

Women in Nazi Germany

By Jill Stephenson

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From images of jubilant mothers offering the Nazi salute, to Eva Braun and Magda Goebbels, women in Hitler’s Germany and their role as supporters and guarantors of the Third Reich continue to exert a particular fascination. This account moves away from the stereotypes to provide a more complete picture of how they experienced Nazism in peacetime and at war. What was the status and role of women in pre-Nazi Germany and how did different groups of women respond to the Nazi project in practice? Jill Stephenson looks at the social, cultural and economic organisation of women’s lives under Nazism, and assesses opposing claims that German women were either victims or villains of National Socialism.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

This is a history of the experiences of diverse women in Nazi Germany in peacetime and during the Second World War, within the context of twentieth century European history.

Through a consideration of race, reproduction and sexuality, employment patterns and opportunities, education and socialization, and the wartime fate of both favoured 'Aryan' women and the Nazi regime's designated 'racial enemies' and its opponents, it challenges both myths which have persisted and theories which have recently dominated debate about this subject.

It argues that the Nazi regime's aim was to purge and then control the majority of 'Aryan' women, invading their privacy as well as both mobilizing them for the regime's projects and indoctrinating their children to a sense of service. 'Aryan' women's reward was to be enhanced national self-respect but individual self-denial, as material benefits were discouraged in the pursuit of economic self-sufficiency and a war economy.

At the same time, Jews, Roma and Sinti 'Gypsies' and Slavs from eastern Europe - forced labourers in wartime - were marginalized, dispossessed and abused. Many of them were forcibly sterilized, and many were ultimately incarcerated and murdered. In wartime, as Nazi policies of persecution reached their terrible conclusion, some 'Aryan' women colluded in atrocities while others were casualties of Hitler's fight to the finish.

The book concludes with a discussion of the 'perpetrators and victims' debate, the salience of 'class' in Nazi Germany and the extent to which Nazism provided new opportunities for women. The Documents Section presents many sources previously unpublished in English.

Jill Stephenson is Reader in History at the University of Edinburgh. Her many publications include `Women in Nazi Society¿ (1975) and `The Nazi Organization of Women¿ (1981).

About the Author

Jill Stephenson is Reader in History at the University of Edinburgh.

Users Review

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Thomas Murray:

This book untitled Women in Nazi Germany to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it by using online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this book from your list.

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