

s recent trenchant assessment of Saddam Hussein's "evil-doer" image for many lay persons, his diagnosis is designed with and outside any modern psychiatric system. Would it not behoove U. S. government officials to have a formal psychiatric evaluation of Saddam Hussein to test this narrow and simplistic vision of an "evil-doer?" The current international standard of official psychiatric diagnosis is maintained by the American Psychiatric Association. The system is called the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders—Fourth Edition—Text Revised (DSM-IV-TR)* and was used to demand that Saddam Hussein cooperate and to answer questions. This is clearly an impossibility, having been demonstrated about him is not only possible, but also appears to be the nature of psychiatric assessment. The use of informants in psychiatric diagnosis has long been a part of clinical practice. Meehan et al. (1995) and an important adjunct to clinical interviews with informants. Meehan, Meehan, and Turkheimer (2002) reviewed 17 studies on informant validity disorders and concluded that informant-agreement between self- and informant-reports, with each other. Previous research by the senior author (Coolidge, 1995; Coolidge, 1999) has demonstrated the reliability of multiple informants.

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...ature and of his duty to purify the German people. The history of Schizophrenia requires disorganized behavior. However, because of Hitler's delusions or hallucinations can occur in individuals with otherwise normal cognitive functioning and affect. The DSM also states that some individuals may have a superior and

stability, has made the importance of understanding Hitler's personality characteristics paramount. In addition, if Hitler's personality could be assessed 58 years after his death, then certainly Saddam Hussein could be evaluated reliably by the same methods. Since Hitler's suicide, there have been numerous retrospective psychological studies and speculations about suspected psychopathology and those of his followers (e.g., Ressler, 1999), but none have been conducted according to the official criteria of the American Psychiatric Association's DSM.

Method

Informants, Assessment Technique, and Procedures

The informants in this study were five professors of history and five professional historians (19 were originally contacted). They were all males, ranging in age from 43 to 75 years old. All had numerous publications (either journal articles or books) on aspects of Nazi Germany, and all currently teach courses on Nazi Germany and Hitler. Written informed consent was obtained, and all were offered anonymity with regard to their participation.

The informant-report was the Coolidge Axis II Inventory (Coolidge, 1999; Coolidge & Merwin, 1992), a 225-item *DSM-IV* based

It will be interesting to compare these results to those of Saddam Hussein. Hopefully, the resulting knowledge will be useful to help us understand, and control the behavior of other current and future

References