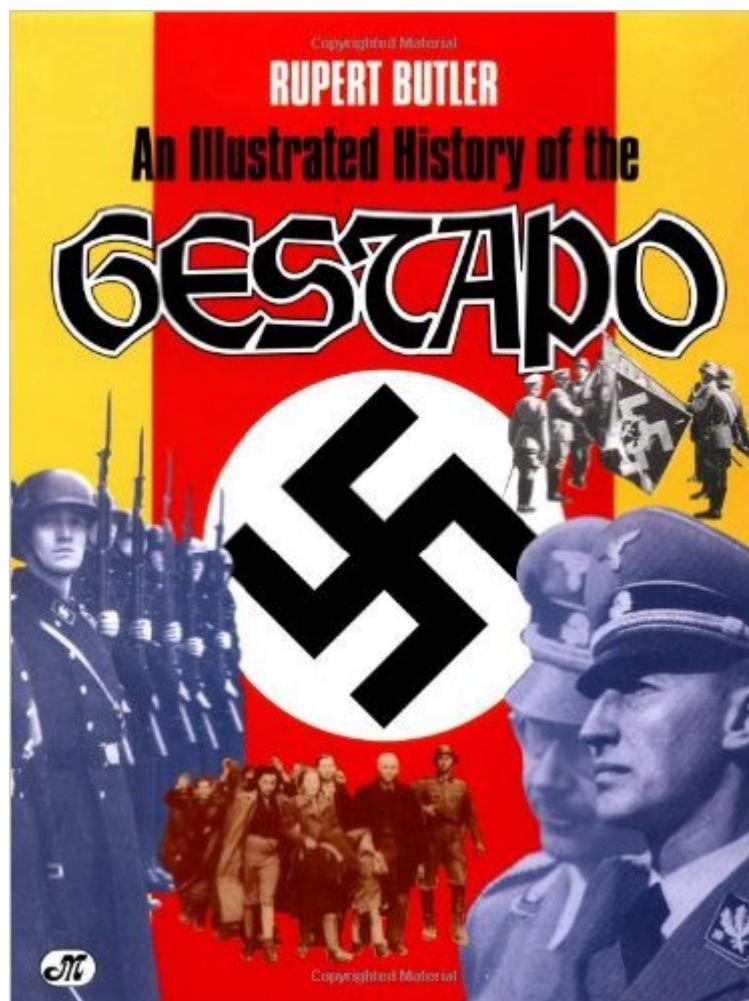


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An Illustrated History Of The Gestapo



Synopsis

This book is one of the most detailed sources for the intricate detailing of Hitler's gestapo. It highlights the dangers of a police state and what can go terribly wrong when the people are no longer in control and the government becomes tyrannical. This is a very explicit, yet tasteful resource with ample photos and actual accounts of individuals who dealt directly with the dreaded Gestapo.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Throughout recorded history, all totalitarian regimes have needed their secret police to do their dirty work. The Catholic Church had its Inquisition in the Middle Ages, the Russian Communists had their NKVD/KGB during the mid-twentieth century, and the German Nazis had theirs in the Geheime Staatz Poliezi, the Gestapo. In AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE GESTAPO, Rupert Butler provides both text and visuals to trace the evolution of a state sanctioned thuggery that was supposed to safeguard the existence of a thousand year Reich, that mercifully went out of business after only 12 years. After the end of the Great War in 1918, Germany was a beaten nation that nevertheless did not learn that brute aggression must one day cause a bitter price to be paid. Butler suggests that an organization like the Nazi party could never have been allowed to exist were it not for both the political myopia of the victors who insisted on crushing a fragile post-war German economy with heavy reparations and a widespread tendency for an entire nation of Germans to rally around a flag that placed anti-semitism as its motivating force in re-establishing itself as a conquering world power. To those not familiar with the overlapping structures of the Nazi party,

Butler delineates how the Gestapo, the SA, the SS, the SD, and the many branches of the police all interwove to keep a tight lid on the lives of every German and every conquered national. Butler describes the early years of the formation of the Gestapo with Heinrich Himmler at the center. Then he analyzes how the other security organs like the SS and SD sometimes co-operated, sometimes competed for dominance.

A complete and excellent book explaining the development of the Gestapo from the 1920's to its final destruction with the end of the war. The book shows that the Gestapo was led by anything but powerful and smart characters. Himmler, Heydrich, and other leaders in the Gestapo were low level bureaucrats who had no military training, not skilled in law enforcement or particularly adept in organizational abilities, and would, never have advanced in any military or government organizations during normal times. They were pretty much misfits, who happened to be in the right place at the right time. When given a little bit of power, they rapidly became obsessed with it. They became Megomaniacs when Hitler took power and when they found that there were no limits placed on their operations. They operated in a despicable and ruthless manner and destroyed anyone and anything that got in the way of their madness. They had no redeeming values, no guiding principles, nor any characteristics other than suspicion, driven by self-promoting power and hate. Their actions show how evil men can become when they have no conscience, no remorse, no accountability, and no respect for anything except a despot. The effect created by these evil characters was awesome and resulted in the murder of millions of innocent men, women, and children. The book even shows how weak these Gestapo leaders were during the final days of WWII. They couldn't even face those who were bringing them to account for their murderous actions. They took the coward's way out and committed suicide. This book is not only important in that it shows how an organization as evil as the Gestapo can get started and how far it can get out of control and how difficult it is to destroy it.

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