

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship

Ian Kershaw and the Nazi Dictatorship: Understanding the Machinery of Totalitarianism

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship is a phrase that immediately brings to mind one of the most pivotal and dark periods in modern history. Ian Kershaw, a renowned British historian, has extensively studied and written about Nazi Germany, offering some of the most insightful analyses on how Adolf Hitler's regime operated. His works provide not only a detailed account of the Nazi dictatorship but also an understanding of the complex mechanisms that sustained it. If you're curious about how this dictatorship functioned and why it remains a critical subject of study, Kershaw's perspectives are invaluable.

Who Is Ian Kershaw and Why His Work Matters

Ian Kershaw is widely regarded as one of the leading experts on Nazi Germany. His scholarship focuses on the social and political dynamics of the Third Reich, and his two-volume biography of Adolf Hitler is often hailed as a definitive resource. But Kershaw's contributions go beyond mere biography; he delves deeply into the structure and nature of the Nazi dictatorship itself.

Kershaw's approach is notable for its analytical depth and balanced perspective. Instead of viewing the Nazi regime solely through the lens of Hitler's personality, Kershaw investigates the institutional, social, and political frameworks that enabled the dictatorship to flourish. This multi-dimensional viewpoint helps explain how the Nazi regime maintained control over a vast and complex society.

Understanding the Nazi Dictatorship Through Kershaw's Lens

One of the key ideas that Ian Kershaw emphasizes is the concept of "working towards the Führer." This thesis explains how the Nazi dictatorship operated not just through Hitler's direct commands but through a system where government officials and party members anticipated and acted on what they believed Hitler wanted. This created a dynamic where radical policies and measures often emerged from below, sometimes even without explicit orders from Hitler himself.

The Role of Hitler in the Dictatorship

Contrary to the popular belief that Hitler was a micromanager controlling every aspect of the regime, Kershaw portrays him as a more distant figure whose authority was based on his symbolic status as the Führer. Hitler's leadership style was characterized by a deliberate ambiguity that encouraged competition among his subordinates. This "divide and rule" approach meant that various factions within the Nazi Party and government often vied to interpret and implement Hitler's vision, sometimes resulting in overlapping and chaotic decision-making processes.

This understanding is crucial because it dispels the myth of a strictly centralized dictatorship and instead highlights the complex power networks within Nazi Germany.

How Nazi Institutions Functioned

Kershaw's analysis reveals that the Nazi dictatorship was sustained by a variety of institutions, each with its own agenda and degree of autonomy. These included the SS (Schutzstaffel), the Gestapo, the Nazi Party apparatus, and the traditional government ministries. Each played a specific role in enforcing Nazi ideology and policies.

For example:

- **The SS:** Responsible for security, racial policies, and running concentration camps.
- **The Gestapo:** The secret police that suppressed dissent and monitored the population.
- **The Nazi Party:** The ideological backbone that spread Nazi propaganda and mobilized public support.
- **Government Ministries:** Managed day-to-day administration and implemented policies across various sectors.

This fragmented but overlapping structure created a system where power was both diffused and concentrated, contributing to the regime's resilience and brutality.

Social Dynamics Under the Nazi Regime: Insights

from Kershaw

Kershaw does not limit his study to political structures alone; he also explores how ordinary Germans interacted with and responded to the dictatorship. He investigates the social underpinnings of the regime, highlighting the complex relationship between the Nazi state and German society.

Popular Support and Compliance

One of Kershaw's important contributions is his exploration of why many Germans supported or at least acquiesced to the Nazi dictatorship. He points to a mixture of factors:

- **Economic Recovery:** After the devastation of the Great Depression, Nazi policies initially brought jobs and stability.
- **Nationalism and Propaganda:** The regime's emphasis on restoring Germany's pride resonated with many citizens.
- **Fear and Repression:** The presence of secret police and brutal punishment discouraged opposition.
- **Social Conformity:** A climate of conformity and peer pressure made dissent risky and rare.

Kershaw's research suggests that while not all Germans were enthusiastic Nazis, the majority tolerated or supported the regime in varying degrees, complicating simplistic narratives of victimhood or resistance.

The Role of Ideology and Anti-Semitism

Central to the Nazi dictatorship was its racist and anti-Semitic ideology. Kershaw's studies underscore how this ideology permeated every level of society and governance. The regime's pursuit of racial purity justified horrific policies, including the systematic persecution and genocide of Jews and other minorities.

Kershaw's detailed chronicling of these policies helps readers understand how deeply ingrained and institutionalized anti-Semitism was in the Nazi dictatorship, and how it became the driving force behind some of the regime's most atrocious acts.

Why Ian Kershaw's Analysis Stands Out in Nazi Historiography

Many historians have tackled the subject of Nazi Germany, but Ian Kershaw's work is particularly valued for its clarity, nuance, and comprehensive scope. He goes beyond simplistic explanations and examines the interplay between leadership, institutions, and society.

Balancing Structural and Individual Factors

Kershaw's "working towards the Führer" thesis bridges the gap between structuralist and intentionalist interpretations of Hitler's dictatorship. While intentionalists emphasize Hitler's personal responsibility and direct control, structuralists focus on institutional forces. Kershaw integrates both views, showing how institutional actors internalized and anticipated Hitler's radical objectives, thereby amplifying the regime's extremism.

Accessible Yet Scholarly Approach

Another reason Kershaw's work remains influential is its accessibility. He writes in a way that engages both academics and general readers, making complex historical phenomena understandable without oversimplification. This balance helps ensure that the lessons of the Nazi dictatorship reach a broad audience.

What Can We Learn From Kershaw's Study of the Nazi Dictatorship?

Studying Ian Kershaw's analysis offers valuable insights not only into history but also into the nature of authoritarian regimes in general. His work demonstrates how dictatorships can thrive in environments where power is decentralized yet competitive, where ideology is weaponized, and where societies are complicit to varying degrees.

Understanding these dynamics can help modern societies recognize warning signs of creeping authoritarianism and the importance of safeguarding democratic institutions.

Tips for Engaging With Kershaw's Work

If you're interested in diving deeper into Ian Kershaw's scholarship on the

Nazi dictatorship, here are a few tips:

- **Start with His Biographies of Hitler:** These provide a solid foundation for understanding Hitler's role in the dictatorship.
- **Explore His Essays on Nazi Society:** They offer a broader view of how the regime interacted with ordinary citizens.
- **Compare Perspectives:** Read Kershaw alongside other historians like Richard J. Evans or Timothy Snyder for a well-rounded view.
- **Reflect on Contemporary Relevance:** Consider how the lessons from Nazi Germany apply to current global political trends.

Ian Kershaw's work on the Nazi dictatorship remains an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand one of history's most troubling regimes. His nuanced analysis offers a deeper appreciation of the forces that shaped Nazi Germany and serves as a reminder of the vigilance needed to prevent such dictatorships from rising again.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Ian Kershaw and what is his significance in studying the Nazi dictatorship?

Ian Kershaw is a British historian renowned for his extensive research on Nazi Germany. He is considered one of the leading experts on Adolf Hitler and the Nazi dictatorship, providing detailed analyses of the regime's structure, ideology, and impact.

What is Ian Kershaw's interpretation of Adolf Hitler's role in the Nazi dictatorship?

Ian Kershaw portrays Adolf Hitler as a central but somewhat passive figure whose charismatic leadership and ideological vision were crucial in shaping the Nazi dictatorship. Kershaw emphasizes the concept of 'working towards the Führer,' where officials interpreted and implemented policies to align with Hitler's perceived wishes.

How does Ian Kershaw explain the functioning of the Nazi dictatorship?

Kershaw explains that the Nazi dictatorship was characterized by a chaotic and overlapping power structure, with competing agencies and officials vying

for influence. This competition fostered radicalization and contributed to the regime's brutal policies, as individuals sought to prove their loyalty to Hitler.

What does Ian Kershaw mean by the concept 'Working Towards the Führer'?

The concept 'Working Towards the Führer,' coined by Ian Kershaw, refers to the way Nazi officials and bureaucrats acted proactively to fulfill what they believed were Hitler's desires and ideological goals, often without direct orders, thereby driving the regime's radical and genocidal policies.

How does Ian Kershaw's work contribute to understanding the causes of the Holocaust?

Kershaw's work contributes to understanding the Holocaust by highlighting the decentralized nature of decision-making in the Nazi regime and the role of lower-level officials in escalating anti-Jewish policies. His analysis shows how the Holocaust emerged from a combination of Hitler's ideology and the initiative of subordinates working towards his vision.

What are some major works by Ian Kershaw on the Nazi dictatorship?

Some of Ian Kershaw's major works on the Nazi dictatorship include his two-volume biography of Adolf Hitler ('Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris' and 'Hitler 1936-1945: Nemesis'), as well as 'The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation,' in which he explores the nature and functioning of Nazi rule.

Additional Resources

****Ian Kershaw The Nazi Dictatorship: A Comprehensive Examination****

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship represents one of the most pivotal and thoroughly researched paradigms in modern historiography concerning the Third Reich. As one of the preeminent historians specializing in Nazi Germany, Ian Kershaw has produced an analytical framework that goes beyond mere chronology, delving deeply into the structure, ideology, and social dynamics underpinning Adolf Hitler's regime. His work offers invaluable insights into how the Nazi dictatorship functioned, the mechanisms of power it employed, and the societal conditions that enabled its rise and persistence.

Ian Kershaw's Approach to Understanding the

Nazi Dictatorship

Ian Kershaw's scholarship is distinguished by its meticulous use of primary sources combined with a nuanced understanding of political structures and social psychology. His approach diverges from earlier interpretations that either demonized the regime as purely evil or saw it as a state controlled entirely by Hitler's personal will. Instead, Kershaw proposes a model characterized by the concept of "working towards the Führer," illustrating how various officials and institutions actively interpreted and implemented Hitler's vague directives to gain favor and advance their own agendas.

This analytical lens places the Nazi dictatorship within a complex web of competing bureaucracies and overlapping authorities. It challenges simplified narratives by revealing the chaotic, semi-anarchic nature of governance under Hitler, where power was decentralized yet intensely authoritarian. Kershaw's work reveals that the regime's functionality depended not only on terror and propaganda but also on the willing complicity and initiative of countless individuals embedded within its machinery.

The Structure of Nazi Power According to Kershaw

Kershaw's exploration of the Nazi dictatorship breaks down the regime into several key features:

- **Hitler's Role:** Far from being a micromanager, Hitler acted as a charismatic figurehead whose authority was absolute but exercised through broad, often ambiguous guidelines.
- **Competing Institutions:** The Nazi state was characterized by overlapping jurisdictions, including the Party, the Wehrmacht, the Gestapo, and various governmental ministries, each vying for influence.
- **Popular Support and Compliance:** Kershaw emphasizes the significance of ordinary Germans, whose acquiescence and participation were crucial for the regime's endurance.
- **Propaganda and Terror:** The dual mechanisms of ideological indoctrination and brutal suppression created a climate of fear and conformity.

This multifaceted structure underscores the paradox of Nazi governance: chaotic yet effective, fragmented yet unified by loyalty to Hitler.

Ian Kershaw's Analysis of Nazi Society and the Dictatorship's Social Base

Beyond political mechanics, Kershaw's work extensively investigates the social underpinnings of the Nazi dictatorship. He argues that the regime's success was deeply rooted in its ability to mobilize broad segments of German society by appealing to nationalist sentiments, anti-Semitism, and promises of social and economic renewal.

Popular Support and the "Hitler Myth"

One of Kershaw's seminal contributions is his analysis of the "Hitler Myth," the constructed image of Hitler as an infallible, heroic leader who embodied the will of the German people. This cult of personality was instrumental in securing mass support, enabling the dictatorship to function not only through coercion but also through genuine enthusiasm and loyalty from many Germans.

The "Hitler Myth" was propagated through state-controlled media and cultural channels, creating a feedback loop between the leader's image and popular expectations. This phenomenon helps explain why many citizens, even those not ideologically committed to National Socialism, tolerated or supported the regime for extended periods.

Resistance and Compliance

While Kershaw acknowledges the existence of resistance groups, he posits that widespread opposition was limited due to the regime's effective combination of terror and popular legitimacy. His research highlights a complex societal landscape where compliance often stemmed from pragmatism, fear, or ideological alignment rather than blind submission.

Comparisons with Other Historiographical Interpretations

Ian Kershaw's interpretation of the Nazi dictatorship stands in contrast to other major historiographical schools. For example, while the "intentionalist" perspective views Hitler as the mastermind who imposed rigid, premeditated plans from the top down, Kershaw's "functionalist" or "structuralist" tendencies emphasize the fragmented nature of Nazi governance and the incremental radicalization driven by lower-level actors.

This debate is crucial for understanding the origins of the Holocaust and other atrocities. Kershaw's analysis suggests that genocide emerged from a

confluence of ideological imperatives and bureaucratic competition rather than a singular directive from Hitler at the outset. This nuanced view has reshaped academic and public discussions about responsibility and culpability within the Nazi state.

Effective Governance Amidst Chaos

Another point of contrast is Kershaw's recognition of how the Nazi dictatorship, despite its internal contradictions and institutional rivalries, managed to sustain an effective, if brutal, governance system. This stands in opposition to interpretations that portray the regime as purely dysfunctional or doomed from within.

Features and Legacy of Kershaw's Work on the Nazi Dictatorship

Ian Kershaw's scholarship on the Nazi dictatorship is notable for several distinctive features:

- **Comprehensive Use of Sources:** His extensive use of diaries, official documents, and personal testimonies provides a multi-dimensional picture of the regime.
- **Balanced Perspective:** Neither demonizing nor excusing, Kershaw offers a measured analysis that respects the complexity of historical realities.
- **Accessibility:** Writing for both academic and general audiences, Kershaw's narrative style enhances understanding without sacrificing rigor.
- **Influence on Education and Public Memory:** His works have become standard texts in university courses and have informed documentaries and public debates about Nazi Germany.

These qualities contribute to the enduring relevance of Kershaw's interpretation in both scholarly and public spheres.

Pros and Cons of Kershaw's Analytical Framework

1. Pros:

- Offers a nuanced, dynamic view of the Nazi state, avoiding simplistic explanations.
- Highlights the role of societal complicity and individual agency within authoritarian regimes.
- Enhances understanding of how ideological dictatorship can function amidst institutional chaos.

2. Cons:

- Some critics argue that Kershaw's functionalist elements risk downplaying Hitler's personal responsibility.
- The complexity of competing bureaucracies can be difficult for readers to fully grasp without prior background.
- Focus on German society may underemphasize international factors influencing the dictatorship.

Despite these criticisms, Kershaw's framework remains one of the most influential in contemporary Nazi studies.

Integrating Ian Kershaw's Insights into Contemporary Understandings of Dictatorship

The relevance of Ian Kershaw's analysis extends beyond historical scholarship. His detailed study of the Nazi dictatorship provides a model for understanding how totalitarian and authoritarian regimes operate in the modern world. By emphasizing the interplay of leadership cults, institutional competition, and popular mobilization, Kershaw's work offers critical lessons for analyzing current political systems exhibiting dictatorial tendencies.

Moreover, the methodology employed by Kershaw—combining empirical evidence with theoretical rigor—serves as a benchmark for historians and political scientists exploring the dynamics of power and compliance under oppressive governments.

As debates about authoritarianism and extremism continue globally, the insights from Ian Kershaw the Nazi dictatorship remain vital for both academic inquiry and public awareness.

Ian Kershaw's scholarship on the Nazi dictatorship remains a cornerstone of historical research, offering a richly textured understanding of one of the 20th century's darkest chapters. His balanced, deeply analytical approach sheds light on the complexities that allowed the Third Reich to arise, thrive, and ultimately self-destruct, providing a lasting framework for comprehending the nature of dictatorship itself.

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ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: *The Nazi Dictatorship* Ian Kershaw, 2015-10-29
'Unquestionably the most authoritative, balanced, readable, and meticulously documented introduction to the Third Reich.' - International History Review Sir Ian Kershaw is regarded by many as the world's leading authority on Hitler and the Third Reich. Known for his clear and accessible style when dealing with complex historical issues his work has redefined the way we look at this period modern European history. The Nazi Dictatorship is Kershaw's landmark study of the Third Reich. It covers the major themes and debates relating to Nazism including the Holocaust, Hitler's authority and leadership, Nazi Foreign Policy and the aftermath, including issues surrounding Germany's unification. The Revelations edition includes a new preface from the author.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: *The Radical Right in Germany* Lee McGowan, 2014-09-25
The Radical Right has represented a major element in German politics and society throughout the history of the united country (i.e. since the 1870s), though the understandable concentration on the Third Reich (1933-45) has tended to distort the wider picture. This book explores the history of the radical right through the full span of Germany's life as a nation, thus putting the Third Reich in its natural context, and also emphasising that the attitudes and policies of the radical right did not begin with Hitler's pursuit of power in the 1920s or end with his death in the ruins of Berlin.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: *The Nature of Stalin's Dictatorship* E. A. Rees, 2003-11-14
This is the first attempt to systematically study the nature of the political leadership system under Stalin. It focuses both on the formal institutions of power, such as the Politburo, and on the informal networks of decision-making that were a central feature of his system of rule. It draws on a wealth of new archival material to highlight Stalin's relations with his co-leaders and wider elite groups, and offers different perspectives on the nature and degree of Stalin's system of personal power.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: *Rechtsextreme Ideologien in Geschichte und Gegenwart* Uwe Backes, 2003
Die aktuelle Auseinandersetzung mit dem Rechtsextremismus erschöpft sich oft in einer kurzatmigen Gegenwartsdiagnose. Dieser Band stellt die Debatte auf eine historisch fundierte Grundlage. Bedeutende Konstellationen und Problemstellungen Gewalteskalation nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg, Neuer Nationalismus, NS-Ideologie, Verschwörungsideologien, Neue Rechte, jugendliche Subkulturen der Neonazis und Skinheads zeigen Inhalt und Bedeutung rechtsextremer Ideologien vom deutschen Kaiserreich bis in die Gegenwart. Die deutsche Entwicklung wird dabei in den europäischen Kontext italienischer Faschismus, französischer Nationalismus zwischen den

Kriegen, Rechtsextremismus im heutigen Russland eingebettet. Die Autoren fragen nach der Rolle antikommunistischer wie antisemitischer Feindbild-Konstruktionen, den Wechselwirkungen mit dem ideologischen Gegenpol und den strukturellen Gemeinsamkeiten der Extremismen/Totalitarismen. In epochenübergreifenden Betrachtungen werden Kontinuitäten und Diskontinuitäten sichtbar. Das Buch will Impulse für eine differenziertere Auseinandersetzung mit den gegenwärtigen Formen des Rechtsextremismus geben.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Unheimliche Geschichte Susanne C. Knittel, 2018-01-15
Warum gehen manche Geschehnisse in die Geschichte einer Nation ein? Warum werden andere vergessen oder gar unterdrückt? Und wie und warum kommen diese wieder zum Vorschein? Susanne C. Knittel analysiert verdrängte Aspekte des Zweiten Weltkrieges und des Holocausts in den Erinnerungskulturen Deutschlands und Italiens nach 1945. Diese tauchen beharrlich auf und stören den dominanten Erinnerungsdiskurs, dessen Gedenkrituale und etablierte Vorstellungen: die NS-»Euthanasie« einerseits und die Verbrechen des italienischen Faschismus sowie die Kollaboration mit den deutschen Besatzern andererseits. Durch eine vergleichende Betrachtung von Gedenkstätten sowie künstlerischen und literarischen Darstellungen, die diesen Verbrechen und ihren Opfern gewidmet sind, entsteht ein zwiespältiges Porträt der Holocausterinnerung in Europa. Aus dem Amerikanischen von Eva Engels, Elisabeth Heeke und Susanne C. Knittel.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Faschismus als Bewegung und Regime Maurizio Bach, Stefan Breuer, 2010-05-27 Faschismus ist ein generelles Phänomen, das jedoch nur in Italien und Deutschland zur vollen Entfaltung kam. Das wird in diesem Band sowohl in typologischer als auch in empirisch-vergleichender Perspektive dargelegt. Gezeigt werden soll, welchen Beitrag die Herrschaftssoziologie Max Webers zur Deutung und Erklärung des Faschismus leisten kann. Schwerpunkte liegen auf dem Verhältnis von Vergemeinschaftung und Vergesellschaftung in der Bewegungsphase sowie der Veralltäglichung des Charisma in der Regimephase, die in Italien zu einer Stabilisierung bürokratisch-zentralistischer Strukturen führte, in Deutschland dagegen eine De-Institutionalisierung der staatlichen Ordnung bewirkte.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Stadtgeschichte in der NS-Zeit Detlef Schmiechen-Ackermann, Steffi Kaltenborn, 2005

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Foundations of the Nazi Police State George C. Browder, 2014-07-11 The abbreviation Nazi, the acronym Gestapo, and the initials SS have become resonant elements of our vocabulary. Less known is SD, and hardly anyone recognizes the combination Sipo and SD. Although Sipo and SD formed the heart of the National Socialist police state, the phrase carries none of the ominous impact that it should. Although no single organization carries full responsibility for the evils of the Third Reich, the SS-police system was the executor of terrorism and population policy in the same way the military carried out the Reich's imperialistic aggression. Within the police state, even the concentration camps could not rival the impact of Sipo and SD. It was the source not only of the desk murderers who administered terror and genocide by assigning victims to the camps, but also of the police executives for identification and arrest, and of the command and staff for a major instrument of execution, the Einsatzgruppen. Foundations of the Nazi Police State offers the narrative and analysis of the external struggle that created Sipo and SD. This book is the author's preface to his discussion of the internal evolution of these organizations in Hitler's Enforcers: The Gestapo and the SS Security Service in the Nazi Revolution.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Jüdische Welten Marion A. Kaplan, Beate Meyer, 2005
Einblicke in höchst unterschiedliche >Jüdische Welten

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Nazi Germany Tim Kirk, 2006-10-04 Hitler's 'thousand-year Reich' lasted barely longer than twelve brief and inglorious years, and yet had an impact on millions of ordinary lives scarcely comparable with any other episode in modern European history. Nazi Germany examines the origins and development of Nazism, the establishment of the dictatorship and the impact on Germany's economy, society and culture of the regime's single-minded drive towards war and genocide. The view from above, reflected in the movement's ideology, policy and legislation is complemented by the many, often conflicting, views from below, as

described in the reports smuggled out of Germany by Socialist dissidents or overheard by the regime's spies and policemen. Tim Kirk depicts a society divided, where most were initially wary of Hitler and sceptical about his party and its promises, and where even enthusiastic admirers quickly became disgruntled; but where the majority complied and few were inclined to oppose or resist the regime, or its brutalities, until disillusionment set in and the prospect of defeat was imminent. Approachable and authoritative, this is an essential introduction to one of the most significant periods in German, and modern European, history.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Mussolini und Hitler Christian Goeschel, 2019-12-15 Zwischen 1934 und 1944 trafen sich Mussolini und Hitler insgesamt siebzehnmal – öfter als jedes andere Duo westlicher Staatschefs der damaligen Zeit. Die beiden Diktatoren sandten einander Glückwunschtelegramme zum Geburtstag, Hitler gratulierte Mussolini regelmäßig zum Jahrestag des »Marsches auf Rom«. Obwohl sie sich persönlich nicht ausstehen konnten, gelang ihnen die Inszenierung einer Freundschaft. Sie sollte nach außen Einheit und Macht demonstrieren und nach innen Volksnähe vermitteln. Entlang der wichtigsten Begegnungen – von den pompösen Staatsempfängen der Anfangszeit bis zum letzten Treffen am 20. Juli 1944 in der Wolfsschanze – zeichnet Christian Goeschel die wechselvolle Geschichte dieser folgenreichen »Freundschaft« nach. Er untersucht die diplomatischen Taktiken und propagandistischen Techniken und wirft ein neues Licht auf die zerstörerische Allianz zwischen dem faschistischen Italien und Nazi-Deutschland. Am Prototyp choreographierter Diktatorenfreundschaft im Zeitalter der Massenmedien zeigt dieses Buch, was geschehen kann, wenn im Feld der Politik Performance und Macht miteinander verschmelzen.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Hitler and His Allies in World War Two Jonathan Adelman, 2020-03-25 In an area where in-depth studies of Hitler's relations with Nazi Germany's allies, and the failure of Nazi Germany to make more effective use of them during the war, are scant, this is a survey that looks at the Soviet Union, Japan, France, Italy, Spain, Romania and Hungary and their relationship to Nazi Germany. Using a comparative approach, seven case studies examine themes such as co-operation and resistance, military and economic aid, treatment of Jews, relations with the enemies and the popular sentiment towards Germany. Jonathan Adelman has provided students of the Second World War with a welcome mine of information and a unique perspective on a much-studied topic.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Naturschutz und Nationalsozialismus Joachim Radkau, Frank Uekötter, 2003-06-16 Vom Reichsnaturschutzgesetz bis zur Landschaftsplanung in den »eroberten Ostgebieten« und dem Reichsautobahnbau, vom Antisemitismus in der Naturschutzbewegung bis zum Umgang mit der NS-Vergangenheit nach 1945 wird hier erstmals umfassend diskutiert, mit welchem Erbe sich der heutige Natur- und Umweltschutz auseinandersetzen muss. Beiträge u. a. von David Blackbourn, Hansjörg Küster und Bundesumweltminister Jürgen Trittin.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Die Herausforderung der Diktaturen Wolfram Pyta, Carsten Kretschmann, Giuseppe Ignesti, Tiziana Di Maio, 2009-06-23 Die Frage nach dem Verhalten von Katholiken – von Kirchenvolk, Klerus und Kurie – angesichts der massiven Herausforderung durch Faschismus und Nationalsozialismus hat bis heute nichts an Sprengkraft verloren. Der Sammelband, an dem führende deutsche Historiker und Theologen beteiligt sind, legt erstmals nach Öffnung der Vatikanischen Archive eine deutsch-italienische Bestandsaufnahme vor. Er durchbricht die nationalgeschichtliche Beschränkung der älteren Forschung und greift zugleich neuere kulturwissenschaftliche Impulse auf. Indem er das Schicksal der katholischen Parteien und des katholischen Vereinswesens ebenso behandelt wie die Frage nach der Existenz eines katholischen Widerstands und dem prekären Verhältnis von Katholizismus und Antisemitismus, entwirft er ein anschauliches Bild des „katholischen Milieus“ wie des „mondo cattolico“ und durchmisst zudem das Spektrum katholischer Selbstbehauptungsstrategien zwischen 1918 und 1943/45.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Nazism and War Richard Bessel, 2013-08-08 A chilling and powerful account of the rise and fall of the Nazis, emphasising their beliefs in race and war which

produced the most terrible killing frenzy in the history of humanity As this book shows, Nazi ideology was based on two central beliefs: in war and race. Peace was merely a preparation for war, war which would redraw the racial map of Europe. The author begins with the aftermath of the First World War and the corrosive myth-building which substituted memories of senseless slaughter with the myth of a meaningful and even sacred event. It moves on steadily through the 1920s and the Nazi seizure of power, to the economic boom, massive rearmament and government-sponsored anti-Semitism of the 1930s. And then on to the war itself and the Nazis' racist war of extermination. The author pays particular attention to the chaos and extreme violence of the last months of the war, so catastrophic for the German people that they came to believe that they too had been victims of the war. Finally he describes the aftermath of the Second World War and the wreckage left behind by the Nazis which affected the lives of Germans and Europeans far beyond May 1945.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Totalitarian Dictatorship Daniela Baratieri, Mark Edele, Giuseppe Finaldi, 2013-10-08 This volume takes a comparative approach, locating totalitarianism in the vastly complex web of fragmented pasts, diverse presents and differently envisaged futures to enhance our understanding of this fraught era in European history. It shows that no matter how often totalitarian societies spoke of and imagined their subjects as so many slates to be wiped clean and re-written on, older identities, familial loyalties and the enormous resilience of the individual (or groups of individuals) meant that the almost impossible demands of their regimes needed to be constantly transformed, limited and recast.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: The Dollfuss/Schuschnigg Era in Austria Anton Pelinka, 2017-07-12 The years of Chancellors Dollfuss and Schuschnigg's authoritarian governments (1933/34-1938) have been denounced as Austrofascism from the left, or defended as a Christian corporate state (Stondestaat) from the right. During this period, Austria was in a desperate struggle to maintain its national independence vis-o-vis Hitler's Germany, a struggle that ultimately failed. In the end, the Nazis invaded and annexed Austria (Anschluss). Volume 11 of the Contemporary Austrian Studies series stays away from these heated historiographical debates and looks at economic, domestic, and international politics sine ira et studio. Timothy Kirk opens with an assessment of Austrofascism in light of recent discourse on interwar European fascism. Three scholars from the Economics University of Vienna analyze the macroeconomic climate of the 1930s: Hansjrg Klausinger the Vienna School's theoretical contributions to end the Great Depression; Gerhard Senft the economic policies of the Stondestaat; and Peter Berger the financial aid from the League of Nations. Jens Wessels delves into the microeconomic arena and presents case studies of leading Austrian businesses and their performance during the depression. Jim Miller looks at Dollfuss, the agrarian reformer. Alexander Lassner and Erwin Schmidl deal with the context of the international arena and Austria's desperate search for protection against Nazi Anschluss-pressure and military preparedness against foreign aggression. In a comparativist essay Megan Greene compares the policies of Austria's Haider and Italy's Berlusconi and recent EU responses to threats from the Right. The FORUM looks at various recent historical commissions in Austria dealing with Holocaust-era assets and their efforts to provide restitution to victims of Nazism. Two review essays, by Evan Burr Bukey and Hermann Freudenberger, survey recent scholarly literature on Austria(ns) during World War II. This addition to the

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Nazi Germany Catherine A. Epstein, 2014-12-22 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

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Inside Nazi Germany Detlev Peukert, 1987-01-01 This

book by Detlev Peukert is a survey of the complex experiences and attitudes of ordinary German people between 1933 and 1945. It records how people lived during this period, how they evaded or accepted the regime's demands, and where they positioned themselves along the spectrum between the front lines, side lines, and firing lines.

ian kershaw the nazi dictatorship: Hitler Brendan Simms, 2020-03-09 Ein radikal neuer Blick auf Hitlers Leben, Denken und Handeln Die wichtigsten Dinge, die wir über Adolf Hitler zu wissen glauben, sind falsch, das zeigt Brendan Simms in dieser umfassend recherchierten und thesenstark argumentierten Biographie. So kreiste Hitlers Denken nicht etwa, wie allgemein angenommen, um den »Bolschewismus«, sein wichtigster Bezugspunkt war vielmehr »Anglo-Amerika«, so Simms. Die Vereinigten Staaten und das Britische Empire galten Hitler als Vorbilder für ein deutsches Weltreich, das sich ebenfalls auf Landgewinn, Rassismus und Gewalt gründen sollte. Der renommierte Historiker zeichnet in seinem Buch nicht nur ein völlig neues Bild von Hitlers Weltanschauung, er zeigt zugleich, warum diese zwangsläufig zu einem Krieg globalen Ausmaßes führen musste: Um zu überleben, musste das deutsche Volk eine mindestens ebenso starke Machtposition erringen wie »Anglo-Amerika«. Und für kurze Zeit schien es sogar möglich, dass Hitler die Herrschaft über die gesamte Welt erringen würde.

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