

defying hitler

Defying Hitler: Courage and Resistance in the Face of Tyranny

defying hitler was no small feat in an era where fear, propaganda, and brutal repression dominated daily life. The name Adolf Hitler evokes images of one of history's darkest periods, marked by war, genocide, and totalitarian control. Yet, amid the overwhelming power of the Nazi regime, countless individuals and groups chose to resist, to stand up, and to defy the iron grip of fascism. Understanding the stories of those who opposed Hitler offers not only a profound lesson in courage but also insight into the complex social, political, and moral challenges faced during World War II.

The Context of Defying Hitler

To truly appreciate what it meant to defy Hitler, one must grasp the atmosphere of Nazi Germany and occupied territories. The regime was built on pervasive surveillance, ruthless enforcement, and an ideology that demanded absolute loyalty. The Gestapo and SS were notorious for crushing dissent, often executing those who dared to speak out or aid victims of persecution.

The Risks Involved

Opposition to Hitler was not just unpopular; it was deadly. Resistance fighters, whether part of organized groups or lone individuals, faced imprisonment, torture, and execution. Families of dissenters were often arrested or sent to concentration camps as well. This climate of terror made acts of defiance incredibly dangerous, which makes the stories of resistance all the more inspiring.

Forms of Resistance

Defying Hitler took many forms beyond outright rebellion. Some resisted by helping Jews and other persecuted groups escape. Others leaked information to Allied forces, engaged in sabotage, or distributed anti-Nazi literature. Even small acts, like listening to forbidden radio broadcasts or refusing to join Nazi organizations, were risky but significant forms of defiance.

Notable Examples of Defying Hitler

Throughout Europe, numerous courageous individuals and groups challenged Hitler's regime. Their stories serve as powerful reminders of human resilience and moral conviction.

The White Rose Movement

One of the most famous resistance groups in Germany was the White Rose, composed mainly of university students in Munich. Led by siblings Hans and Sophie Scholl, they distributed leaflets that called for passive resistance against the Nazi government. The White Rose members risked everything to spread their message of hope and defiance before their arrest and execution in 1943.

Oskar Schindler's Courage

Oskar Schindler, a German industrialist, famously saved over a thousand Jewish lives by employing them in his factories. His story, immortalized in the film "Schindler's List," highlights how defying Hitler could also mean using one's position within the system to undermine it from within.

The German Military Resistance

Within the ranks of the German military, there were officers who plotted to assassinate Hitler, most notably the July 20, 1944, attempt led by Claus von Stauffenberg. Though the plot failed, it exemplified the deep moral opposition to Hitler within sectors of the military establishment.

The Psychological and Moral Dimensions of Defying Hitler

Understanding why people chose to resist the Nazi regime involves grappling with complex psychological and ethical questions.

Fear vs. Courage

Living under constant threat, many were paralyzed by fear, while others found the strength to act. This contrast reveals how personal values, community ties, and individual courage interplay during times of tyranny.

The Role of Conscience

For many resisters, defying Hitler was a matter of conscience. Their actions were driven by a profound sense of justice and humanity, challenging the dehumanizing propaganda that sought to justify war and genocide.

Lessons from Defying Hitler for Today

While the Nazi era belongs to history, the lessons from those who defied Hitler remain deeply

relevant.

The Power of Individual Action

One of the most important takeaways is that even in extreme circumstances, individuals can make a difference. Acts of defiance, whether large or small, contribute to a broader struggle for justice.

Recognizing Propaganda and Authoritarianism

The rise of Hitler was fueled by propaganda, manipulation, and the erosion of democratic institutions. Recognizing these warning signs in modern contexts helps prevent the repetition of history's darkest chapters.

Solidarity and Collective Resistance

Defying Hitler was often a collective effort. Communities, underground networks, and international cooperation played crucial roles, highlighting the importance of solidarity in confronting oppression.

Exploring Defying Hitler Through Media and Literature

The stories of those who defied Hitler have been preserved and retold through various mediums, offering accessible ways to engage with this history.

Books and Memoirs

Numerous memoirs and historical accounts provide firsthand perspectives on resistance. Reading these can deepen understanding and empathy for those who lived through this turbulent time.

Films and Documentaries

Movies like "Schindler's List," "The Pianist," and documentaries about the White Rose bring the human stories of defiance to life, making the past resonate with contemporary audiences.

Reflecting on the Impact of Defying Hitler

The resistance against Hitler's regime, although often overshadowed by the scale of World War II, played a critical role in undermining Nazi power and preserving human dignity.

From individual acts of bravery to organized movements, defying Hitler reminds us that even in the face of overwhelming evil, the human spirit can resist and endure. These stories continue to inspire those who face injustice today, proving that courage and conviction can change the course of history.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Defying Hitler' about?

'Defying Hitler' is a memoir by Sebastian Haffner that chronicles his experiences living in Germany during the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime.

Who wrote 'Defying Hitler'?

The book was written by Sebastian Haffner, a German journalist and historian.

What time period does 'Defying Hitler' cover?

The memoir covers the period from the early 1930s to the end of World War II in 1945.

Why is 'Defying Hitler' considered an important historical account?

'Defying Hitler' provides a personal and detailed perspective on the social and political atmosphere in Germany during the Nazi rise to power, offering insights into how ordinary Germans reacted to Hitler's regime.

How does Sebastian Haffner describe the rise of Hitler in his memoir?

Haffner describes the rise of Hitler as a gradual and alarming process marked by increasing propaganda, suppression of dissent, and the complicity or passivity of many German citizens.

Is 'Defying Hitler' suitable for readers interested in World War II history?

Yes, it offers a unique, firsthand account of life under Nazi rule and is valuable for readers wanting to understand the human dimension of World War II history.

Has 'Defying Hitler' been adapted into other media?

As of now, there are no widely known adaptations of 'Defying Hitler' into films or television, but the memoir remains influential in historical literature.

What lessons can modern readers learn from 'Defying Hitler'?

Modern readers can learn about the dangers of authoritarianism, the importance of vigilance in protecting democratic values, and the impact of individual and collective choices during times of political upheaval.

Additional Resources

Defying Hitler: A Critical Exploration of Resistance in Nazi Germany

defying hitler was an act of extraordinary courage and moral conviction during one of history's darkest periods. The phrase encapsulates the stories of individuals and groups who stood against Adolf Hitler's totalitarian regime, often at great personal risk. Examining the multifaceted nature of resistance within Nazi Germany offers valuable insights into the complexities of dissent under an oppressive dictatorship. This article delves into the historical context, key figures, and broader implications of defying Hitler, while analyzing the significance of such resistance movements in shaping our understanding of courage, ideology, and political defiance.

The Context of Resistance in Nazi Germany

Understanding the phenomenon of defying Hitler requires a nuanced appreciation of the political and social environment of Germany between 1933 and 1945. After Hitler's rise to power, the Nazi regime swiftly established a police state, utilizing propaganda, surveillance, and brutal repression to suppress opposition. The Gestapo, the secret state police, played a central role in identifying and eliminating dissenters. Within this climate of fear, open resistance was extraordinarily dangerous and rare.

Despite the regime's overwhelming control, various forms of opposition emerged. Resistance ranged from passive non-compliance to active sabotage, espionage, and assassination attempts. The motivations behind defying Hitler were diverse, encompassing ideological opposition, moral outrage, religious conviction, and patriotism. The complexity of these motivations illuminates the multifaceted nature of resistance within a totalitarian society.

Types of Resistance Against the Nazi Regime

Resistance in Nazi Germany took several forms, each with distinct characteristics and consequences:

- **Political Resistance:** Groups like the German Communist Party and Social Democrats attempted to organize underground networks to oppose Nazi policies.
- **Religious Opposition:** Figures such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Confessing Church challenged Nazi ideology on theological and ethical grounds.
- **Military and Civilian Plots:** Notably, the July 20, 1944, assassination attempt on Hitler by

Claus von Stauffenberg and other military officers represented a bold effort to end Nazi rule.

- **Everyday Acts of Defiance:** Small-scale acts like distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, hiding Jews, or sabotaging production were common yet perilous.

Each form of defiance carried unique risks and reflected different dimensions of opposition to Hitler's dictatorship.

Key Figures and Movements in Defying Hitler

Several individuals and groups stand out in the historical narrative of defying Hitler, embodying the courage and complexity of resistance.

The White Rose Movement

The White Rose was a student-led resistance group based in Munich, founded by siblings Hans and Sophie Scholl. They distributed leaflets that condemned Nazi atrocities and called for passive resistance. Despite their youth, the White Rose members demonstrated remarkable bravery. Their capture and execution in 1943 highlight the lethal consequences of defiance in Nazi Germany. The movement's legacy persists as a symbol of intellectual and moral resistance.

Claus von Stauffenberg and the July 20 Plot

One of the most famous episodes of defying Hitler culminated in the July 20, 1944, assassination attempt. Claus von Stauffenberg, a German army officer, orchestrated a bomb plot to kill Hitler and initiate a coup. Although the attempt failed, it exposed significant internal dissent within the Wehrmacht and demonstrated that opposition extended beyond civilians and ideological opponents. The brutal reprisals following the plot underscore the regime's intolerance for any sign of rebellion.

Religious Resistance

Religious institutions and leaders often found themselves in opposition to Nazi policies, particularly regarding human rights abuses and racial laws. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, was instrumental in organizing resistance networks and was executed for his involvement. The Confessing Church's defiance, while limited in scope, challenged the regime's attempts to control religious life and ideology.

The Complexity and Impact of Defying Hitler

Defying Hitler was not merely a matter of heroism; it involved navigating a treacherous landscape where motivations, methods, and outcomes varied widely.

Motivations Behind Resistance

Resistance was driven by a spectrum of factors:

1. **Ideological Opposition:** Communists, socialists, and liberals opposed Nazi totalitarianism and its oppressive policies.
2. **Moral Conviction:** Many resisters, including religious figures, acted out of ethical imperatives.
3. **Nationalism and Patriotism:** Some military officers opposed Hitler not out of ideological disagreement but because they believed his leadership was harming Germany.
4. **Humanitarian Concerns:** The persecution of Jews and other minorities galvanized some to act in defense of human rights.

This diversity complicates simplistic narratives and highlights that defying Hitler meant different things to different people.

Risks and Consequences

The consequences of resistance were severe. The Nazi regime responded with harsh repression, including imprisonment, torture, and execution. The Gestapo's efficiency in dismantling resistance networks significantly limited their capacity to effect change. Moreover, the atmosphere of suspicion and propaganda created internal divisions and mistrust, making collective action difficult.

The Legacy of Defying Hitler

While resistance movements did not prevent the Nazi regime's atrocities or downfall, their significance lies in demonstrating that opposition persisted even under extreme repression. The stories of defiance have inspired post-war reflections on courage, ethics, and the responsibilities of individuals under authoritarian regimes. They also invite ongoing examination of how ordinary people confront injustice and tyranny.

Defying Hitler in Contemporary Perspectives

In modern discourse, defying Hitler often serves as a reference point for understanding resistance to oppressive regimes worldwide. It raises critical questions about the limits of dissent, the moral imperative to resist injustice, and the complexities of political courage.

The historical analysis of defying Hitler also informs debates on the role of memory and commemoration. Memorials, literature, and films continue to explore these themes, ensuring that the narratives of resistance remain part of collective consciousness.

In summary, the act of defying Hitler encompasses a broad spectrum of resistance within Nazi Germany, marked by profound bravery and tragic consequences. It remains a powerful testament to human resilience and the enduring struggle for justice in the face of tyranny.

Defying Hitler

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defying hitler: *Defying Hitler* Sebastian Haffner, 2019-07-29 Defying Hitler was written in 1939 and focuses on the year 1933, when, as Hitler assumed power, its author was a 25-year-old German law student, in training to join the German courts as a junior administrator. His book tries to answer two questions people have been asking since the end of World War II: "How were the Nazis possible?" and "Why did no one stop them?" Sebastian Haffner's vivid first-person account, written in real time and only much later discovered by his son, makes the rise of the Nazis psychologically comprehensible. "An astonishing memoir... [a] masterpiece." — Gabriel Schoenfeld, The New York Times Book Review "A short, stabbing, brilliant book... It is important, first, as evidence of what one intelligent German knew in the 1930s about the unspeakable nature of Nazism, at a time when the overwhelming majority of his countrymen claim to have know nothing at all. And, second, for its rare capacity to reawaken anger about those who made the Nazis possible." — Max Hastings, The Sunday Telegraph "Defying Hitler communicates one of the most profound and absolute feelings of exile that any writer has gotten between covers." — Charles Taylor, Salon "Sebastian Haffner was Germany's political conscience, but it is only now that we can read how he experienced the Nazi terror himself — that is a memoir of frightening relevance today." — Heinrich Jaenicke, Stern "The prophetic insights of a fairly young man... help us understand the plight, as Haffner refers to it, of the non-Nazi German." — The Denver Post "Sebastian Haffner's Defying Hitler is a most brilliant and imaginative book — one of the most important books we have ever published." — Lord Weidenfeld

defying hitler: *Defying Hitler* Nel Yomtov, 2019-05-01 At the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany, the last thing Adolf Hitler expected was to see a black man compete and win. But Jesse Owens didn't just win. He was dominant in the track and field events, winning four gold medals and helping to set a world record. With this digital eBook edition, readers can witness one of the most iconic moments in sports history as Owens proves that people of all races can compete and win at the Olympic games.

defying hitler: *Defying Hitler* Gordon Thomas, Greg Lewis, 2019-04-23 A terrifying and timely account of resistance in the face of the greatest of evils."—Alex Kershaw, New York Times

bestselling author of *The First Wave* An enthralling story that vividly resurrects the web of everyday Germans who resisted Nazi rule Nazi Germany is remembered as a nation of willing fanatics. But beneath the surface, countless ordinary, everyday Germans actively resisted Hitler. Some passed industrial secrets to Allied spies. Some forged passports to help Jews escape the Reich. For others, resistance was as simple as writing a letter denouncing the rigidity of Nazi law. No matter how small the act, the danger was the same--any display of defiance was met with arrest, interrogation, torture, and even death. *Defying Hitler* follows the underground network of Germans who believed standing against the Fuhrer to be more important than their own survival. Their bravery is astonishing--a schoolgirl beheaded by the Gestapo for distributing anti-Nazi fliers; a German American teacher who smuggled military intel to Soviet agents, becoming the only American woman executed by the Nazis; a pacifist philosopher murdered for his role in a plot against Hitler; a young idealist who joined the SS to document their crimes, only to end up, to his horror, an accomplice to the Holocaust. This remarkable account illuminates their struggles, yielding an accessible narrative history with the pace and excitement of a thriller.

defying hitler: *Defying Hitler* Gordon Thomas, Greg Lewis, 2019 Nazi Germany is remembered as a nation of willing fanatics, but countless Germans actively resisted Hitler. No matter how small the act, the danger was the same: any display of defiance was met with arrest, interrogation, torture, and even death. Thomas and Lewis follow the underground network of Germans who believed standing against the Fuhrer to be more important than their own survival. Their bravery is astonishing, and the authors illuminate their struggles, yielding an accessible narrative history with the pace and excitement of a thriller. -- adapted from jacket.

defying hitler: *Women Defying Hitler* Nathan Stoltzfus, Mordecai Paldiel, Judy Baumel-Schwartz, 2021-08-12 This timely volume brings together an international team of leading scholars to explore the ways that women responded to situations of immense deprivation, need, and victimization under Hitler's dictatorship. Paying acute attention to the differences that gender made, *Women Defying Hitler* examines the forms of women's defiance, the impact these women had, and the moral and ethical dilemmas they faced. Several essays also address the special problems of the memory and historiography of women's history during World War II, and the book features standpoints of historians as well as the voices of survivors and their descendants. Notably, this book also serves as a guide for human behaviour under extremely difficult conditions. The book is relevant today for challenging discrimination against women and for its nuanced exploration of the conditions minorities face as outspoken protagonists of human rights issues and as resisters of discrimination. From this perspective the voices being empowered in this book are clear examples of the importance of protest by women in forcing a totalitarian regime to pause and reconsider its options for the moment. In revealing so, *Women Defying Hitler* ultimately foregrounds that women rescuers and resisters were and are of great continuing consequence.

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defying hitler: *Hitler's Germany: The Nazi Background to War* Karl Loewenstein, 2025-06-29 "So far, no book has been published which contains in so narrow a compass so many--indeed practically all--essential facts concerning the structure of Nazi Germany and the organization of Nazi activities in the various branches of public life. A great deal about the

constitution and governmental institutions, the organization of national economy, labor, education, religion, the professions, and an especially brilliant chapter on the party, will be found in this outline, which is all the more impressive by its strict adherence to the sober and cool statement of facts." — The American Political Science Review "[A] highly reliable book on National-Socialist Germany... the most authoritative study written so far on the constitutional structure of the Third Reich and its operation. The author, a constitutional lawyer by training, is one of the few really qualified scholars whose words must be regarded irreproachable in a field of modern government where prejudice and predilections easily lead to immature presentation." — California Law Review "We can recommend this book as the most succinct and up-to-date analysis of the Third Reich and its structure. In 176 small pages are summarized not only the most important features of the political institutions and the methods of domination but also the results of their application." — The Review of Politics "This compact and readable work is a revised study of the author's Hitler's Germany which originally reached his publishers at the very outbreak of the present European conflict. It is a scholarly presentation of the revolutionary structure of the Third Reich which was erected upon the ruins of the Weimar Republic. Moreover, it is a reliable manual of the ideologies of the Nazis, their symbolism, racialism, and mass control through emotionalism." — The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science "Not just another book on that world problem called Germany, this compact little volume occupies a unique place in such literature... Professor Loewenstein has repressed any natural resentment to produce a realistic study whose effect is the more definite by reason of its restraint. We have seen no other book on any subject which compresses more information... than does this small volume." — World Affairs "[A] lucid, balanced work... Privileged to draw upon both official sources and émigré literature, sufficiently withdrawn from the scene to give a composite view without loss of perspective, [Loewenstein] gives a succinct picture portraying not only the externals of the Third Reich, but also the inner sources of its power in both domestic and foreign affairs." — The American Journal of International Law

defying hitler: Germany 1923: Hyperinflation, Hitler's Putsch, and Democracy in Crisis
Volker Ullrich, 2023-09-26 From the New York Times best-selling historian comes a gripping account of the crisis of the Weimar Republic, when hyperinflation and political upheaval threatened to unravel a new experiment in democracy. As the great Austrian writer Stefan Zweig confided in his autobiography, written in exile, "I have a pretty thorough knowledge of history, but never, to my recollection, has it produced such madness in such gigantic proportions." He was referring to the situation in Germany in 1923. It was a "year of lunacy," defined by hyperinflation, a political system on the verge of collapse, and separatist movements that threatened Germany's territorial integrity. Most significantly, Adolf Hitler launched his infamous Beer Hall Putsch in Munich—a failed coup that nonetheless drew international attention and demonstrated the Nazis' ruthless determination to seize power. In Germany 1923, award-winning historian Volker Ullrich draws on letters, memoirs, newspaper articles, and other sources from the time to present a captivating new history of those explosive twelve months. The crisis began when the French invaded the Ruhr Valley in January to force Germany to pay the reparations it owed under the Treaty of Versailles, which had ended the Great War. For years, German leaders had embraced inflationary policies to finance the costs of defeat, and, as Ullrich demonstrates, the invasion utterly destroyed the value of the German mark. Before the war, the exchange rate was 4.2 marks to the dollar. By November 20, 1923, a dollar was worth an incomprehensible 4.2 trillion marks, and a loaf of bread cost 200 billion. Facing the abyss, many ordinary Germans called for a national messiah. Among the figures to vie for that role was Hitler, a thirty-four-year-old veteran who possessed a uniquely malevolent personal magnetism. Although the Nazi coup in November was put down and Hitler arrested, the putsch showed just how tenuous the first German democracy, the Weimar Republic, was at its core. As Ullrich's panoramic narrative reveals, other Germans responded to the successive crises by launching a cultural revolution: 1923 witnessed the emergence of a multitude of new movements, from Dada to Bauhaus, and of such iconoclasts as Bertolt Brecht, George Grosz, and Franz Kafka. Yet most observers were amazed that the Weimar Republic was able to survive, and the more astute realized that the feral

undercurrents unleashed could lead to much worse. Publishing a century after that fateful year, Germany 1923 is a riveting chronicle of one of the most challenging times any modern democracy has faced, one with haunting parallels to our own political moment.

defying hitler: *The Dictators: Hitler's Germany, Stalin's Russia* Richard Overy, 2006-01-17 A book of great importance; it surpasses all others in breadth and depth.--Commentary If the past century will be remembered for its tragic pairing of civilized achievement and organized destruction, at the heart of darkness may be found Hitler, Stalin, and the systems of domination they forged. Their lethal regimes murdered millions and fought a massive, deadly war. Yet their dictatorships took shape within formal constitutional structures and drew the support of the German and Russian people. In the first major historical work to analyze the two dictatorships together in depth, Richard Overy gives us an absorbing study of Hitler and Stalin, ranging from their private and public selves, their ascents to power and consolidation of absolute rule, to their waging of massive war and creation of far-flung empires of camps and prisons. The Nazi extermination camps and the vast Soviet Gulag represent the two dictatorships in their most inhuman form. Overy shows us the human and historical roots of these evils.

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defying hitler: *How Was It Possible?* Peter Hayes, 2015 As the Holocaust passes out of living memory, future generations will no longer come face-to-face with Holocaust survivors. But the lessons of that terrible period in history are too important to let slip past. *How Was It Possible?*, edited and introduced by Peter Hayes, provides teachers and students with a comprehensive resource about the Nazi persecution of Jews. Deliberately resisting the reflexive urge to dismiss the topic as too horrible to be understood intellectually or emotionally, the anthology sets out to provide answers to questions that may otherwise defy comprehension. This anthology is organized around key issues of the Holocaust, from the historical context for antisemitism to the impediments to escaping Nazi Germany, and from the logistics of the death camps and the carrying out of genocide to the subsequent struggles of the displaced survivors in the aftermath. Prepared in cooperation with the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, this anthology includes contributions from such luminaries as Jean Ancel, Saul Friedlander, Tony Judt, Alan Kraut, Primo Levi, Robert Proctor, Richard Rhodes, Timothy Snyder, and Susan Zuccotti. Taken together, the selections make the ineffable fathomable and demystify the barbarism underlying the tragedy, inviting readers to learn precisely how the Holocaust was, in fact, possible.

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defying hitler: Killing Hitler Roger Moorhouse, 2007-03-27 For the first time in one enthralling book, here is the incredible true story of the numerous attempts to assassinate Adolf Hitler and change the course of history. Disraeli once declared that "assassination never changed anything," and yet the idea that World War II and the horrors of the Holocaust might have been averted with a single bullet or bomb has remained a tantalizing one for half a century. What historian Roger Moorhouse reveals in *Killing Hitler* is just how close—and how often—history came to taking a radically different path between Adolf Hitler's rise to power and his ignominious suicide. Few leaders, in any century, can have been the target of so many assassination attempts, with such momentous consequences in the balance. Hitler's almost fifty would-be assassins ranged from simple craftsmen to high-ranking soldiers, from the apolitical to the ideologically obsessed, from Polish Resistance fighters to patriotic Wehrmacht officers, and from enemy agents to his closest associates. And yet, up to now, their exploits have remained virtually unknown, buried in dusty official archives and obscure memoirs. This, then, for the first time in a single volume, is their story. A story of courage and ingenuity and, ultimately, failure, ranging from spectacular train derailments to the world's first known suicide bomber, explaining along the way why the British at one time declared that assassinating Hitler would be "unsporting," and why the ruthless murderer Joseph Stalin was unwilling to order his death. It is also the remarkable, terrible story of the survival of a tyrant against all the odds, an evil dictator whose repeated escapes from almost certain death convinced him that he was literally invincible—a conviction that had appalling consequences for millions.

defying hitler: *Nonconformity, Dissent, Opposition, and Resistance in Germany, 1933-1990* Sabrina P. Ramet, 2020-10-29 "This book brings fresh light to previously marginalized subject in German history. It is an original approach, up-to-date written without scholarly jargon, easily

accessible to students, both at undergraduate and graduate. It is highly focused departing from the usual "histories" of a single country arguing for the "two German states", and the three political systems."- Prof. Dr. László Kürti, Institute of Applied Social Sciences, University of Miskolc, Hungary
This book contrasts three very different incarnations of Germany - the totalitarian Third Reich, the communist German Democratic Republic, and the democratic Federal Republic of Germany up to 1990 - in terms of their experiences with and responses to nonconformity, dissent, opposition, and resistance and the role played by those factors in each case. Although even innocent nonconformity came with a price in all three systems and in the post-war occupation zones, the price was the highest in Nazi Germany. . It is worth stressing that what qualifies as nonconformity and dissent depends on the social and political context and, thus, changes over time. Like those in active dissent, opposition, or resistance, nonconformists are rebels (whether they are conscious of it or not), and have repeatedly played a role in pushing for change, whether through reform of legislation, transformation of the public's attitudes, or even regime change.

defying hitler: The Fatherland and the Jews Alfred Wiener, 2021-01-21 Two works examining antisemitism and the scapegoating of minorities by the founder of the world's oldest institution dedicated to studying the Holocaust. The inaugural title in a collaboration between the Wiener Library and Granta Books. These two pamphlets, "Prelude to Pogroms? Facts for the Thoughtful" and "German Judaism in Political, Economic and Cultural Terms" mark the first time that Alfred Wiener, the founder of the Wiener Holocaust Library, has been published in English. Together they offer a vital insight into the antisemitic onslaught Germany's Jews were subjected to as the Nazi Party rose to power, and introduce a sharp and sympathetic thinker and speaker to a contemporary audience. Tackling issues such as the planned rise of antisemitism and the scapegoating of minorities, these pamphlets speak as urgently to the contemporary moment as they provide a window on to the past.

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