

Himmler

Essay from the year 2013 in the subject History Europe - Germany - National Socialism, World War II, grade: A, University of Alaska Fairbanks, course: Modern World History, language: English, abstract: An examination of Himmler's effect on Nazi Germany, with a focus on his involvement with the medical experiments the Nazi's conducted during World War Two. Includes direct proof of Himmler's involvement, including letters written by Himmler ordering the medical experiments.

Ever since the end of the Second World War, the name of Heinrich Himmler has been synonymous with all that was evil in Nazi Germany. Martin Allen's access to previously reticent individuals including several top Nazis and Himmler's daughter, reveals a remarkable story with numerous explosive revelations.

This book contains the biographies of Hitler's three henchmen, Göbbels, Himmler and Göring, the longest loyal servants of Hitler. It utilises both older biographies, because of their insights, and more recent scholarly publications, as well as diaries (such as those of Göbbels and Ciano). The volume illustrates that Göbbels' support was three-fold, in campaign managing, propaganda and myth-building. Himmler's terror apparatus suppressed occupied Europe, and controlled Germans, ensuring that Hitler

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retained power. Göring's control of the economy and the Luftwaffe and his personal support of Hitler were critical as demonstrated by his trial at Nuremberg, but he was the weakest link from 1940 as he became virtually ineffectual. In addition, and new to this area of study, the book introduces the work of Stephen Roberts, an academic who actually met these men in 1936, and whose insights are revealing. The volume also examines the question of their mental stability in the light of psychopathic studies.

How could the Holocaust have happened in a civilized country? Who is to blame? The roots of the hatred that led to the Holocaust began long before World War II. Author Linda Jacobs Altman thoroughly examines the causes and events that led up to the Holocaust, Adolf Hitler's rise to power, and the role he played in World War II in perpetuating the Holocaust.

How much of history is an illusion? Did the Third Reich's most notorious Nazi, Heinrich Himmler, really take his own life at the end of the Second World War? A fifty-year-old manuscript, written by Erich Koch, the young officer who accompanied Himmler, reveals that the Reichsführer of the SS in fact survived and escaped to England. As Himmler realises that Germany's defeat is inevitable, he lays his clever, ruthless plans, meticulously working out every detail for his escape, and ensuring that he

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covers his tracks. Isherwood fleshes out Koch's manuscript to reveal how a double, made to look even more like Himmler by the evil Dr. Josef Mengele, is the one who takes the cyanide capsule. Safely brought to England with his innocent comrade, Erich Koch, Himmler is met by a local smallholder of German origin. But how long will Himmler be content to raise chickens and pigs? How long will it be before Erich realises the true past of his comrade? And how long can they hide from the determined and resourceful Nazi-hunters?

Tells the story of Felix Kersten, a physical therapist who became Heinrich Himmler's personal physician, and his influence over Himmler to join a plot to overthrow Adolf Hitler.

In 1940, the German sons and daughters of great Nazi dignitaries Himmler, Göring, Hess, Frank, Bormann, Speer, and Mengele were children of privilege at four, five, or ten years old, surrounded by affectionate, all-powerful parents. Although innocent and unaware of what was happening at the time, they eventually discovered the extent of their father's occupations: These men—their fathers who were capable of loving their children and receiving love in return—were leaders of the Third Reich, and would later be convicted as monstrous war criminals. For these children, the German defeat was an earth-shattering source of family rupture, the end of opulence, and the jarring discovery of Hitler's

atrocities. How did the offspring of these leaders deal with the aftermath of the war and the skeletons that would haunt them forever? Some chose to disown their past. Others did not. Some condemned their fathers; others worshipped them unconditionally to the end. In this enlightening book, Tania Crasnianski examines the responsibility of eight descendants of Nazi notables, caught somewhere between stigmatization, worship, and amnesia. By tracing the unique experiences of these children, she probes at the relationship between them and their fathers and examines the idea of how responsibility for the fault is continually borne by the descendants. Nazi Germany formally surrendered on May 9th 1945. Post war one major participant was missing and that was the monster Heinrich Himmler...killer of an estimated 8 to 9 million innocent European citizens. He and nearly a dozen of his gang went missing for almost two weeks after the end of the war. The United States, England, France and the Soviet Union wanted him. The millions who died in his concentration camps cried out for justice. Find him. Arrest him. Bring him to Nuremberg for his crimes against humanity...and let him hang in the gallows with those other Nazi criminals! The story presented here is true. A member of the CIC, under the direction of Allan Dulles sent men throughout Germany to hunt him down and arrest him. The names of these operatives are unknown, so we've

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made up the name of one individual that is typical of the CIC hunters like those out to arrest Himmler. We'll call this typical CIC hunter U.S. Army Bird Colonel Calvin Metz. Like other CIC hunters, he virtually had a license to kill and he feared no one because his boss was none other than five-star General, Dwight D. Eisenhower! So, Colonel Metz had a free pass to go throughout the former Nazi Germany regardless of what ally controlled the zone. Metz and his small detail drove throughout the former Nazi Germany searching and searching and pissing off the British who believed that no Americans were allowed in their zone of occupation. An American hunter was completely unwelcome but Metz was on a mission authorized by General Eisenhower and not even the British dared to deny him passage. Unfortunately, the British stumbled upon Himmler and his gang...just mere hours before Metz. Himmler was arrested one morning in Northwest Germany, near Hamburg. The next day he was dead...by cyanide poisoning. The British claimed that he had hidden a capsule in his teeth. Nonsense! The capsule had to have been shoved down his throat! British details of this act have been classified for 100 years, until 2045. And so, Himmler was never brought to trial and this was a crime in itself, to all those millions of murdered Jews and Europeans that deserved justice. This is the story of why we believe the British summarily executed

Heinrich Himmler the day after he was arrested and the cover-up which continues today.

Originally published in 1953, this masterly study of Heinrich Himmler is a forceful, dispassionate analysis of a man who rose from obscure beginnings as an agricultural student to a position of almost absolute power, until, in the Nazi twilight, he challenged Hitler himself. Outwardly insignificant, diffident—possessing neither the flamboyance of Goering nor the incisiveness of Goebbels—Himmler, head of the dreaded Secret Police, yet made himself the man most feared in the Nazi hierarchy—and as much by his ‘friends’ as his enemies. Only when the incredible facts about Himmler’s extraordinary hold over his colleagues became known were the full depths of the infamy to which Nazism had brought Germany revealed. Based on journalist Willi Frischauer’s unique knowledge of the background and sequence of events which gave rise to the Hitler regime, he manages to unearth the evidence, building up, stone by stone, the mosaic of Himmler’s true portrait. A fully documented and unforgettable narrative.

"I was following orders." The answer most commonly quoted by SS men accused of atrocious crimes after Germany had surrendered in 1945. But who gave those orders? Who was the mastermind behind the sophisticated machinery which allowed men from normal family backgrounds to kill on such a scale? The right man at the right time, fate steered Heinrich Himmler to take control of an organization destined to carry out Hitler's racial policies. This study not only sets out in detail how Heinrich Himmler's daily routine allowed him to implement Nazi strategy, but it also provides illustrations of the man behind much of it, both at work and at home. Of all the personalities of history demonized by postwar writers, Heinrich Himmler ranks among the most reviled. His legacy is

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one of hatred, violence and cold blooded murder on a vast scale. A Jekyll and Hyde character, variously described by his generation and those who followed as charming, loyal, polite, a pedant, an eccentric, an organizational genius, a fool, a desk killer and a loving father. The camera allows us into his world, albeit temporarily, and we can equate his busy, but mostly mundane schedule with contemporary images frozen in time. REVIEWS "text as engaging as the illustrations, and highly recommend this marvelous book to all who think they've seen everything about Heinrich Himmler. Military Advisor

Authors Roger Manvell and Heinrich Fraenkel, notable biographers of the World War II German leaders Joseph Goebbels and Herman Goring, delve into the life of one of the most sinister, clever, and successful of all the Nazi leaders: Heinrich Himmler. As the head of the feared SS, Himmler supervised the extermination of millions. Here is the story of how a seemingly ordinary boy grew into an obsessive and superstitious man who ventured into herbalism, astrology, and homeopathic medicine before finally turning to the "science" of racial purity and the belief in the superiority of the Aryan people.

In 1938, on the eve of war, a Nazi expedition set out through British India on a mission sponsored by Himmler himself. Their aim was to find the roots of the Aryan people, high in the sacred mountains of Tibet. It was led by two complex individuals - one, Ernst Schafer, a swashbuckling naturalist who was using the Nazis to pursue his own ends, the other, Bruno Beger, so committed to the cause he ended up conducting experiments on prisoners in Auschwitz. The expedition quickly found itself battling hostility from the British, being manipulated by the Tibetans and struggling with the primitive conditions of Lhasa. Every step was recorded in diaries, letters and reports back to Delhi and London by the

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suspicious British, and to Berlin by the Germans. It was also documented in masses of extraordinary photographs, many of which are reproduced here.

The full untold story of how one of history's bravest revolts ended in one of its greatest crimes In 1943, the Nazis liquidated Warsaw's Jewish ghetto. A year later, they threatened to complete the city's destruction by deporting its remaining residents. A sophisticated and cosmopolitan community a thousand years old was facing its final days—and then opportunity struck. As Soviet soldiers turned back the Nazi invasion of Russia and began pressing west, the underground Polish Home Army decided to act. Taking advantage of German disarray and seeking to forestall the absorption of their country into the Soviet empire, they chose to liberate the city of Warsaw for themselves. *Warsaw 1944* tells the story of this brave, and errant, calculation. For more than sixty days, the Polish fighters took over large parts of the city and held off the SS's most brutal forces. But in the end, their efforts were doomed. Scorned by Stalin and unable to win significant support from the Western Allies, the Polish Home Army was left to face the full fury of Hitler, Himmler, and the SS. The crackdown that followed was among the most brutal episodes of history's most brutal war, and the celebrated historian Alexandra Richie depicts this tragedy in riveting detail. Using a rich trove of primary sources, Richie relates the terrible experiences of individuals who fought in the uprising and perished in it. Her clear-eyed narrative reveals the fraught choices and complex legacy of some of World War II's most unsung heroes.

Set in Nazi Germany, *Massaging Hitler* tells in verse the remarkable story of a little-known humanitarian, Dr Felix Kersten. Kersten was a Finnish-born therapeutic masseur who found himself at the centre of the Nazi web, treating Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler (head of the SS and the

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Gestapo) for stomach cramps, which sometimes rendered him unconscious, and which no other practitioner could relieve. Dr Kersten massaged Himmler daily during the war, sometimes in multiple treatments. He took no fee for his services to the Reichsführer, but used his influence to secure the release of tens of thousands of prisoners. Accused of collaboration at the end of the war, he worked tirelessly to clear his name, and received high honours from several European countries. Told in compelling language, from multiple points of view, this is an important addition to Holocaust literature. Dr Kersten's story shows how one man, flawed like the rest of us, was able to make a difference.

"...Carson's poems race ahead of the reader, like stampeding horses, the furious pace mirroring the horror of their context. Art Spiegelman's graphic novel, *Maus*, pushed the boundaries of Holocaust literature, and I believe *Massaging Himmler: A Poetic Biography of Dr Felix Kersten*, is in that class." - Adele Hulse, Coordinator, Write Your Story program, Makor Publishing, Lamm Jewish Library of Australia.

Only days after Normandy, Hitler is taken out of the equation and Heinrich Himmler, brutal head of the SS, assumes control of the Reich. On the Allied side, there is confusion. Should attempts be made to negotiate with the new government or should unconditional surrender still be the only option? With the specter of a German super-weapon moving closer to completion and the German generals finally allowed to fight the kind of war at which they are masters, the allies are pushed toward a course of accommodation or even defeat. Will the soldiers of the Grand Alliance find the courage and conviction to fight on in the face of such daunting odds? And can alliance leaders put into place a new plan in time to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat by the German war machine? A new and terrible battle for a free world is on. At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (Digital

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Rights Management).

Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online. Pages: 52. Chapters: Heinrich Himmler, Thule Society, Ahnenerbe, Vrill, 1938-1939 German expedition to Tibet, Nazi archaeology, Esoteric Nazism, Karl Maria Wiligut, Nazi UFOs, Karl Spiesberger, Irminenschaft, Karl Ernst Krafft, Johannes Balzli, Friedrich Marby, The Occult Roots of Nazism, Ludwig Straniak, German Faith Movement, Siegfried Adolf Kummer, Das Geheimnis der Runen, List of terms in Germanic mysticism, Sig, Bruno Schweizer, Wilhelm Wulff, Zodiac and Swastika, A. Frank Glahn, Wiligut runes, Occult Reich. Excerpt: Heinrich Luitpold Himmler (pronounced 7 October 1900 - 23 May 1945) was Reichsführer of the SS, a military commander, and a leading member of the Nazi Party. As Chief of the German Police and later the Minister of the Interior, Himmler oversaw all internal and external police and security forces, including the Gestapo (Secret State Police). Serving as Reichsführer and later as Commander of the Replacement (Home) Army and General Plenipotentiary for the entire Reichs administration (Generalbevollmächtigter für die Verwaltung), Himmler rose to become one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany as well as one of the persons most directly responsible for the Holocaust. As overseer of the concentration camps, extermination camps, and Einsatzgruppen (literally: task forces, often used as killing squads), Himmler coordinated the killing of some six million Jews, between 200,000 and 500,000 Roma, many prisoners of war, and possibly another three to four million Poles, communists, or other groups whom the Nazis deemed unworthy to live or simply "in the way," including homosexuals, people with physical and mental disabilities, Jehovah's Witnesses and members of the Confessing Church. Shortly before the end of the war, he offered to

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surrender both Germany and himself to the Western Allies if he were spared prosecution....

This book tells the true story of Himmler's plan to use prominent WWII concentration camp prisoners as hostages in an attempt to engage the Western Powers in negotiations. At the center of the tale are five British survivors of the 'Great Escape,' two MI5 agents kidnapped by the Nazis, and Irish born POWs.

Meticulously researched and revealing many previously unknown facts, it relates how the British group came to be integrated with a multinational group of VIP prisoners in Dachau concentration camp, including German family groups of men, women and children; relatives of those implicated in plot to kill Hitler. The lively narrative describes kidnapping, escape attempts, interpersonal conflict, betrayal and comradeship, as well as intrigues and love affairs among the prisoners, culminating in their dramatic attempt to free themselves from the SS.

"A fascinating volume detailing the Nazis' crackpot theories about prehistory and the Indiana Jones-style lengths they went to prove them." —Publishers Weekly In 1935, Heinrich Himmler established a Nazi research institute called The Ahnenerbe, whose mission was to send teams of scholars around the world to search for proof of ancient Aryan conquests. But history was not their most important focus. Rather, the Ahnenerbe was an essential part of Himmler's master plan for the Final Solution. The findings of the institute were used to convince armies of SS men that they were entitled to slaughter Jews and other groups. And Himmler also hoped to use the research as a blueprint for the breeding

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of a new Europe in a racially purer mold. The Master Plan is a groundbreaking expose of the work of German scientists and scholars who allowed their research to be warped to justify extermination, and who directly participated in the slaughter—many of whom resumed their academic positions at war's end. It is based on Heather Pringle's extensive original research, including previously ignored archival material and unpublished photographs, and interviews with living members of the institute and their survivors. A sweeping history told with the drama of fiction, *The Master Plan* is at once horrifying, transfixing, and monumentally important to our comprehension of how something as unimaginable as the Holocaust could have progressed from fantasy to reality. "Pringle's engrossing book . . . explores a little-known corner of Nazi history: the story of the Ahnenerbe . . . rich in such bizarre characters, ridiculous theories and colorful anecdotes. Massively researched and engagingly written." —The Daily Telegraph

At the end of World War II, it was assumed that the letters of Heinrich Himmler were lost. Yet sixty years after Himmler's capture by British troops and subsequent suicide, the letters mysteriously turned up in Tel Aviv and, in early 2014, excerpts were published for the first time by the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* providing a rare, if jarring, glimpse into the family life of one of Hitler's top lieutenants while he was busy organizing the mass extermination of the Jews. It was generally held that Himmler, once appointed head of the SS, blended seamlessly into the Nazi hierarchy. The image that emerges, however, is more subtle. Himmler is seen here

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as a man whose observations can often be characterized by their unpleasant banality; a man whose obsession with family life ran alongside a brutal detachment from all things human, a serial killer who oversaw the persecution and extermination of all Jews and other non-Aryans, and those opposed to the regime. His letters remove any doubt that he was the architect of the Final Solution, and a man who was much closer to Hitler than many historians previously thought. The letters in this edition were arranged by Katrin Himmler, the great-niece of Heinrich and Marga Himmler while Michael Wildt, a renowned expert on the Nazi regime, provides historical context to the letters and their author. The entire work was translated by Thomas S. Hansen and Abby J. Hansen.

"As the Indiana Jones films showed, Nazis, new age mumbo-jumbo and exotic locations are a formula that works. Christopher Hale's gripping and well-researched tale of an SS-sponsored scientific mission to Tibet in 1938-39 has the whole shebang: mad occult beliefs, mountains, strange characters called Bruno or Ernst and stomach-churning concentration camp experiments to round things off." —The Sunday Times (London) A scientific expedition or a sinister mission? Why would the leader of the Nazi's dreaded SS, the second-most-powerful man in the Third Reich, send a zoologist, an anthropologist, and several other scientists to Tibet on the eve of war? Himmler's Crusade tells the bizarre and chilling story one of history's most perverse, eccentric, and frightening scientific expeditions. Drawing on private journals, new interviews, and original research in

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German archives as well as in Tibet, author Christopher Hale recreates the events of this sinister expedition, asks penetrating questions about the relationship between science and politics, and sheds new light on the occult theories that obsessed Himmler and his fellow Nazis. Combining the highest standards of narrative history with the high adventure and exotic locales of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Himmler's Crusade* reveals that Himmler had ordered these men to examine Tibetan nobles for signs of Aryan physiology, undermine the British relationship with the ruling class, and sow the seeds of rebellion among the populace. Most strangely, the scientists—all SS officers—were to find scientific proof of a grotesque historical fantasy that was at the center of Himmler's beliefs about race. Set against the exquisite backdrop of the majestic Himalayas, this fast-paced and engaging narrative provides new and troubling insight into one of the strangest episodes in the history of science, politics, and war.

Lumans studies the relations between Nazi Germany and the German minority populations of other European countries, examining these ties within the context of Hitler's foreign policy and the racial policies of SS Chief Heinrich Himmler. He shows how the Reich's racial and political interests in these German minorities between 1933 and 1945 helped determine its behavior toward neighboring states. Originally published in 1993. A UNC Press Enduring Edition -- UNC Press Enduring Editions use the latest in digital technology to make available again books from our distinguished backlist that were previously out of print. These editions are published

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unaltered from the original, and are presented in affordable paperback formats, bringing readers both historical and cultural value.

A detailed biography of Himmler, from his childhood to his suicide in 1945. Stresses the psychological aspects of Himmler's antisemitism. Shows that the creator of the concentration camp empire was not a fanatical antisemite from a young age, as Hitler was, but adopted it from the atmosphere of post-World War I Germany. Himmler was not obsessed by pathological antisemitism; he regarded the extermination of the Jews in Europe as his political duty, as a kind of military operation. Dwells also on the euthanasia program and its connection with the mass killings of the Jews and the SS machinery. "A chilling study of the . . . recruitment, indoctrination and performance of those responsible for the guarding of concentration camp inmates."—Inscale.org The conversion of human beings into murderers and individuals routinely carrying out appalling acts of cruelty are bound to be shocking. But it happened under the Third Reich on a massive scale. This book follows the development of concentration camps from the early beginnings in the 1930s (Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen etc.), through their establishment in the conquered territories of Poland and Czechoslovakia to the extermination camps (Dachau, Auschwitz). In parallel, it describes, using original source material, the behavior of the guards who became in numerous cases immune to the horrors around them. This is well borne out by the conduct of the guards during the Liberation process, which is also movingly described using numerous

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personal accounts of shocked Allied personnel. Of the 55,000 Nazi concentration camp guards, some 3,700 were women. The book studies their behavior with examples along with that of their male counterparts. "These are everyday pictures of sadistic murderers. Ian Baxter should be commended on this book. The concentration camps of the Second World War should never be pushed to the back of our minds. It happened and we should remember it so that it can never be allowed to happen again."—WW2 Connection

Heinrich Himmler A Life Oxford University Press

A biography of Heinrich Himmler, who devised the plans that enabled the Holocaust to take place

Himmler's Diary 1945: A Calendar of Events Leading to Suicide is an exceptional work with unpublished diary entries made by Himmler that shows in detail how The Third Reich fell to ruin in its final bloody year. Reichsfuhrer-SS Heinrich Himmler was instigator of the largest programme of racial mass murder in history. 1 January 1945 saw Heinrich Himmler at his peak in Nazi Germany, controlling the entire German police force (including the Gestapo), all SS organisations and Nazi Minister of the Interior. His powers extended into the German Army and included Commander of the Replacement Army and two Army Groups. Two field commands revealed his limitations and failure as army commander. Between January and May 1945, Heinrich Himmler vacillated, showing a lack of vision, action and decision. At least he was able to gain control of V-2 rocket production and their launch against Britain. He ordered all concentration camp inmates be shot, before rescinding the order. When his SS generals asked for instructions, Himmler ordered them to show backbone as their commands had few bounds. The Swedes and Swiss negotiated with Himmler who

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allowed over 10,000 concentration camp prisoners taken to safety before Hitler intervened. Himmler conducted peace feelers via the Swedes before the German surrender in May 1945, while trying to make contact with British Field Marshal Montgomery. These contacts went unanswered. Himmler was captured by the British and then committed suicide on 23 May 1945.

The only biography of General Karl Wolff, Heinrich Himmler's assistant in the notorious SS

Aged 105, Rose has endured more than her fair share of hardships: the Armenian genocide, the Nazi regime, and the delirium of Maoism. Yet somehow, despite all the suffering, Rose never loses her joie de vivre. As she looks back over her long life--one of survival and, sometimes, one of retribution--she recalls those unique experiences that added such spice to her life, whether it was being a confidante to Hitler, a friend to Simone de Beauvoir or cooking for Heinrich Himmler.

Albert Speer - gifted architect, Minister of Armaments and War Production for Adolf Hitler's Third Reich - cannot forget. "At seventy-five, decades after the events. I am still haunted by the thought that I could have made decisions in a minute that would have improved the situation of the unfortunate inmates." Although not responsible for the concentration camps, Speer was in charge of the arms produced by the inmates, who were forced into factory work in hellish conditions. Speer set out to tell the story of German armaments in World War II and in his research stumbled across the records of the SS for the period. These included the documents of its chief, Heinrich Himmler, who was determined to infiltrate the war economy with his own people and build an SS industrial empire. Acting with Hitler's consent, Himmler would have made the SS independent of state and party. The insidiousness of the plot was well known

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to Speer, one of Himmler's targets. However, the breadth of Himmler's machinations, the depth of his ruthlessness, the sheer mania of his last-ditch schemes to increase production became a book in themselves. Thus *Infiltration* is the only book about the SS written by a high-ranking official within the Third Reich. It is also the most telling portrait of Heinrich Himmler ever written.

Chronicles the life of the Nazi leader, including his childhood and youth, his transformation of the SS from a small bodyguard unit into a powerful organization within the Nazi Party, and how his political maneuvering and rise in power set the tone for the party's goals.

Katrin Himmler's cool but meticulous examination of the Himmler story reveals – in all its dark complexity – the gulf between the 'normality' of bourgeois family life and the horrors perpetrated by one member. This riveting family memoir provides essential new information on the private life and background of one of the twentieth-century's most notorious killers – not a lone evil executioner, but a middle-class family man, loved and fully supported by his respectable German family. It also offers a unique account of one woman's courageous attempt to deal with her chilling inheritance. 'It is part of the creeping discomfort in reading her book to realise the incredibly ordinary middle-class background of these three sons of a rather pompous provincial headmaster and to see how, right until the end, he was almost able to convince himself it hadn't happened like it had' *Sunday Times* 'You get a vivid sense of a particular kind of German conservatism - Roman Catholic, monarchist - and of how, weirdly, it found an outlet in the upstart, part-pagan thuggery of Nazism' *Independent* 'One can only admire her bravery . . . In a way, Katrin Himmler's book is not a story about the past, but one about the present. The most interesting details are the ones she gives of her own quest'

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Daily Telegraph

A chilling biography of the head of Nazi Germany's terror apparatus, a key player in the Third Reich whose full story has never before been told. Reinhard Heydrich is widely recognized as one of the great iconic villains of the twentieth century, an appalling figure even within the context of the Nazi leadership. Chief of the Nazi Criminal Police, the SS Security Service, and the Gestapo, ruthless overlord of Nazi-occupied Bohemia and Moravia, and leading planner of the "Final Solution," Heydrich played a central role in Hitler's Germany. He shouldered a major share of responsibility for some of the worst Nazi atrocities, and up to his assassination in Prague in 1942, he was widely seen as one of the most dangerous men in Nazi Germany. Yet Heydrich has received remarkably modest attention in the extensive literature of the Third Reich. Robert Gerwarth weaves together little-known stories of Heydrich's private life with his deeds as head of the Nazi Reich Security Main Office. Fully exploring Heydrich's progression from a privileged middle-class youth to a rapacious mass murderer, Gerwarth sheds new light on the complexity of Heydrich's adult character, his motivations, the incremental steps that led to unimaginable atrocities, and the consequences of his murderous efforts toward re-creating the entire ethnic makeup of Europe. "This admirable biography makes plausible what actually happened and makes human what we might prefer to dismiss as monstrous."—Timothy Snyder, *Wall Street Journal* "[A] probing biography....

Gerwarth's fine study shows in chilling detail how genocide emerged from the practicalities of implementing a demented belief system."—*Publishers Weekly* "A thoroughly documented, scholarly, and eminently readable account of this mass murderer."—*The New Republic*

Sono stati picchiati, torturati, minacciati di morte, finché non si sono decisi a firmare l'ingaggio. Sono il battaglione

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disciplinare 999, l'arma segreta di Hitler. La guerra dura ormai da cinque anni e il Führer ha bisogno di tutti gli uomini che è possibile rastrellare, anche i comuni criminali. Tocca alla compagnia di veterani di Hassel addestrare i nuovi soldati e poi prendere parte insieme a loro alla feroce battaglia che devasterà Varsavia, e l'intero popolo polacco con lei.

What, at best, has been mentioned in previous monographs about Himmler as the second most powerful man of National-Socialism in passing, the historian Franz Wegener develops in greater depth: Himmler's mind was open to diverse occult influences originating in Germany as well as France. Thus he wrote about a book of the German spiritualist, Carl du Prel, who experimented with hovering tables and mediums: "A small scientific work on a philosophical basis which truly has me believe in spiritualism and was the first to really introduce me to it." He received Gaston de Mengel, a British occultist, who wrote for the mysterious occult group of the Polaires in Paris, and who collaborated closely with the founder of the esoteric university in Nice. As researched by Wegener, Himmler purchased himself a manual for "pendulum practice and pendulum magic," and in this way came also in touch with the theory of the gnostic "Od." He believed in the "transmigration of souls," attempted to obtain horoscopes from a Munich astrologer and his various occult advisors, and agreed with the hypotheses of Karl Heise ("Okkultes Logentum," 1921) that occult powers were pulling the strings behind Communists, Jews, and Freemasons. On this background Wegener does not allow Himmler's tendency about occult subjects pass as a mere private matter: "If Himmler's image of the enemy with respect to Freemasonry and Jews was fed also by occult patterns, one can no longer speak of a 'private matter,' since the political and, by no means, private consequence of Himmler's occult world view must be called mass murder."

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A portrait of the head of Hitler's SS police and Gestapo draws on diaries, letters, and speeches to describe Himmler's life, the evolution of his beliefs, his role in Nazi Germany, and his impact on the rise and fall of the Third Reich

An examination of the curious demise of Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler that investigates an extraordinary web of secret deals and international intrigue.

The real story of the SS, unlike its popular mythology, is so complex as to almost defy belief: it is a tale of intrigue and nepotism, of archaeology and Teutonism, of art and symbolism. Himmler's SS is a story of street fighters and convicted criminals becoming Ministers of State and police commanders; the story of charitable works and mass extermination being administered from the same building; the story of boy generals directing vast heterogeneous armies on devastating campaigns of conquest. Here, indeed, fact is stranger than fiction. Himmler's SS looks at the wide-ranging effects that the SS had on the Police, racial policies, German history, education, the economy and public life, as well as the uniforms and regalia which were carefully designed to set Himmler's men apart as the new elite in Third Reich society. Fully illustrated, this book is an authoritative history of the SS and as such will appeal to all with an interest in Hitler's Third Reich.

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