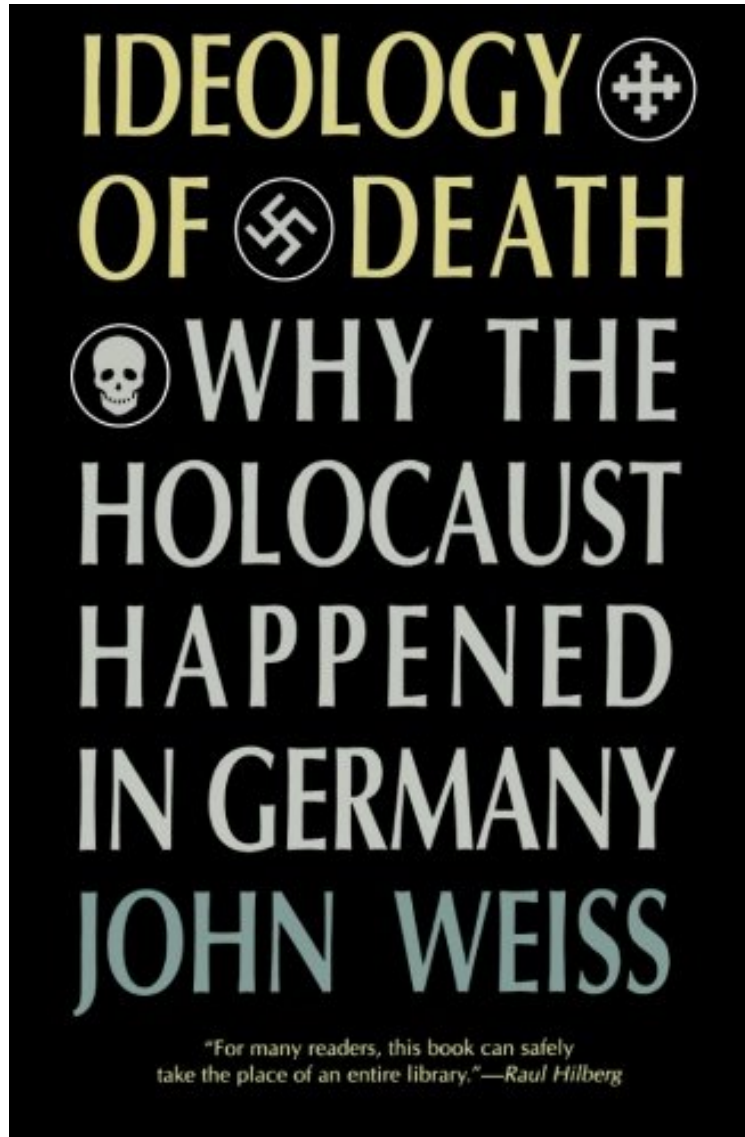


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Ideology of Death: Why the Holocaust Happened in Germany

John Weiss

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John Weiss : Ideology of Death: Why the Holocaust Happened in Germany before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ideology of Death: Why the Holocaust Happened in Germany:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The power of a movement to change a nation. By KarenKazoo
The Largest part of me is German Descent, so that is why I read the book. I wanted to see if the book matched with what I had been told in school and in my home. I am the third generation in America, but I was always so flabbergasted by

what one group of people could do to another even as a child; I never could quite grasp this train of thought. As a Christian I am also a part of the Kingdom God has promised to both Christian and Jews. The Jewish heritage is what the Torah and the Bible are all about. Without that heritage, Christ would never have been born. Hitler had a lot of fanatical people around him - all losers. They may have been rich or poor, but the doctrine of WWII was hate. How Hitler replaced the Jewish and Christian faiths with a pagan ideology then turned his hate into Anti-Semitism is still amazing to this day. This became the German mantra a type of insanity. It became a religion without God. The author showed that Anti-Semitism Germany in the times of the Reformation and the French Enlightenment period and how this fueled the Nazi movement. Hitler had disdain for the elites, the academics, and the intellectuals because he did not feel a part of it. You will come away with a rich knowledge, analytical logic, and understanding of how immense power can brain wash a whole nation.⁸ of 8 people found the following review helpful. **OUTSTANDING BOOK - A long history of European Anti-Semitism** By Dano Maxwell The book deals with every possible form of anti-Judaism from the early days of Christianity in Europe through to the Reformation, World War I and World War II. The amount of research that must have gone into creating this book boggles the mind. The author shows clearly why the Holocaust happened in Austria/Germany and not in France, Spain, Italy or Great Britain. Topics discussed are many and include Martin Luther, Racial Purity, Patriotism, Anti-Democracy, Anti-Semitism as embedded government policy, Eugenics.⁰ of 1 people found the following review helpful. A further work By cwk Interesting work on Germanic (German-Austrian) Christian origins of the Holocaust, somewhat diminished by polemicism and simplification.

Despite all the thousands of studies of the Holocaust and the rise of Nazi Germany, we still have no satisfactory explanation of why this tragedy occurred in one of the most "civilized" of Western nations. John Weiss's *Ideology of Death* is the first book to explore the unique nature of German history, showing how it rejected the liberal ideals of the Enlightenment, and to trace the culture of racism and anti-Semitism among powerful elites and ordinary Germans over a long period of German history. In a stunningly lucid narrative, Weiss describes exactly how and why Christian anti-Semitism, in its unique form among German Protestants and Austrian Catholics, reinforced modern secular racism to create an explosive mix. Using the latest research, he details how the Nazis, building on traditional German anti-Semitism, were able to adjust it so as to appeal to a wide variety of social groups crucial to their electoral success. And he explains the specific complicities of various German groups and institutions in the Holocaust, and why they voluntarily cooperated with the Nazis. In its clarity and compelling argument, *Ideology of Death* is certain to be one of the most important books for many years to come on the reasons behind the Holocaust.

From Publishers Weekly How could one of the most "civilized" of Western nations kill millions of innocent people? Weiss (*The Facist Tradition*, 1967) rejects the claim of "No Hitler, no Holocaust." Instead, he argues that anti-Semitism was a strong trait in every class in Germany; the anti-Semitism of "tens of thousands" of upper-class Germans was not "all that different from that of the Nazis themselves." Weiss traces anti-Semitism in western Europe and shows why it was so strong in Germany. He demolishes the old argument that most Germans knew nothing about the mass murders and were shocked when they learned the truth. He suggests that if the masses truly did not know and were as horrified as they claimed, "an outburst of patriotic indignation and revulsion and unstoppable desire to punish the guilty would have been inevitable. The opposite occurred." Weiss's clear and lucid style makes his book an excellent choice for classes or discussion groups on the Holocaust. This book should be in all academic and public libraries with strong Holocaust collections. ?Dennis L. Noble, Sequim, Wash. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The Holocaust happened in Germany, historian Weiss argues, because "the special nature of German and Austrian history" gave an utterly racist form of anti-Semitism "immense power." Weiss examines anti-Semitism's "Christian legacy" in Europe; the role of Martin Luther; the weakness of countervailing Enlightenment ideas in Germany and Austria-Hungary; and the central fact that, throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, "racism was increasingly used by upper-class reactionaries, middle-class nationalists, and lower-class populists as a weapon against the growing influence of democratic liberalism, economic modernization, and calls for social reform." Weiss reviews the rise of the Nazi movement and its fuhrer, Hitler's relationships with German elites, German (and Austrian) involvement with the death camps, and the postwar efforts of many German leaders (often with Allied support) to hide their prewar racial attitudes. An effective overview of an essential subject. Mary Carroll Effective. (Booklist) Illuminating...deserves a permanent place on bookshelves. (Publishers Weekly) An extremely stimulating and informative work...Weiss has produced a detailed, clearly written account. (Kirkus) For many readers this book can safely take the place of an entire history. (Raul Hilberg, author of *The Destruction of the European Jews*)