

December 22, 2013

Dear Prof. Gordon,

Regarding my thesis, in which I intend to expand on the theme discussed in my term paper, preliminary review of certain primary and secondary sources has revealed the following:

1. That the political thoughts of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin were shaped by the teachings of certain philosophers. Hitler was influenced by Arthur Schopenhauer, Houston Stewart Chamberlain and Karl Haushofer, while Stalin was influenced by Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin.
2. Stalin was a more disciplined thinker than Hitler, which is not surprising given Stalin's membership in a political organization that included many intellectuals.
3. The core of Stalin's political ideology was his theory of socialism in one country, a theory developed in response to Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution.
4. Hitler and Stalin believed that their programs were for the good of their respective countries and were ideologically defensible and rational.
5. Hitler and Stalin functioned in cultural milieus in which their actions were considered legitimate and legal, thus any comparisons of the two will have to take into consideration the cultural norms of their respective societies.
6. Hitler and Stalin were not caricatures and to analyze them as such would be academically unproductive.

Phil