



The Racial State: Germany 1933-1945

By Michael Burleigh, Wolfgang Wippermann

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Between 1933 and 1945 the Nazi regime in Germany tried to restructure a "class" society along racial lines. This book deals with the ideas and institutions that underpinned this mission, and shows how Nazi policy affected various groups of people, both victims and beneficiaries. The book begins with a serious discussion of the origins of Nazi racial ideology, and then demonstrates the way in which this was translated into official policy. It deals with the systematic persecution not only of the Jews, but also with the fate of lesser-known groups such as Sinti and Roma, the mentally handicapped, the "asocial," and homosexuals.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In looking at the racial underpinnings of virtually every move made by the Nazi state, this book tries to refute the idea that the Third Reich represented just another form of national modernization. The authors contend that the abomination of Hitler and Nazism could not have happened to just any nation and, if it represented progress, it was a progress toward barbarism. They support their thesis by discussing the racist ideology of Nazism, de scribing the persecution of groups considered racially inferior, and looking at policies toward youth, women, and men. They argue convincingly that Nazism was on its way to creating a society demarcated by race, not economic class. Recommended for academic and large public libraries.

- *Pat Ensor, Indiana State Univ. Lib., Terre Haute*

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Review

"...this does sterling service as an undergraduate textbook (I speak from experience), raising a number of important issues for discussion." *German Studies Review*

"I greatly welcome the appearance of this book. Not only does it offer a valuable comprehensive survey of the many facets of Nazi race policy: its authors make an important contribution to central questions of interpretation--Nazism's uniqueness or comparability with other systems of rule, the reactionary or modern character of Hitler's regime, and the relationship of the killing of the Jews to the barbarous persecution of other racially-determined victims." *Ian Kershaw, University of Sheffield*

"Profusely illustrated, this first-rate study traces the development of German racial ideology from the theoreticians of the 18th century to the Nazis' attempted creation of an Aryan utopia. The power of the book derives from its scrupulous analysis of the Nazis' experiments with sterilization and euthanasia, the treatment of the mentally ill and the physically handicapped, the suppression of homosexuality, the reduction of women to 'reproduction machines' and the persecution of the Jews." *Publishers Weekly*

"In looking at the racial underpinnings of virtually every move made by the Nazi state, this book tries to refute the idea that the Third Reich represented just another form of national modernization....[The authors] argue convincingly that Nazism was on its way to creating a society demarcated by race, not economic class." *Library Journal*

"The evidence garnered from both the primary sources as well as the recent and standard secondary materials is staggering...the volume serves as a sobering reminder that overwhelming historical evidence is the best defense against recurring bouts of historical amnesia." *The Historian*

"Extensive footnoted references will delight those conducting in-depth research on the subject, while the review of German experience from 1933-1945 provides scholarly insights into the making, as well as the experience, of a racially segregated nation." *Bookwatch*

"...an excellent book for teachers...There are excellent chapters on the development of the racial ideology that pervaded the Third Reich, and on the destruction of the Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, asocial and handicapped." *Dimensions*

"...the strength of this work is its comprehensive treatment of the nexus between racial ideologies and the state apparatus under the auspices of Adolph Hitler. In addition to highlighting the peculiar human tragedy of Nazi Germany, Burleigh and Wipperman's study leaves enough room for comparative assessment, as well as for consideration of the recurring popularity of Fascism which plagues France, Italy, and recently unified Germany today." Social Science Quarterly

"No book does more to trace and explain the Nazi's ghastly attempts to construct a racial regime than Messrs. Burleigh and Wipperman's superb study." The Forward

"...a lucid, thoroughly-researched volume which plumbs the origins and practices of Nazism." The Canadian Jewish News

From the Back Cover

Between 1933 and 1945 the Nazi regime in Germany tried to restructure a 'class' society along racial lines. This book deals with the ideas and institutions which underpinned this mission, and shows how Nazi policy affected various groups of people, both victims and beneficiaries.

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