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### Ernst Bloch and a lack of Hitler's Violence

Bloch, Ernst. "Hitlers Gewalt". *Das Tage-buch* 5, April 12, 1924, pp. 474-77. [GHDI - Document - Page](#)  
 Accessed February 23, 2026

In November of 1923, among other current social dishevels, Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist Party attempted a failed putsch of the German Republic from within Munich.<sup>1</sup> The attempted putsch even led to the banning of the National Socialist party.<sup>2</sup> The ensuing trial and sentencing of the leaders of the putsch from February 26-April 1, 1924, however, was not harsh, as Hitler was not deported to Austria. As well as him and most of the leaders were given lenient sentencing of around five years in prison, or in the case of Ludendorff no punishment at all. After these light rulings some believed the threat of Hitler and National Socialism to be completely wiped out. In the wake of the trial a Jewish German, Ernst Bloch – an optimistic Marxist philosopher most known for his *Spirit of Utopia* – wrote his article "Hitler's Force" in the independent weekly *Das Tage-buch*.<sup>3</sup> Within the article he – unlike his contemporaries – dismisses the idea that Hitler had been dealt with, and argues that he should not stay under the proverbial radar. Within the article he argues the National Socialist's "low brow rhetoric", violent nationalism, and emotional appeals to the German youth had posed threats to the republic and would continue into the future. Within retrospect of the party being unbanned in early 1925 Bloch seems to have made a prescient warning for the protection of the republic that many Germans would not heed.<sup>4</sup> Nonetheless, the National Socialists came to power in the early 1930s, and book burnings of largely Jewish and Marxist authors were conducted. This forced Bloch to flee to Austria and then later to Switzerland. This perhaps the reason that there are so few contemporary references to be found referring to it. However, in 1935 Bloch republished his article in his book of essays, *Erbschaft dieser Zeit*, which helped to revive "Hitler's Force", retitled "Remember: Hitler's Force". Republishing the article he would use it to defend his idea of Fascism not being a part of late stage capitalism, but rather how different social classes experiencing progress in different ways allows for Fascism to hold broad appeals due to social imbalances, which he wrote about in other essays included in the book. As stated in "Hitler's Force", because of this "asynchronism" the National Socialists could be a "crooked governor of revolution" for certain classes of young Germans and petite-bourgeoisie. After the publication of *Erbschaft dieser Zeit*, the popularity of Bloch's article grew, but now with regards to his theory of "asynchronism". Because of the scarcity of its original version, historians and historiographers would use *Erbschaft dieser Zeit's* reissue of the article, as a means to explore Hitler and National

<sup>1</sup> GHDI. "[Hitler's Putsch Trial](#)." German History in Documents and Images. Accessed February 23, 2026.

<sup>2</sup>Paul Hoser. "[Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei \(NSDAP-National Socialist German Workers' Party\), 1920-1923/1925-1945 - Historisches Lexikon Bayerns](#)." 20 Jahre – 20 Artikel – Historisches Lexikon Bayerns. 2024. Accessed March 8, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> Ivan Boldyrev. "[Ernst Bloch \(Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy\)](#)." Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. January 25, 2023. Accessed February 26, 2026.

<sup>4</sup> GHDI. "Hitler's Putsch Trial."

Socialism's rise to power and appeal to certain groups of Germans. Through the next 80 years the article would be used as an example of resistance and changing views of Fascism, but primarily through Bloch's retrospective lens in *Erbschaft dieser Zeit*.

#### Bibliography in Chronological Order:

1. Bloch, Ernst. "Hitlers Gewalt". *Das Tage-buch* 5, April 12, 1924, pp. 474-77. [GHDI - Document - Page](#) Accessed February 23, 2026

Original German publication from the independent weekly *Das Tage-buch* found on the German History in Documents and Images website.

2. Bloch, Ernst. *Erbschaft dieser Zeit*. pp. 160-64. 1st ed. Zürich: Oprecht & Helbling, 1935. New edition Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 1973, available at <https://archive.org/details/erbschaftdieserz0000bloc/mode/2up> Accessed February 28, 2026. This collection of essays was also republished as vol. 4 of Bloch's collected works in 1962, with a paperback edition again in 1977.

In 1935, Bloch republished "Hitlers Gewalt" under the new title "Erinnerung: Hitlers Gewalt" with many of his other essays between 1924 and 1933. He uses his article to look back on his prediction, which adds to his newly developed idea of "Ungleichzeitigkeit" (asynchronism). His republishing revived the article's importance as many of the other references to it discuss ideas laid out in his book. He uses the article as an explanation of his idea of asynchronism, or how the low brow rhetoric was able to take advantage of how the classes within Germany experienced due to experiencing modernism in different waves. He used his article specifically to add to the discussion from other essays of how the middle class and youth were still adjusting to modern capitalism, which were ideas first laid out in "Hitler's Gewalt". This diverged from the current belief that National Socialism only appeared due to late stage Capitalism, but how certain groups believed National Socialism could be the "crooked governor of revolution". Found using the help of Google Gemini AI prompt written by the professor. To help translate the passage of this document I used the AI DeepL translator so that I could understand how the article was being referenced. Use of ChatGPT and Wikipedia to briefly help understand the meaning of Bloch's theory of "Ungleichzeitigkeit".

3. Negt, Oskar. "The Non-Synchronous Heritage and the Problem of Propaganda." *New German Critique*, no. 9 (1976): 50. <https://doi.org/10.2307/487688>. <https://sfarchive.dsausa.org/issues/spring-summer-2023/ernst-bloch-looking-backward-looking-forward-in-the-fight-against-fascism/>. Accessed March 17, 2026

Document found on Jstor and Referenced in: Stand, Kurt. "[Ernst Bloch: Looking Backward, Looking Forward in the Fight Against Fascism.](#)" Socialist Forum - A Democratic Socialists of America Publication. Accessed March 16, 2026. The author discusses Bloch's theory of asynchronism and how his theories regarding Fascism differed from other Marxists at the time. He directly quotes "Hitlers Gewalt" from *Erbschaft dieser Zeit* to discuss how due to the asynchronism in German society Fascism had become the bearer of a revolution for specific classes of Germans, while the Socialists and Communists failed to gain their support.

4. Schöffling, Klaus. *Dort wo man Bücher verbrennt : Stimmen der Betroffenen.* pp. 19-23. 1st ed. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1983. Accessed February 28, 2026

Available at the University of California: Santa Barbara library, the article appears among other examples of Marxist, Jewish, and anti-Nazi documents burnt by the National Socialists, of which Bloch was all three and was persecuted for. The burnings of these works, with perhaps "Hitler's Violence" being one, is an important reason as to why there are so few contemporary references to the article beyond Bloch's own reference to it in 1933. It primarily uses Bloch's article as a premonition of the events to come within Germany, and as a voice of someone who was persecuted by the National Socialists.

5. Kulka, Otto D. "Die Deutsche Geschichtsschreibung Über Den Nationalsozialismus Und Die 'Endlösung'. Tendenzen Und Entwicklungsphasen 1924-1984." *Historische Zeitschrift* 240, no. 3, (1985): 602. [Die deutsche Geschichtsschreibung über den Nationalsozialismus und die "Endlösung". Tendenzen und Entwicklungsphasen 1924-1984 on JSTOR](#) Accessed February 28, 2026

This book explores how the rise of Fascism and National Socialism has been perceived and studied throughout its history. The author uses Bloch's article as an argument to show that the idea of why Fascism existed had begun developing beyond the belief that it was only a part of late stage capitalism. It uses Bloch's article as a representative for one of the many ways people perceived Fascism early on. It has similar analysis to that of Bloch's *Erbschaft dieser Zeit* to make its argument regarding National Socialist appeal being widespread among young people due to asynchronism. To help translate the passage of this document I used the AI DeepL translator so that I could understand how the article was being referenced.

6. Barash, Jeffrey Andrew. *Heritage of Our Times*, by Ernst Bloch, Neville Plaice, Stephen Plaice, Martin Jay, and Anton Kaes. *The Journal of Modern History* 65, no. 4 (1993): 899–901. <http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.ucsb.edu/stable/2124586>. Accessed March 16, 2026

This is an English review of the English translation to *Erbschaft dieser Zeit* found on Jstor. It reviews the arguments made throughout all of Bloch's essays republished in the book. He then references Bloch's argument in "Hitlers Gewalt" relating to National Socialist appeal to German youth, the middle class, and peasantry. The review also argues how Bloch's assessment of asynchronism was different compared to other Marxists at the time who believed Fascism was merely caused by Capitalism.

7. Kaes, Anton, Martin Jay, and Edward Dimendberg (eds.). *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook*. pp. 147 1st ed. University of California Press, 1994. [6. The Struggle against Fascism](#), p. 147-49. Accessed February 24, 2026

Found in the University of California: Santa Barbara library, Bloch's article is paired among other contemporary sources to represent the wide array of resistance to Fascism within the Weimar Republic. The authors use Bloch as a means to show the early warnings of National Socialism as a threat, and how people, such as Bloch, believed it should never have been taken lightly even after Hitler's imprisonment. The book uses the 1962 republished English translation from *Erbschaft dieser Zeit*.

8. Durst, David C. *Weimar Modernism: Philosophy, Politics, and Culture in Germany, 1918-1933*. pp. 22. 2004. [Weimar modernism : philosophy, politics, and culture in Germany, 1918-1933 : Durst, David C., 1963- : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#) Accessed March 1, 2026

Found on Google Scholar and the Internet Archive, Bloch's article and much of his work are used to discuss how the society of the republic fell due to capitalism affecting different classes at different paces, similar to where it is included in *Erbschaft dieser Zeit*. The author also uses the article to discuss how the National Socialist movement appealed to the working class and petit bourgeoisie through its social and cultural impacts. Using it to further his belief that the republic was split on modernism and conservatism, but National Socialism appealed to the disaffected people who did align with modernism. This is similar to the ideas defended by "Hitler's Gewalt" in *Erbschaft dieser Zeit* with the conservatives willing to use National Socialism as a means for progress.

9. Walsdorf, Hanna. *Bewegte Propaganda: politische Instrumentalisierung von Volkstanz in den deutschen Diktaturen*. Königshausen & Neumann, 2010. [Bewegte Propaganda: politische Instrumentalisierung von Volkstanz in den ... - Hanna Walsdorf - Google Books](#) Accessed March 1, 2026

Found on Google Scholar, Bloch's article is used to explore how the range of National

Socialist propaganda expanded over numerous socioeconomic groups, and especially the youth. Bloch's article is specifically mentioned with the National Socialist rhetorical mass appeal within Germany, especially in regards to German youth, and violent nationalism. Using the article further it states how the National Socialists masked their violent intentions within the positively named "values and attitudes", which helped with its broad appeal, which is what Bloch argued in his original article. To help translate the passage of this document I used the DeepL translator so that I could understand how the article was being referenced.