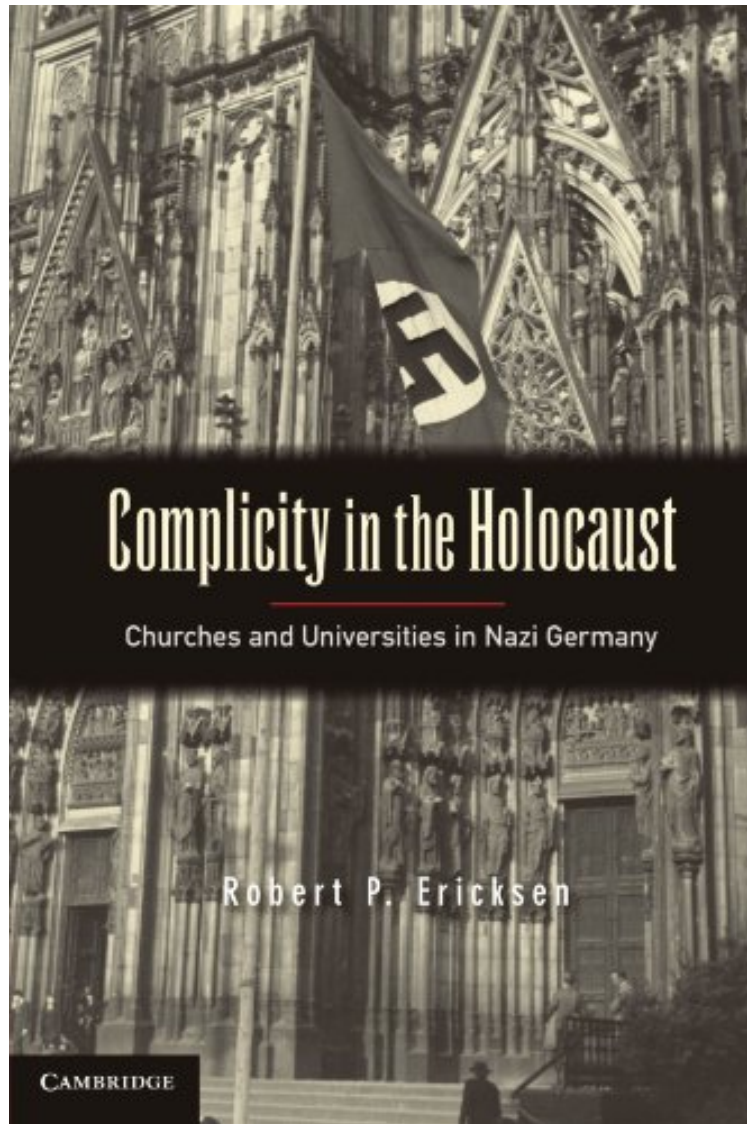


Complicity in the Holocaust: Churches and Universities in Nazi Germany

Robert P. Ericksen

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#961260 in Books Robert P Ericksen 2012-02-06 2012-03-29Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.98 x .71 x 5.98l, .95 #File Name: 1107663334280 pagesComplicity in the Holocaust Churches and Universities in Nazi Germany | File size: 19.Mb

Robert P. Ericksen : Complicity in the Holocaust: Churches and Universities in Nazi Germany before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Complicity in the Holocaust: Churches and Universities in Nazi Germany:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Institutions and Normalizing NacismBy Joseph D. ParryRobert P.

Ericksen has made a major contribution to our understanding of Nazi Germany in this book. He both synthesizes and adds to what we know about the degree to which essentially 3 religions collaborated with the Nazis: the Deutsche Christen (Lutheran, explicitly supportive of the Nazis), the "Confessing Church" (Lutheran, resist Nazis, but were still anti-semitic), and Roman Catholicism (had some good moments, but mostly not). But he does his best work with the universities, showing more deeply (using the University of Göttingen as an instructive example), but also more comprehensively than other studies how collaborationist the universities were. It is disheartening to learn that educated Germans of the period were as or more likely than the uneducated working class to be card-carrying anti-semites. And by pairing the churches and the universities, Ericksen helps us understand the ways that institutions, even those dedicated to principles and ideals that should have been a bulwark against Nazism (liberal education and Christianity), did much to normalize Nazi racism and might-makes-right in German culture and society at large. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Telling it like it was. By Pete H. This book documented what I had always believed went on in the Third Reich. So many of the so called "Good Germans" were "outed" in this book. At times tedious reading because of all the references and documentation the author used to support and define his analysis. History is history, I am not passing judgement one way or another, but I want any presentation of history to be as factual as possible where ever the chips may fall. I would highly recommend this book to any student of the dynamics and personnel involved in the church and higher education in the Nazi Era. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant and Clear By David G. Ericksen writes with clarity and succinctness, packing this relatively short work (235 pages) with full analysis of complex issues in a remarkably readable book. A most gifted writer, Erickson is balanced and fair on subjects that inherently are not balanced and where there is no justice. Scholarship on the Holocaust has come a long way in the last 20 years, with Ericksen a singular voice in current company with Browning and Susannah Heschel, modern voices added to the pioneering of Arendt, Hilberg and Davidowicz. Whether this is the first read for a newcomer or a recent release for the seasoned scholar, *Complicity* receives my strongest recommendation. It is foundational while at the same time specific. Footnotes are helpfully positioned at the bottom of the page and the bibliography is extensive and up to date through 2012.

In one of the darker aspects of Nazi Germany, churches and universities - generally respected institutions - grew to accept and support Nazi ideology. Robert P. Ericksen explains how an advanced, highly-educated, Christian nation could commit the crimes of the Holocaust. This book describes how Germany's intellectual and spiritual leaders enthusiastically partnered with Hitler's regime, thus becoming active participants in the persecution of Jews, and ultimately, in the Holocaust. Ericksen also examines Germany's deeply flawed yet successful postwar policy of denazification in these institutions. *Complicity in the Holocaust* argues that enthusiasm for Hitler within churches and universities effectively gave Germans permission to participate in the Nazi regime.

"Based on decades of his own research and complete mastery of both German- and English-language scholarship in the field, Robert Ericksen demonstrates convincingly how a critical mass of churchmen and academics in Germany enthusiastically embraced the Nazi regime and provided the rationalizations and adjustment of moral norms that permitted ordinary Germans to accept and even implement the regime's brutal and murderous policies." Christopher R. Browning, Frank Porter Graham Professor of History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill "Robert P. Ericksen has given us a masterful comparative study of the churches and the universities in Nazi Germany. Two institutions entrusted to foster the collective conscience and intellect of the German people are revealed to have compromised their integrity by collaborating in the Holocaust, despite the fact that Jews had been crucial in creating Christianity (Jesus and Paul) and enhancing German academic scholarship." Susannah Heschel, author of *The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany* (2008) "Robert P. Erickson's reputation as an important authority on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust is based not only on his careful and original scholarship, but also on his insistence on moral clarity. He does not shirk from assigning individual and collective responsibility for the crimes of Nazism. This book makes compelling reading, and will most certainly stimulate debate among its many readers." Alan E. Steinweis, University of Vermont "This book deserves to be celebrated for its moral courage, lucid prose and splendid craftsmanship - in spite of its complex and emotive content, it reads with beguiling simplicity." Times Higher Education "Highly recommended." Choice "... a thoroughly successful summary ..." Dirk Schuster, Arbeitstitel "Ericksen's book is helpful because it begins the story of complicity not in 1933, with the rise of Adolf Hitler to the chancellorship, but instead in 1923, with the decade-long religious and ideological tumultuousness that marked the Weimar Republic." Charles Gallagher, German Studies "... a compelling piece of scholarship that is eminently readable, frequently thought-provoking, and deeply insightful." Derek Hastings, The Catholic Historical Society "About the Author Robert P. Ericksen is Kurt Mayer Chair in Holocaust Studies and Professor of History at Pacific Lutheran University. Ericksen is also a Fellow of the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation. He is on the editorial boards of the journals *Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte* (Contemporary Church History) and *Association of Contemporary Church Historians*. Ericksen is the author of *Theologians under Hitler: Gerhard Kittel, Paul Althaus and Emanuel*

Hirsch (1985) and co-editor of *Betrayal: German Churches and the Holocaust* (1999).