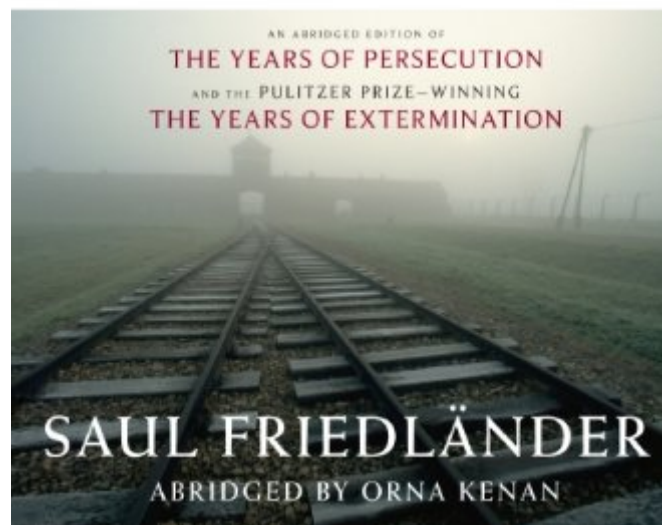


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Nazi Germany And The Jews, 1933-1945: Abridged Edition

"Establishes itself as the standard historical work on
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NAZI GERMANY AND THE JEWS 1933–1945



Synopsis

Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1933-1945 is an abridged edition of Saul Friedländer's definitive Pulitzer Prize-winning two-volume history of the Holocaust: Nazi Germany and the Jews: The Years of Persecution, 1933-1939 and The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945. The book's first part, dealing with the National Socialist campaign of oppression, restores the voices of Jews who were engulfed in an increasingly horrifying reality following the Nazi accession to power. Friedländer also provides the accounts of the persecutors themselves—and, perhaps most telling of all, the testimonies of ordinary German citizens who, in general, stood silent and unmoved by the increasing waves of segregation, humiliation, impoverishment, and violence. The second part covers the German extermination policies that resulted in the murder of six million European Jews—an official program that depended upon the cooperation of local authorities and police departments, the passivity of the populations, and the willingness of the victims to submit in desperate hope of surviving long enough to escape the German vise. A monumental, multifaceted study now contained in a single volume, Saul Friedländer's Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1933-1945 is an essential study of a dark and complex history.

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Customer Reviews

How does one write a book that is not preachy, didactic or prejudiced when one writes about the sensitive topic of WWII and Nazi Germany? Saul Friedlander has succeeded brilliantly. His book goes through documents not seen before and includes diaries, letters and memoirs of those who perished (and some who survived) but wrote about what was happening in real time in their countries, including Germany, Holland, and other parts of Europe. He also includes letters from Nazis, including a professor of Medicine at the University of Munster and an SS Hauptsturmführer a Dr. Johann Paul Kremer, about his experiences at Auschwitz, and how the Sonderkommando inmates pushed themselves to participate in these operations, "because special provisions are passed out, including a fifth of liquor, 5 cigarettes, 100 grams of baloney, and bread....6 september. Today, Sunday, excellent lunch: tomato soup, one-half chicken with potatoes and redcabbage (20 grams fat). Sweets and fantastic vanilla ice cream...Evening at 8 o'clock outside again for a Sonderaktion." Why the obsession with food, you might think? It turns out that this "doctor" was also researching in Auschwitz on the medical aspects of starvation. "His specimens would be put on a dissection table, interrogated about their weight loss, then killed and dissected. The effects of starvation could then be studied at leisure." The historical evidence in the book is almost too much to bear, showing the brutality of the Nazis and their collaborators throughout Europe; how no one would take the Jews if they could, even when they knew what was happening to them; and how many countries, including the U.S. did little or nothing to help those innocent people, including the American Jewish community and the Church.

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