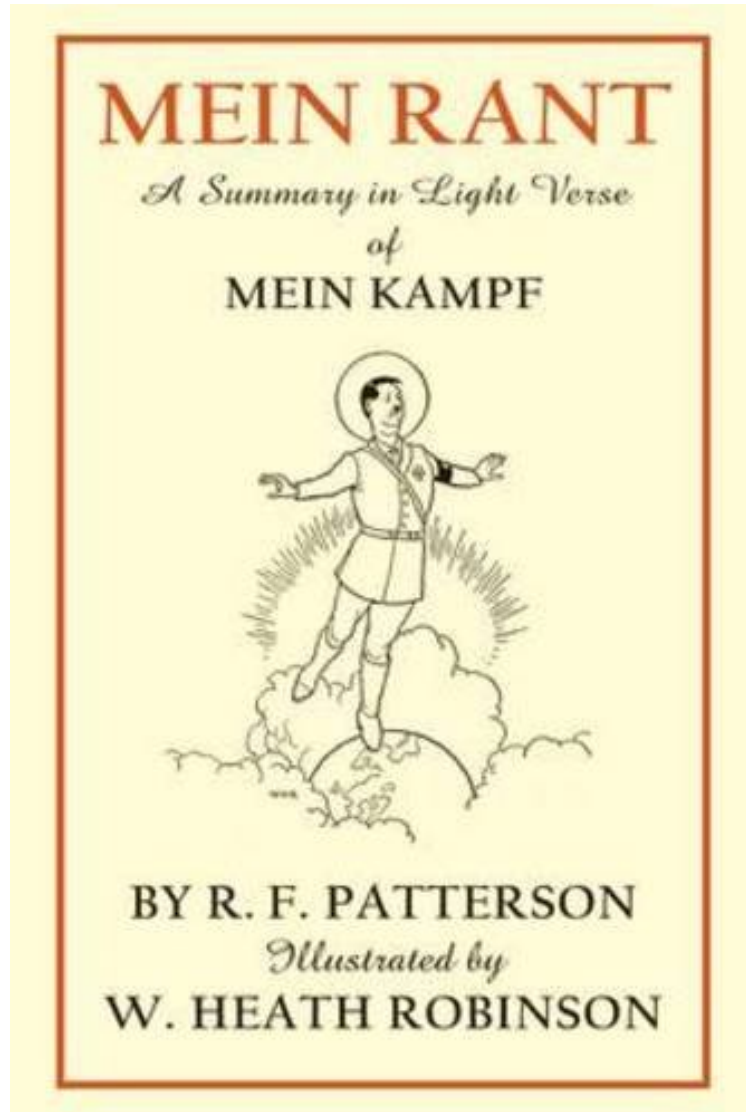


[Library ebook] Mein Rant: A Summary in Light Verse of Mein Kampf

Mein Rant: A Summary in Light Verse of Mein Kampf

R. F. Patterson

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R. F. Patterson : Mein Rant: A Summary in Light Verse of Mein Kampf before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mein Rant: A Summary in Light Verse of Mein Kampf:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Hysterical Piece of HistoryBy Rachel"Mein Rant is a verse-satire of Hitler's Mein Kampf." This book is absolutely hysterical. Written in 1940 by a British book illustrator, Mein Rant is a great tool for culture study and a fun read at the same time. Basically, this is the Dr. Seuss version of Main Kampf. The entire book is written in witty rhyming poems and comically illustrated. I found it so interesting that this type of mockery-media was totally common in 1940, when Britain was quite sure they had lost the war. This book is a literal

translation, chapter by chapter, of Mein Kampf into verse. AN example of the style in this book:"Because I did a spell in prisonThe ensuing volume has arisen;I found my temporary fettersConducive to the craft of letters."I think you have to be a certain type of person to find humor in this book, though I must say that I am one of those people.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Very Amusing Look at a Most Notorious BookBy Louisiana Movie CriticThis book is a great piece of historical (and hysterical) writing. The author's preface is essential reading.The author gives Hitler two black eyes by rewriting two volumes of tedious prose into a short volume of humorous poetry. I have never laughed so hard. This was very popular in Great Britain during World War II and still has a following today.World War II buffs will love this book. Beware the dry British humor. For those that like the wit of "Fawlty Towers," "Are You Being Served?," and "Keeping Up Appearances," you will not be disappointed in this diminutive literary classic.Neo-nazi's should avoid this book. Nazi-phobes have nothing to fear from it. For the other 99% of the world's population, it is not only acceptable reading, but potentially enjoyable.It's a real treasure for a WWII library.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lighthearted doggerel that could have got this author killedBy MeaghanI keep telling myself that, with all the Holocaust reading I do, I really ought to bite the bullet and read Mein Kampf. But I never have. I've tried, but it's really badly written and impossible for me to tolerate for more than a chapter or two.Which is why I'm all the more impressed that R.F. Patterson was able to read the whole thing and then agonize over the rhymes to summarize it in amusing verse! With lines like:And I decided that at leastI'd be an abbot or a priest.But my respected parent said,"You're far too big a dunderhead."and:By nature a determined StoicI panted after deeds heroic;When Archduke Francis FerdinandWas liquidated, it was grand.and:Though half-a-dozen crazy schemersMay pose as Germany's redeemers,One man alone as gold is rated,The others are electroplated.It is thus easy to read and at the same time you understand what the Fuhrer was trying to say. Perhaps I will just give up my attempts to read the real thing, since this version does quite nicely.I would recommend this to people interested in World War II or the Holocaust, and also to those who like limericks and humor in the style of Will Cuppy and Richard Armour.A matter of interest: this book was originally published in 1940, when Germany was really pounding hard on the UK. Had the Nazis invaded and conquered Britain -- something that was a distinct possibility at the time of writing -- Mr. Patterson might have found himself in a concentration camp or worse. He was really quite brave in publishing it.

When Germany invaded Poland on 1st September 1939, to reclaim the land they 'lost' after World War One, many feared that Britain would not honour the pledges of support to Poland they had given throughout 1939. Britain stood alone. France feared a major war, and would not help. The USA would not support Britain. Suddenly Adolf Hitler, with whom Prime Minister Chamberlain had negotiated 'peace in our time', and whom the Defence Secretary had called 'most sincere', was revealed for what he was. As impossible as it might seem to us today, within six months of declaring war, Britain was enduring a shattering and devastating experience. And Britain faced massive loss, and surrender. By May 1940 Winston Churchill, then Prime Minister, was being asked to approve plans to evacuate the Government, Royal Family and the Bank of England's gold to Canada. 200,000 British troops stood on the beaches of Dunkirk, unable to get home, while Churchill bartered with the Americans to send destroyers to help. In the previous six months, children had been evacuated from London and cities; men had been called up and mobilised, and women went to work in munitions factory and did men's jobs for the first time. People knew their lives would never be the same again. And propaganda was rife. Propaganda works best when the enemy is diminished, and portrayed as a manageable entity, certain to be defeated. Much of German propaganda was sinister, especially in the portrayal of Jewish citizens. American propaganda was cautionary and dark. British propaganda, on the other hand, was that the righteous should prevail and that those in the wrong - be they errant schoolboys, bullies, or robbers, or even wartime leaders, should always fail. Rubbishing the enemy, assassinating nasty characters with humorous methods, was a technique people learned from comics. Britain was expert in this area. So enter Heath Robinson, and R F Paterson's "Mein Rant", which we reproduce in this book, with a new introduction by leading comic archivist, Morris Heggie. "Mein Rant" is a clever and funny satire of Hitler's "Mein Kampf", illustrated by Heath Robinson. Today, and since World War One, Heath Robinson's name has been used to describe absurdly complicated inventions that achieved very simple results. Here his work is used to great impact. "Mein Kampf" ('My Struggle'), Hitler's autobiography, was published in two volumes in 1925 and 1926 which Hitler wrote in Landsberg Prison, and R F Paterson said of it: "Mein Kampf" had neither rhyme nor reason, while my abridgement undoubtedly has rhyme. 'A conversion of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" to a delightful and pungent verse-satire. The result is an absolute triumph of the Comic Muse over intractable, almost hopeless material.' The key points: first published February 1940, humour/nostalgia/war, introduction by Morris Heggie, former editor of "The Dandy" and leading comic archivist.

About the AuthorR F Paterson was born in Glasgow and worked as an editor. Heath Robinson illustrated many children's books in the 1930s and became famous for his absurdly complex illustrations of machines and inventions that performed simple tasks.