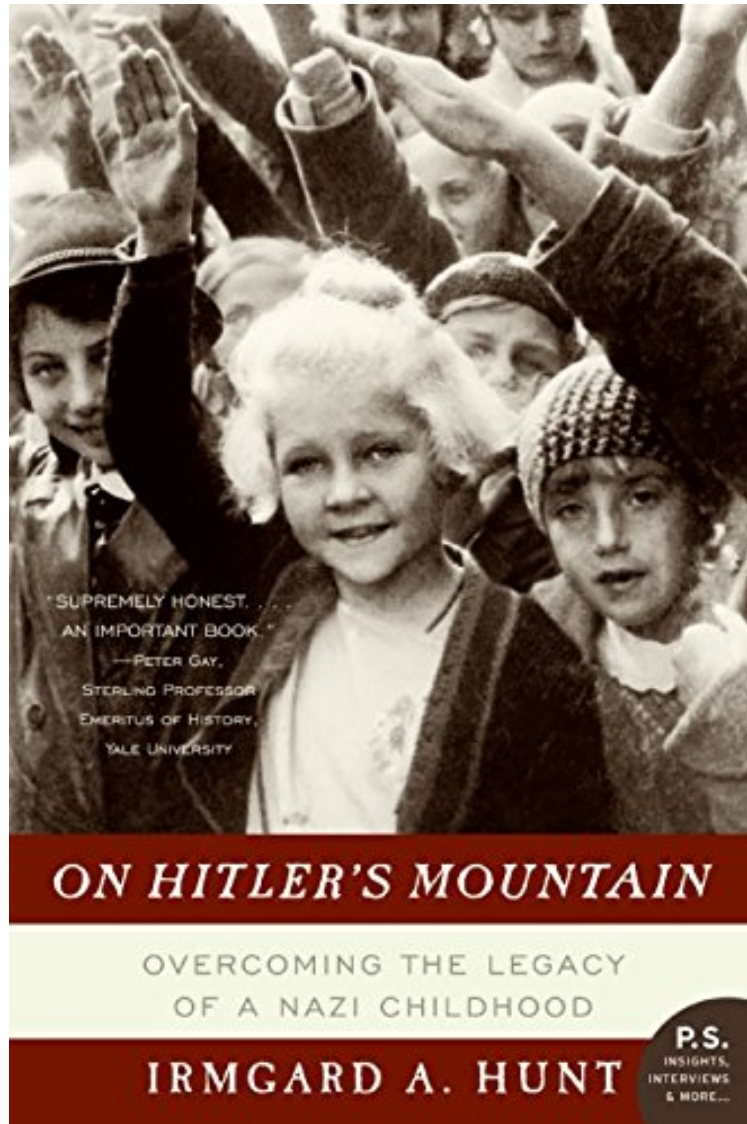


(Pdf free) On Hitler's Mountain: Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood

# On Hitler's Mountain: Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood

*Irmgard A. Hunt*

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#522687 in Books Irmgard A Hunt 2006-01-31 2006-01-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .68 x 5.311, .58 #File Name: 0060532181304 pages On Hitler s Mountain Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood | File size: 22.Mb

**Irmgard A. Hunt : On Hitler's Mountain: Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Hitler's Mountain: Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Eagle's Nest atop Berchtesgaden, Hamster Trips, Adolescence of a Admirable Lady By Best\_Legend Very good book that not only includes an in-depth description of her life during

the Nazi era, but wonderfully follows up with life after the war years right up to her profound belief in democratic pursuits of the introductory years of the twenty-first century. I was impressed by the editing of the writing, always paying close attention to the details hidden behind the complexities of events in reference. The author is quite educated, and had qualified help in the construction of the narrative, and this care really comes through in the writing. I discovered answers to questions that I have had concerning the residents of the mountain area, how they reacted to having, not only Hitler, but many of the Nazi oligarchs of his immediate circle, (Goering, Speer, Bormann, Goebbels, among others), actually living within this mountainous territory that had such a colorful, ancient culture, and heritage. Good photographs were included that gave me an improved sense of understanding just who her family was, and made the reading more coherent in my mind. The story moves along nicely, not like a thrown rock skipping along the top of a lake, but carefully tying each event to the next with understanding. My only real perception of the events at the Berghof prior was the small amount I received in viewing the magnificent film called "Band of Brothers" when the 501st airborne troops arrived there, and the minutes afterward. There is much more information within the book, and good references in the bibliography. But, the story itself is good, worth reading, and kept my interest throughout. Irmgard touches upon the life of her family, their Lutheran beliefs, their view of Hitler/Nazi dictates, and other fascinating occurrences that would spoil the reading if I mentioned them in detail. This area was part of the American-controlled region after the war, so there are no horrific tales of Soviet intrusions of terror in 1945 described, (although the US, French, and Moroccan troop behavior is mentioned briefly.) If you like "The Book Thief", then you might enjoy experiencing this wonderful story!

Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Irmgard A. Hunt's poignant, sad, thought-provoking and beautifully written memoir of growing up on Hitler's Mountain

By C. M. Mills

We Americans have been blessed. Though our nation is far from perfect most of us have never had to live under a cruel dictatorship such as Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) imposed on the German people. The cruelties of the monster Nazis would lead to the systemized murder of over six million European Jews as well as the loss of approximately fifty million soldiers and civilians in history's worst war and greatest human tragedy. These gruesome facts are well known but less well understood is the life of a young German girl growing up under the Nazi swastika. Irmgard A. Hunt has fulfilled that need. She was born in the beautiful Bavarian countryside of Berchtesgaden where Hitler had his home the Berghof. Irmgard was born in 1931. Her parents Mutti and Vati grew up poor seeing in Hitler's government the opportunity for their nation to move past the Great Depression and the failed Weimar government into restored German greatness. Ms. Hunt and her young sister Ingrid grew up under the Nazi educational system which taught a hatred of Jews and all other people except the German Nordic race. Hunt's father was called to serve in the Wehrmacht dying in France in 1941 under mysterious circumstances. Her mother believed in National Socialism and was a tough taskmaster of her children. Mutti did love her children and keep her home decently and in order despite poverty, sorrow over her widowhood and the demise of German hopes on the battlefield. Ms. Hunt loved her mother and father despite their political blindness. Hunt is now an American citizen active in the environmental movement. She can boast of a B.A. from Columbia and a Master's Degree from Harvard. What makes this book worthy of your time and money are in my mind several factors:

1. The book is extremely well written and truthful. Hunt tells us how she felt about her nation with brutal honesty even though it does not always redound to her credit.
2. Hunt has the ability to paint memorable scenes in the reader's mind which are hard to forget. Such scenes as the day she sat on Hitler's lap as a child; the arrival of the Americans in her home and adolescent struggles with her strong-willed mother and authority figures in the harsh Nazi state.
3. Hunt is the first person narrator of her important memoir.
4. We learn through the pages of this fine book the ways in which different Germans reacted to the Nazi regime and sought ways to survive under jackbooted tyranny.
5. The book was scary when it taught the reader that no stray word or casual chat with friends was free of being reported to the authorities. Freedom of speech and religion were nil in Nazi Germany. To win the enmity of the authorities was dire. You could end up executed or in prison or a concentration camp. As a voracious reader who has studied Nazi Germany all of my life I would put this book near the top of the list of memoirs of the Nazi era. The book could be used in a high school or college course on World War II and Nazi Germany. Well recommended!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. an account of civilian life in Germany in a place which was not strategically important

By John

An interesting account of growing up in Berchtesgaden, at the foot of Hitler's Berghof. The Berghof was located in an area which was not strategically important and therefore Berchtesgaden was not a major target of air strikes during World War II. From accounts of the Irmgard's story, life seemed not to be terribly difficult as it was in other parts of Germany, e.g. Berlin and Hamburg. I got the impression that the family felt that the death of Irmgard's father, while in the line of duty, was a bitter blow to the family. Certainly Irmgard's grandfather was no Nazi sympathizer. In a sense it was refreshing to have recollection that everyone in Germany was not an obsessed admirer of the Fuhrer. I really enjoyed the book and assume it was an accurate account of civilian life in Germany during World War II.

Growing up in the beautiful mountains of Berchtesgaden -- just steps from Adolf Hitler's alpine retreat -- Irmgard Hunt had a seemingly happy, simple childhood. In her powerful, illuminating, and sometimes frightening memoir, Hunt

recounts a youth lived under an evil but persuasive leader. As she grew older, the harsh reality of war -- and a few brave adults who opposed the Nazi regime -- aroused in her skepticism of National Socialist ideology and the Nazi propaganda she was taught to believe in. In May 1945, an eleven-year-old Hunt watched American troops occupy Hitler's mountain retreat, signaling the end of the Nazi dictatorship and World War II. As the Nazi crimes began to be accounted for, many Germans tried to deny the truth of what had occurred; Hunt, in contrast, was determined to know and face the facts of her country's criminal past. *On Hitler's Mountain* is more than a memoir -- it is a portrait of a nation that lost its moral compass. It is a provocative story of a family and a community in a period and location in history that, though it is fast becoming remote to us, has important resonance for our own time.

From Publishers Weekly Hunt's moving, unsettling memoir is part of a literary and historical trend: examining the lives of ordinary Germans during WWII. She was born in 1934 in an intriguing locale Berchtesgaden in Bavaria, where Hitler set up his headquarters. In fact, in one of her most compelling stories, Hunt recalls sitting in Hitler's lap during a 1941 visit, "suspiciously studying his mustache, his slicked-back, oily hair... while at the same time acutely seeing the importance of the moment." In remarkable detail, she relates the normal parts of childhood (the birth of a sister, going to a new school) interspersed with the extraordinary events (e.g., Hunt's father was one of the first German soldiers killed during the war) of the time and place. The older members of her family and others in the village had vastly differing reactions to Hitler. The author (who now lives in Washington, D.C.) remembers how some teachers said, "Heil Hitler," while others preferred more traditional greetings. She also shows how Nazism pervaded day-to-day life. Although she portrays herself as uncomfortable with the regime, she pushed to join the Hitler Youth, only to leave it in the final months of the war. Those looking for an explanation of the Hitler phenomenon will be disappointed, but readers who want a richly textured memoir of a German girl during WWII will find it here. Bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Hunt, a former executive of various environmental organizations, currently resides in Washington, D.C. She was born and raised in Berchtesgaden, a Bavarian village at the foot of Hitler's mountain retreat, the Eagle's Nest. At the age of three, she was embraced by Hitler on one of his periodic forays into the village. Hunt was only 11 when the war ended, so the "eyewitness" account cannot provide much personal insight into life under the Nazis. However, this is primarily a family memoir in which Hunt, through the experiences of her parents and grandparents, tries to explain (but not justify) why "moral and honorable" Germans tolerated or even supported the Nazis. Her parents, traumatized by the rampant unemployment and hyperinflation of the interwar years, saw in Hitler a hope for stability and regeneration. Despite the protestations of her staunchly anti-Nazi grandfather, Hunt's parents closed their eyes to the deepening depravity. Hunt's later recollections of life under occupation and her personal struggles to cope with the legacy of her parents' generation make this a poignant, valuable account. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved This candid picture of how it felt [to grow up in Germany during the Hitler years] is an enlightening rarity. (Daily Mail (London)) A gripping and beautifully written memoir. (Washingtonian magazine, online edition) Compelling . . . A chilling insight into the heart of darkness. (Glasgow Herald) [A] very good memoir . . . [A] real, universal gain for understanding. (Daily Telegraph (London))