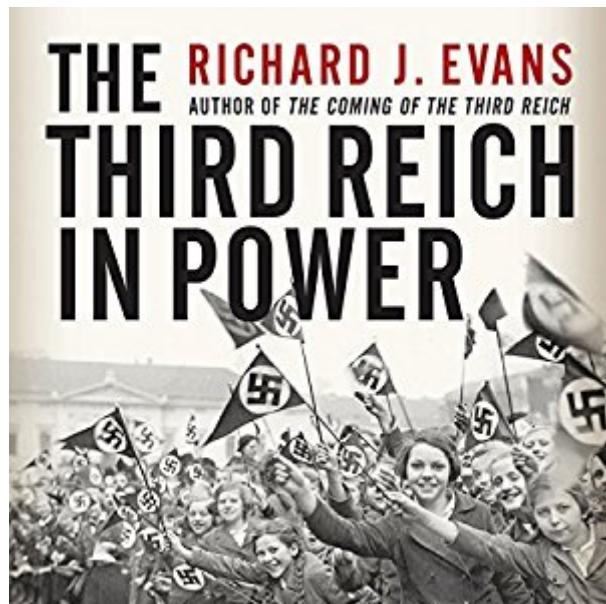


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The Third Reich In Power



Synopsis

This magnificent second volume of Richard J. Evans's three-volume history of Nazi Germany was hailed by Benjamin Schwartz of the Atlantic Monthly as the definitive English-language account... gripping and precise. It chronicles the incredible story of Germany's radical reshaping under Nazi rule. As those who were deemed unworthy to be counted among the German people were dealt with in increasingly brutal terms, Hitler's drive to prepare Germany for the war that he saw as its destiny reached its fateful hour in September 1939. The Third Reich in Power is the fullest and most authoritative account yet written of how, in six years, Germany was brought to the edge of that terrible abyss. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read all three of Richard Evans' volumes on the Third Reich, and recommend them highly. I have read fairly extensively on WW II and the Third Reich: this is among the very best. Although there is plenty of scholarly apparatus if you're so inclined, the text is very readable. Evans does not use a strict chronological approach within each book, but organizes the different topics to carry the story forward with horrifying momentum to the appalling conclusion. As someone who studied music history, I am grateful that Evans did not restrict himself (as some authors do) to politics and armaments, but included music and the arts, religious and social life, popular entertainment, and the everyday experiences of people living in Germany and (in the last volume) conquered areas. In its entirety, this is a lot of reading, but I personally found this cautionary and fascinating history

tremendously engrossing. Very highly recommended.

In his second book of the trilogy about the Third Reich, Richard Evans describes the German state, its main features and institutions. A police state that implemented terror, murder and despised the law. The arrival of the nazism to power, so argued the author, was accompanied with massive propaganda and the abolition of individual rights. There was no valid law against the desire of state agents. The politics enemies (communists and social-democrats) and minorities (homosexuals, non-arians and jews) are purged. Nazi's project is put into practice. The German territorial expansion begins with the invasion of Austria and Czech Republic. All this are covered by the book that ends in the beginning of the second world war (invasion of Poland). A great description of a modern totalitarian experience.

Dr. Evans provides a balanced and comprehensive history of the social values and turbulent history of both the German populace and the Nazi Party in both this book and the first volume of his three book history of the Third Reich. The first volume begins with the Weimar government and traces its failings as well as the origins of antisemitism in German society. This second volume provides careful details about the pervasive control that the Nazis extended into every corner of society, including their failure to rid Germany of religion. Professor Evans is careful to focus on the cause-effect and success-failure of Nazi efforts to avoid sidetracking into the obvious judgments we have made since 1945 to allow the reader to understand how Hitler and the Nazis operated. Revisiting the darkest period in modern history may disturb some, but it is necessary to analyze how a society can be so badly led astray.

This book is a masterpiece of historical research. As a part of Richard Evans' trilogy, it is a very significant addition to the study of Nazi Germany. It is meticulously researched and all-encompassing. Evans' books leave no stone unturned. What is impressive about this is that something like art or music gets just as much attention as conflicts, laws, or murder. There is much that we are already familiar with in terms of Nazi Germany; we know all the fascinating dirty deeds that took place between 1923 and 1945. But Evans shows us a much more complex picture. He shows us just how Hitler and the Nazis came to inhabit every single aspect of German society. This second book covers the years of Nazi Germany before the outbreak of war in 1939. The book takes a very systematic approach. It covers everything. How the Nazis changed the media, entertainment, music, education, marriage, etc. Evans tackles every single aspect of society one at a time

throughout this book. I started this book expecting to read about the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 and other similar events, but none of that appears until the last quarter of the book. This is an impressive and useful approach because by discussing these things thematically, Evans can cover them in detail. Over the course of the book, some events or time periods are of course covered multiple times. But this book also gives a strong account for the emphasis of anti-Semitism in Germany before the outbreak of war. I'm a little reluctant to give only four stars for this because it is just a definitive and impressive work. But, it's incredibly daunting to read. Now, I'm a history teacher and I've read many books of this size and scope before. But Evans' book still requires some effort to get through. Because he focuses on so many things that most casual readers aren't too interested in, some sections can become quite dull. This trilogy should be read only after reading several other accounts of ALL aspects of Nazi Germany (not just the war and not just from the US perspective). This is hard to do, but without significant background knowledge, much of the content of this book can be overwhelming or even worthless. Nonetheless, it is well-written and an essential read for the true students of Nazi Germany.

This book is so timely. History doesn't repeat, but it rhymes. I picked it up to see if those years in Germany before the war could give me any wisdom on our own time. What was life like right after Hitler took power? Did everything change overnight or was it a long process? What changed? How did they do it? Was anyone able to resist? This book answers these questions and more in a very accessible way. Much to learn..

This is probably the least exciting period of the story Evans tells in his three-volume history of the Third Reich, between the riveting struggle for power before the Reichstag Fire and the Enabling Law and the outbreak of history's most destructive war. The subject matter is nonetheless important and for a proper understanding of National Socialism the reader must absorb the minutia of production statistics and observe the moral slide into the abyss of German society. I know this review reads a little like "take your medicine, it's good for you", but I should stress that Evans makes this subject as interesting as it could be and certainly makes the task of understanding the trajectory and ultimate fate of National Socialism easier for the interested reader.

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