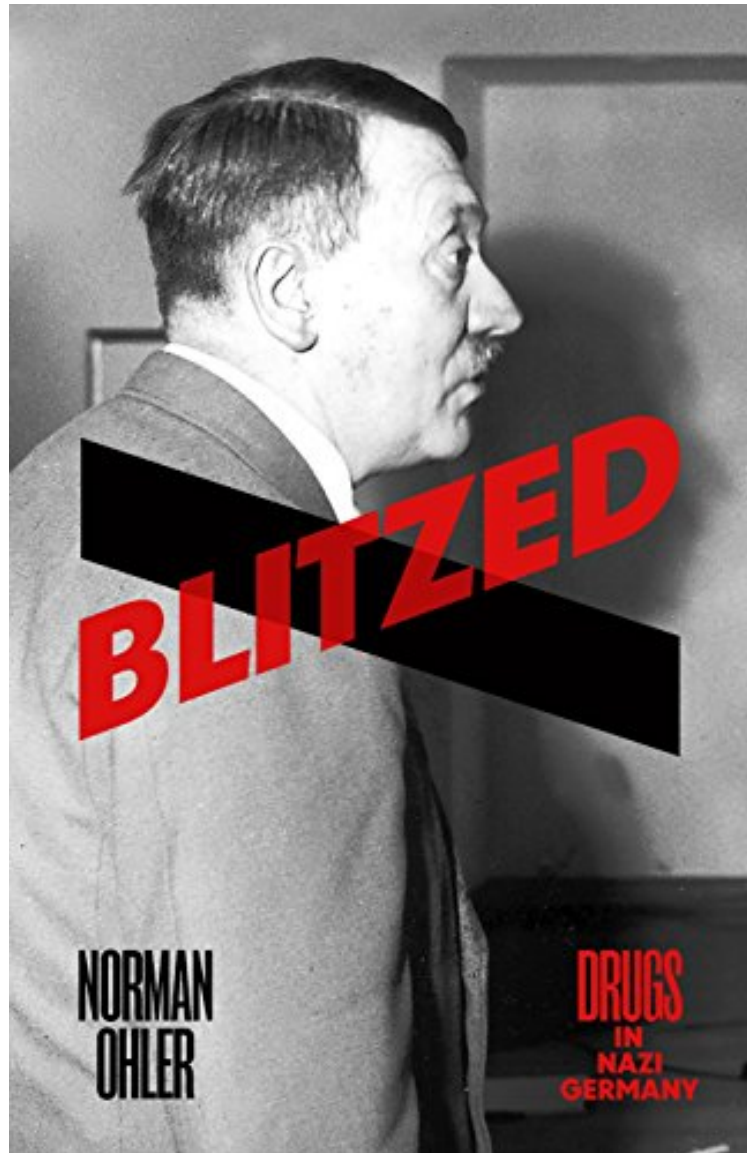


(Free read ebook) Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany

Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany

Norman Ohler

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#484752 in Books imusti 2016-11-22 2016-11-22Format: International EditionOriginal language:German
8.80 x 1.20 x 5.60l, #File Name: 0241256992368 pagesALLEN LANE | File size: 40.Mb

Norman Ohler : Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany:

33 of 35 people found the following review helpful. BlitzedBy S RiazIn this fascinating account of drug use in the Third Reich, author Norman Ohler takes us on a journey through the history of Germany and explains how, and why, it became a centre of pharmaceutical research. Although the National Socialist Party presented themselves as clean cut, and Hitler praised abstinence, it is clear that much of the Nazi hierarchy including Hitler himself were very reliant

on drugs and, indeed, that their use was widespread both in the armed forces and in civilian life. Between the wars, Berlin, in particular, exploded in cultural excess and escapism, with drug use becoming prevalent. Ohler examines the use of a drug, called Pervitin, in particular. So widespread was this drug that it was even included in chocolates, advertised for housewives needing a little help to cope with the housework. It was known as the people's drug and was said to banish sleep and hunger, while promising euphoria. Now, it is better known by the name of crystal meth. Pervitin is linked to a senior staff doctor, named Professor Dr Otto F Ranke, director of the Research Institute of Defence Physiology. Ranke was involved in suggesting the drug could boost the performance of the army, which were under incredible pressure to perform, with Hitler making unprecedented demands. Indeed, the author suggests that the real enemy were not the British or Russian troops, but tiredness, and Pervitin offered a cure for exhaustion. Too late, Ranke saw the danger signs of addiction and side effects, but by then the army were marching for days and, while witnesses saw the invaders as virtually super-human, the troops themselves also began, dangerously, to believe in their own image. Speaking of delusion, a large part of this book looks at Patient A, or Hitler, and his relationship with his personal physician, Dr Theodor Morrell. Unlike Stalin, who was happy to leave running the war to his Generals, Hitler wanted to be in charge of everything. He gradually lost touch with reality his delusions and fantasies causing him to be dangerously reckless. Meanwhile, afraid of being ill and unable to attend meetings, Hitler demanded that Morrell keep him healthy and active. He may have failed at helping Hitler stay healthy, but he was always there with a pick me up in the form of an injection, if Hitler felt tired, unwell or out of sorts. Ohler tells of one meeting with Mussolini when, fortified by medication, Hitler ranted incessantly for over three hours calling the meeting a resounding success when, in fact, nobody else had managed to interrupt his endless flow of words. This really is a very readable account of a fascinating period in history. The amount of drugs that Hitler was taking by the end of the war is truly staggering indeed, when he travelled by train, there had to be regular stops so that Morrell could administer injections. Side effects of drugs used by both Hitler himself and the armed forces, who had tablets doled out to them like sweets, eventually saw the initial excitement of enthusiasm, energy and excitement, collapsing in paranoia and exhaustion. This is an interesting and little explored aspect of the war, which really leaves you reeling in disbelief. I highly recommend this as a very engaging read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. lifts the veil on possible theory for this disaster By L. G. Ruch Fascinating suggestion and partial explanation for what could have possibly moved a country in this direction. Very interesting distinction between the Hitler who came to power and the Hitler who lost power, as well as potential motivations and actions of the people around him. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the most enthralling non-fiction work I've read - ever By R. Dixon Couldn't put this book down. Packed with facts that not only I've never heard before, but were heretofore unknown or at least neglected by historians

GUARDIAN BOOKS OF THE YEAR 2016 'The most brilliant and fascinating book I have read in my entire life' Dan Snow 'Blitzed is making me rethink everything I've ever seen and read about WWII... terrific!' Douglas Coupland 'A huge contribution... remarkable' Antony Beevor, BBC RADIO 4 'Extremely interesting ... a serious piece of scholarship, very well researched' Ian Kershaw The sensational German bestseller on the overwhelming role of drug-taking in the Third Reich, from Hitler to housewives. The Nazis presented themselves as warriors against moral degeneracy. Yet, as Norman Ohler's gripping bestseller reveals, the entire Third Reich was permeated with drugs: cocaine, heroin, morphine and, most of all, methamphetamines, or crystal meth, used by everyone from factory workers to housewives, and crucial to troops' resilience - even partly explaining German victory in 1940. The promiscuous use of drugs at the very highest levels also impaired and confused decision-making, with Hitler and his entourage taking refuge in potentially lethal cocktails of stimulants administered by the physician Dr Morell as the war turned against Germany. While drugs cannot on their own explain the events of the Second World War or its outcome, Ohler shows, they change our understanding of it. Blitzed forms a crucial missing piece of the story.

German writer Norman Ohler's astonishing account of methamphetamine addiction in the Third Reich changes what we know about the second world war .. Blitzed looks set to reframe the way certain aspects of the Third Reich will be viewed in the future -- Rachel Cooke * Guardian * A huge contribution... remarkable -- Antony Beevor * BBC RADIO 4 * Blitzed is making me rethink everything I've ever seen and read about WWII. It emotionally and technically makes sense of previously unexplainable aspects of that war. It makes me want to revisit other books on it with the hindsight of knowing these newly exposed truths. It was terrific! -- Douglas Coupland The picture he paints is both a powerful and an extreme one... gripping reading -- Anna Katharina Schaffner * Times Literary Supplement * Remarkable... energetic... retells the history of the war through the prism of the pill... it has an uncanny ability to disturb -- Roger Boyes * The Times * Very good and extremely interesting - a serious piece of scholarship very well-researched -- Ian Kershaw author of Hitler and To Hell and Back The most brilliant and fascinating book I have read in my entire life -- Dan Snow Norman Ohler has succeeded in a remarkable scoop, by studying in detail the notebooks of Hitler's personal doctor and demonstrating that Hitler was a far worse junkie than we had ever imagined. He has also unearthed the way that the German army did not march on its stomach, but on methamphetamine. The supposedly

clean-living Nazis, who accused the Jews of corrupting German youth, were the real pushers. The book, written with delightful irony, is an eye-opener. -- Antony Beevor * Guardian * This book transforms the overall picture * Hans Mommsen * Sensational * Daily Mail * Bursting with interesting facts * Vice * Norman Ohler has written an illuminating account of the gobsmacking extent to which military strategy in the Third Reich relied on drugs. ... What you'll learn: Never trust a coked-up Nazi * ShortList * A fascinating, most extraordinary revelation * BBC World News * The Nazis were all on drugs! So far, so sensationalist but German writer Norman Ohler's absorbing new non-fiction book, *Blitzed*, makes the convincing argument that the Nazis' use of chemical stimulants... played a crucial role in the successes, and failures, of the Third Reich * Esquire * An audacious, compelling read * Stern * Enthralling * *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung* * A revelatory work that considers Hitler's career in a new light. '*Blitzed: Drugs in the Third Reich*' is that rare sort of book whose remarkable insight focuses on a subject that's been overlooked, even disregarded by historians. * The San Francisco Chronicle * *Blitzed* is a fascinating read that provides a new facet to our understanding of the Third Reich -- BuzzFeed

About the Author Norman Ohler was born in Zweibrücken in 1970. He is the author of three novels, *Die Quotenmaschine* (the world's first hypertext novel), *Mitte* and *Stadt des Goldes* as well as two novellas. He was co-writer of the script for Wim Wenders' film *Palermo Shooting*. He researched *Blitzed* in numerous archives across Germany and the United States.