed, which heavily targeted the Jewish community.<sup>84</sup> This safeguard spoke volumes to the value Hitler placed on his mother's life, openly stating that he was "forever grateful" for the care and medical treatment Dr. Bloch offered his mother in his attempts to preserve her life.<sup>85</sup>

Through Hitler's recognition of the effects each relationship had on his own life, Hitler formed specific depictions of the roles of mothers and fathers when nurturing the development of Nazi Germany.<sup>86</sup> Acknowledging the obstacle his own father created, Hitler ensured that men were kept far from their offspring.<sup>87</sup> He did so by preoccupying men with the workforce, while making it the duty of mothers to ensure that their children were raised in adherence with Nazi ideals.<sup>88</sup> After having witnessed his own mother's dedication to him as a child, Hitler was confident Aryan mothers could successfully raise their children in accordance with his ideals.<sup>89</sup> Therefore, although facially Nazi Germany appeared to be developing into a patriarchal nation, Hitler's adolescence offers insight into the Führer's genuine desire, which was to ensure a matriarch for his newly birthed nation: Nazi Germany.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> Simkin, *supra* note 51; *see also* Simkin, *supra* note 55.

<sup>83</sup> Kettler, *supra* note 48; *see also* Rosenwald, *supra* note 48; *see also* Land, *supra* note 3.

<sup>84</sup> Simkin, *supra* note 55; *see also* Rosenwald, *supra* note 48.

<sup>85</sup> *Id.*

<sup>86</sup> Rosenwald, *supra* note 48; *see also* Land, *supra* note 3.

<sup>87</sup> *Id.*

<sup>88</sup> Land, *supra* note 3; *see also* *Life for Women*, *supra* note 3.

<sup>89</sup> Land, *supra* note 3; *see also* Kettler, *supra* note 48.

<sup>90</sup> Brashler, *supra* note 5.