

THE FIRSTS IN 2010

Dr. Satish Chander Bhatnagar

A collection of books in a house shelf speaks about its intellectual atmosphere. I was browsing over them during a New Year, Anniversary, and B'Day Party. "Here is a book that you would like it," said my nephew-in-law, as he pulled one out. I felt good, like when gastronomic tastes are individually catered in a meal. The book is, *The Hidden Hitler* by Lothar Machtan (2001). I started reading its introduction right at the Party, and finished it yesterday.

I don't remember, if I ever finished a book in 2009, though several books must have been started. I was curious about author's claim on new findings in Hitler's life. At times, I feel that there is hardly anything significant left that I have not read or seen about WW II. All the epic wars are revisited in every generation for perennial curiosity; instances are of ancient India's Ramayana and Mahabharata.

The first thing I do about a book is to check on the credentials of its author. After sixty, I have stopped taking chances on paid, friendly, and professional reviewers. It reminds me of a math editor, who claimed to have reviewed 400 books; I did only one. My time is running out faster than what is bursting out of my mind. Machtan

comes from a Jewish background and is a History Professor in a German

University. The book may have earned him tenure. His thesis is based on the hypothesis that Hitler was homosexual. It comes out from the fact that **each modern scholar has one narrow window of research**. Though not claimed, he establishes no links between Hitler's homo-eroticism and the monster he became as killer of six million people; besides, an astute politician, orator, ideologue, war strategist, and a cult figure extraordinaire.

The book suffers from a growing virus of notes and bibliography. The subject takes about 280 pages, but its more than 1200 notes, on the top of an 18-page bibliography, cover more than 110 pages. In a few places,

when I tried to check the notes, there were no matches. Obviously, his students or editorial assistants did not do their job. But who really cares for them anyway? Popular math textbooks, running into many editions, continue having wrong answers of certain problems. Reason - few students attempt them and they are seldom assigned. Machtan does realize the daunting task of

writing a book on Hitler, when more '120, 000 titles exist on Hitler literature'. WW II is a worldwide billion dollar business in every facet of life.

While reading through this book, my thoughts went far and wide. India is ten times larger in area and 20 times greater in population than that of Germany.

It is comparable to the state of Gujarat. For eleven years (1993-2004), AB Vajpayee a lifelong bachelor (*Brahamchari*) was India's Prime Minister, and so is Narandra Modi, the current Chief Minister of Gujarat, since 2001; they never married. About marriage, they may have said something like what Hitler once disclaimed a his engagement rumor: "I am so much married to politics that I cannot consider getting engaged as well." One Hitler observer said, "Germany was his only love, and that to forget this, even for a moment, would destroy the mystical energy of his mission."

The unbridled press of India must have sexually linked Vajpayee and Modi with many women, but never with a man! Macro homosexuality is a cultural phenomenon of Christian West. It is one of the many human impulses. It appears that the gay movement in the US has jumped from Western Europe over the Atlantic, in 1960s. Presently, the homosexuals are very strong in the US.

In fact, Hitler purged homosexuals after taking over the reins of power.

What I am getting from Hitler at 70?

His rise from absolute Nothing to Everything that human spirit can soar. His father died when he was 13, mother, at 17. He barely passed high school, lived in homeless shelters and orphanages many times during his teen years and early adulthood including a spell in a prison. Whereas, my wife still laments that not enough was done towards the careers of our kids. Hitler's life teaches that one can be competent in any sphere, if there is a fire in the belly to learn at any step and stage of life. Germany rose, in his own image, like Phoenix from the ashes of WW I to the top of the world. Both were obliterated in 12 short years.

Incidentally, Hitler adopted two major public symbols from ancient India - one **Swastika**; the Hindu image of auspiciousness used on every religious occasion, and the other is **Arya**, means super/supreme. It must be understood that **Nazi Swastika** is rotated 45 degrees. The Nazi policy of keeping German race pure/Arya went hand in hand with extermination of other ethnic groups including the Jews. I was astonished to read that American industrialists Henry Ford and William Randolph Hearst found nothing wrong in Nazi plans. As a matter of fact, the New York Times, long-owned by a Jew family, refused to

publish the pictures, taken by the Allied Forces, of the concentration camps freed in 1945.

Nazis went to the extreme in race purification that it annihilated them ultimately. The US seems going at a faster pace in pursuing diversity policy that its enemies are getting embedded inside the US since 1990. At this ethnic diversification rate, the US may meet a similar fate. India is an historic example of diversity gone amok. The 80 % Hindus are still not the ruler of their own land, and are being ethnically cleansed. India is smoldering on its frontiers in the West, NW, East and NE, and exploding in interior. Yes, the Hindus need leaders who can lift them out of 1000-year old slumber of their body and mind.

In political contest, a question was once posed to Gandhi: **Do you think your methods of non-violence would have worked against the Germans under Hitler?** I don't remember what exactly Gandhi answered. But having studied Gandhi and Hitler equally, Gandhi and his *Satyagrahis* (non-violent protesters) would have been thrown to die in one of the concentration camps. The German killing squads had no qualms in mowing down innocent women and children in many concentration camps. Relatively speaking, the moral compass of the British was very high. No wonder, they eventually lost all their colonies, and now some parts of England are run over

by home-bred terrorists! **There is no permanent lesson from history.**

Rounding it up, at my curiosity about the acquisition of this book, my nephew-in-law told that he picked it up out of several boxes of books belonging to an 80-year old neighbor, whom he helped in moving out. Next day, on my inquiring, about the real reason for picking this book alone, he had no answer. But I gave him one: "You are from a Martha lineage of Shivaji (1627-1680) who re-established the first Hindu kingdom in India. Maharashtra is the birthplace of freedom movements of India. Nationalism is integral to your persona." In surprise, he acknowledged it.

Do not react immediately

Many people react immediately to the words and behavior of others. Whether it is an unreasonable demand being made or discouraging words being shouted, they become tense right away as blood pressure rises to dangerous levels. Perhaps you are one of these people. If so, you may be thinking: What can we do in such a situation? First of all, we cannot change another person and we may not be able to get out of the situation. Therefore, we need to learn how to change our self and deal effectively with the situation. Secondly, know that we have a choice. We do not have to react. Do not allow anyone to take away something as precious as your peace of mind. Listen to the words and then make up your mind whether to accept them or not to accept them. --**Kewal Ahluwalia (Canada)**

