

(Download ebook) Backing Hitler: Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany

Backing Hitler: Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany

Robert Gellately

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Robert Gellately : Backing Hitler: Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Backing Hitler: Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Gellately is very good in pointing out a PR pointBy MeyatiThis is a well-researched book that looks at Hitler and the 3rd Reich from the view of Public Relations. For example, in the 1930s, the Nazis released artists, authors, dissenters from concentration camps, while saying the Nazis didn't believe in oppression. Then a few months later, the Nazis rounded up the same people and sent them back to concentration

camps. The public decided that the dissenters were trouble makers. Gellately is very good in pointing out a PR point, and then how it didn't work out. Hitler promised to put women back into the home and kitchen, which would reduce crimes against women. The wages and work opportunities went up for the men, so the women quit work. Then with total war, the women were in the factories working night shifts. Then add that the SS were able to rape any woman they wanted without it being a crime. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Charles G. Some like to claim the people did not know. Must be guilty 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Persuasive By E. Mercuri Gellately is able to present evidence that shows that evil that is not hidden can still be accepted by a people who in different times would not consider the actions acceptable. A sobering description showing the extent that the Nazis were mindful of public opinion and were able to lead opinion by reflecting beliefs that had become legitimate.

Debate still rages over how much ordinary Germans knew about the concentration camps and the Gestapo's activities during Hitler's reign. Now, in this well-documented and provocative volume, historian Robert Gellately argues that the majority of German citizens had quite a clear picture of the extent of Nazi atrocities, and continued to support the Reich to the bitter end. Culling chilling evidence from primary news sources and citing dozens of case studies, Gellately shows how media reports and press stories were an essential dimension of Hitler's popular dictatorship. Indeed, a vast array of material on the concentration camps, the violent campaigns against social outsiders, and the Nazis' radical approaches to "law and order" was published in the media of the day, and was widely read by a highly literate population of Germans. Hitler, Gellately reveals, did not try to hide the existence of the Gestapo or of concentration camps. Nor did the Nazis try to cow the people into submission. Instead they set out to win converts by building on popular images, cherished ideals, and long-held phobias. And their efforts succeeded, Gellately concludes, for the Gestapo's monstrous success was due, in large part, to ordinary German citizens who singled out suspected "enemies" in their midst, reporting their suspicions and allegations freely and in a spirit of cooperation and patriotism. Extensively documented, highly readable and illustrated with never-before-published photographs, *Backing Hitler* convincingly debunks the myth that Nazi atrocities were carried out in secret. From the rise of the Third Reich well into the final, desperate months of the war, the destruction of innocent lives was inextricably linked to the will of the German people.

From Publishers Weekly Using newspapers and radio broadcasts of the day as evidence, Gellately (*The Gestapo and German Society*), Strassler Professor in Holocaust History at Clark University, effectively demonstrates how "ordinary Germans" evolved into a powerful base of support for the Nazi regime. Although Hitler and the National Socialists had never garnered an outright majority in elections before 1933, the author convincingly shows that "the great majority of the German people soon became devoted to Hitler and they supported him to the bitter end in 1945." The Nazis achieved this political miracle by "consensus." The Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci argued that political regimes could hardly expect to use unlimited terror against their subjects a technique combining the threat of terror and coercion would be more effective. Using Gramscian theory is hardly new in an analysis of Nazi Germany, but Gellately does make a provocative claim: that the Nazi use of terror against certain categories of "undesirables" (first Communists, Socialists and trade unionists, then Catholic and Protestant opponents, then the mentally and/or physically impaired, then the Jews and Gypsies) was purposively public and that most Germans agreed with such policies. Decrees, legislation, police actions and the concentration camps were not meant to be hidden from the German people, but in fact were extensively publicized. Some of the same arguments have been made in Adam Lebor and Roger Boyes's *Seduced by Hitler* (Forecasts, Mar. 26), but readers will notice that Gellately offers a far more sophisticated argument and more abundant evidence than Daniel Goldhagen's *Hitler's Willing Executioners*. In truth, Gellately's work is what Goldhagen's book could have been, but wasn't; that is, a closely reasoned and tightly constructed analysis. 42 illus. not seen by PW. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Gellately (Strassler Professor in Holocaust History, Clark Univ.) analyzes the role of "ordinary" Germans in the Nazi persecution of those deemed social and political outsiders. Under the guise of "law and order," the Nazis suspended regular jurisprudence and substituted arbitrary arrest and imprisonment. Far from carrying out their activities in secret, the Nazis publicized them as steps to the social, political, and racial regeneration of Germany. Many ordinary Germans actively participated in this process, denouncing neighbors as "asocial" elements for associating with Jews or for "suspicious" activities. Denunciations derived from a variety of motivations personal grudges, economic self-interest, or ideological commitment with the full knowledge of what would happen to the victims. By effectively overturning the belief that Hitler and the Nazi party imposed their ideology upon the German people and maintained control through massed police terror, Gellately's book forces us to consider the role of the ordinary citizen in the maintenance of the Nazi dictatorship. His arguments are more sophisticated and ultimately more convincing than Daniel Goldhagen's in *Hitler's Willing Executioners* (LJ 3/15/96), which saw the German people's adherence as mono-causal (i.e., anti-Semitism). Recommended for all libraries. Frederic Krome, Jacob Rader Marcus Ctr. of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Popular support for the Nazi regime has been exhaustively examined, but usually from electoral and

propagandistic documentation. Police records the Gestapo didn't destroy apparently hadn't been systematically analyzed. They, along with evidence from newspapers and the Nazis' opinion reports, are what Gellately plumbs to gauge the German populace's reaction, during the 12 years of the Third Reich, to the application of the police state's powers. His conclusions dispel notions that ignorance and passivity characterized the German civilian's response to what state coercion was up to. The first concentration camps in the 1930s were well publicized; and Gellately found that, in the course of the war, at least, most Gestapo cases began with voluntary denunciations. Gellately's contextual point is how the leaders of this system of police terror, including Hitler in his intervention in individual cases, radicalized it toward its apotheosis in the draconian bloodbath of all internal enemies in 1944-45. Grim it may be, but this is original historiography that needs to be added to collections concerned with Nazism. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved