Why Did Hitler Hate Jewish People?

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When Adolf Hitler was living in Vienna in his youth, he began to form his anti-Semitic ideas (although arguably he had been anti-Semitic since much earlier). He observed that many of the large, successfull department stores were run by Jewish businessmen. He also thought that these large stores were squeezing smaller, more 'traditional', 'German' stores out of business. Therefore Hitler began to resent intensely the wealth, and therefore, commercial power, taht many Jewish firms had built up. He thought he saw this all over the world, or at least all over Germany and Austria, and so he decided that Jewish people must be inherently greedy. Related to this was Hitler's opinion that Jewish people were 'corrupting' German culture with Jewish culture.

However, this was only one of his two major reasons to hate the Jews. He had also built up an extensive pseudo-racial theory relating to the racial 'inferiority' of the Jewish 'race'. Hitler though that the greateset race in the world was the 'Aryan' race, which included basically Western and Northern European peoples — the Germanic/Saxon peoples (Germany, Austria and Britain) and the Scandinavian peoples (Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland), and to a lesser extent France and the other countries neighbouring Germany to the West. Of these, Hitler felt that the Germans (Germany and Austria) were the most 'perfect' of the Aryans and were destined to rule the world. The two 'races' that Hitler believed to be the most inferior were the Slavs (Eastern Europe and Russia) and the Jews. In fact, Hitler began to associate Slavs, Jews, and Communists (his other main enemy, a political philosophy) together as some sort of vast, international, Jewish-Slav-Communist conspiracy that was trying to overthrow Aryan superiority.

In his book, *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle"), written in prison in the 1920s, Hitler put forward all these views: the idea of Jewish people being greedy, the theory of their racial inferiority, the belief in the global Jewish conspiracy, and the myth that they were corrupting German 'Aryan' culture. *Mein Kampf* was the document that the Nazi party used as the basis for all their beliefs.