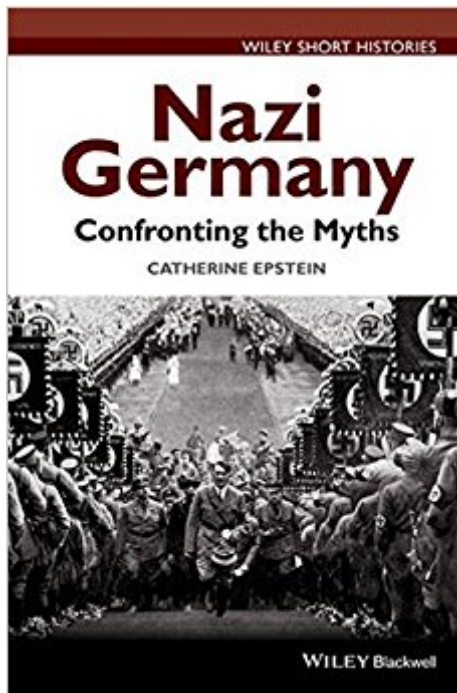




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Nazi Germany: Confronting The Myths (Wiley Short Histories)



Synopsis

Nazi Germany: Confronting the Myths provides a concise and compelling introduction to the Third Reich. At the same time, it challenges and demystifies the many stereotypes surrounding Hitler and Nazi Germany. Creates a succinct, argument-driven overview for students by using common myths and stereotypes to encourage critical engagement with the subject Provides an up-to-date historical synthesis based on the latest research in the field Argues that in order to fully understand and explain this period of history, we need to address its seeming paradoxes – for example, questioning why most Germans viewed the Third Reich as a legitimate government, despite the Nazis' criminality Incorporates useful study features, including a timeline, glossary, maps, and illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Among the many textbooks on Nazi Germany Catherine Epstein's stands out both because of its persuasive combination of the most recent research on this subject interwoven with judicious discussions of continuing debates on unresolved historiographical questions and because of the skillful ways in which she draws the reader into this complex field. Students and teachers in advanced secondary as well as higher education will also find this book to be the best short guide to the history of the Nazi Holocaust." –V.R. Berghahn, Columbia University "Drawing on the very latest scholarship, Catherine Epstein offers a lucidly written, accessible, engaging account of Hitler and the Third Reich. Nazi Germany: Confronting the Myths is an ideal choice for the undergraduate

classroom and will likely be the text that introduces many, many students to this most troubling chapter of modern German history." ?Robert Moeller, University of California, Irvine

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This is a well-done overview of the history of Nazi Germany. The author provides a satisfyingly objective survey without apparent bias. For example, the author strives to understand, instead of demonize: //Nazi Germany was evil, no doubt about it. But we cannot just condemn the Third Reich. We need to explain it, along with its seeming paradoxes . Despite the Nazis' criminality, for example, most Germans viewed the Third Reich as a legitimate government. They supported Nazi policies. Millions of German soldiers even fought for the Nazis. In another seeming paradox, Hitler rarely made decisions. Yet, even though he had little interest in day-to-day governance, the Nazi regime carried out many of his wishes. Then, too, while many view Nazi Germany as a totalitarian regime, it is striking how much agency Germans had in the Third Reich. The Nazis, for example, were initially eager to have "Aryan" women stay at home to raise children. Yet, when they insisted that women work, many "Aryan" women simply evaded Nazi labor regulations. Not least, this was because Nazi Germany was under-policed, not over-policed. Epstein, Catherine A. (2014-12-23). Nazi Germany: Confronting the Myths (Wiley Short Histories) (Kindle Locations 320-327). Wiley. Kindle Edition. The book follows the development of Germany from the period immediately prior to World War One through the fall of Nazi Germany in 1945. Based on my reading of other books, this book is very well informed and accurate. It is also written in a very accessible way such that readers at all levels of knowledge and education can glean the critical facts from the text. I was also impressed by the bibliography for each chapter, which demonstrated the extent of reading the author had done. I have a slight criticism with the author's footnoting, which is mostly absent. I

wondered about one item, namely, the author's claim that Hitler was in the hospital at the end of WWI because of PTSD, rather than battle injuries://As for Pasewalk in fall 1918, Hitler was not hospitalized for temporary blindness but rather for "war hysteria" in the psychiatric unit. Historians have rightly questioned his alleged Pasewalk epiphany .Epstein, Catherine A. (2014-12-23). Nazi Germany: Confronting the Myths (Wiley Short Histories) (Kindle Locations 899-901). Wiley. Kindle Edition.I'm sure that she has a source for this claim, but I'm not sure if that claim has been accepted by the majority of historians. I will file this one away for future reference.The title of the book indicates that the book is structured around refuting myths. In fact, that is not how the book is actually structured. Periodically the author will mention a myth that people hold, but that almost seems incidental to the structure of the book. For example://Many myths surround Nazi Germany in World War II. There is a common presumption that the German army was modern through and through . There is a misperception that only the early Russian winter kept German forces from seizing Moscow in fall 1941. There is a myth that the Wehrmacht (army) was "clean

I liked the somewhat balanced approach. Although a lot of known facts, there were also a lot of new ones and honest perspectives. Not all a total condemnation of the Germans.

Required as a textbook for a class of mine. Concise, to the point, gets the facts across quickly and easily. Plus, it's just an interesting read in general. Definitely enjoy it!

It was okay. Not as enjoyable as I expected, but just okay.

Dean and Prof. Epstein as she sets forth in her introduction has written a "short" history of Nazi Germany in which she has sought to be thorough and also demolish a few presumed myths about the subject. This book, well written as all of her books are, accomplishes the task. In a bit over 250 pages she covers numerous matters concerning which detailed histories have been written dealing with them in much, much greater detail. I caught a few very minor errors inner book; as to the myths, there other historians who would dispute that a few of them are in fact myths. (Trivial example: she asserts it is a myth that Hitler had one testicle; books by the Soviet pathologists who examined the body assert otherwise, of course she asserts there was no body, only a jawbone. Who knows??) This is a fine book as thorough as a once-over-lightly treatment of such a momentous subject can be...I recommend it highly to those who want that kind of a history.

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