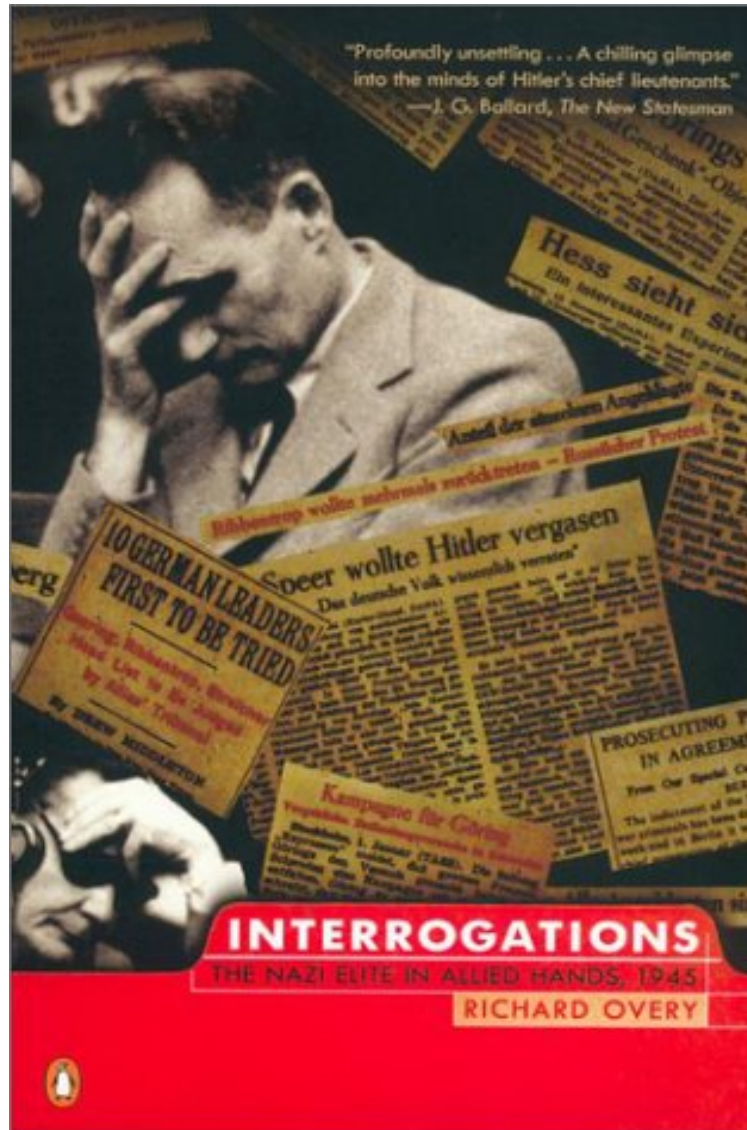


[Get free] Interrogations: The Nazi Elite in Allied Hands, 1945

## Interrogations: The Nazi Elite in Allied Hands, 1945

Richard Overy

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**Richard Overy : Interrogations: The Nazi Elite in Allied Hands, 1945** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Interrogations: The Nazi Elite in Allied Hands, 1945:

10 of 14 people found the following review helpful. "Banality of Evil" is not for Everyone By Dr. Victor S. Alpher This is clearly an essential book for anyone interested in the Third Reich, the Holocaust or Shoah. Simply put, in their own words, rationalizations, justifications, and mystifications of the "Elite" leaders of the Reich, on trial at Nuremberg. Apparently well-treated, some were seemingly quite frank about their coming under the Fhrer's hypnotic spell and seeming to lose their own will, few apologetic and even fewer aware of the need to explain to the next generation of

Germans what had transpired during the 13 year, not the 1,000 year, Reich. At least Dr. Goebbels, the master propagandist, had the foresight to spare his descendants the psychic pain and murdered his whole family before taking his own life. It is acknowledged that Hitler placed into prominent positions persons with little or no background or experience in their positions of authority or domains (Ribbentrop was a champagne dealer, Heydrich a disgraced WWI Naval officer who became head of the SS non-Reich territories and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, or Czechoslovakia), placing his utmost confidence in them. And how could they have been people with "experience" in his ultimate aims, the domination of Europe and extermination of European Jewry? He had many men scurrying to act as they knew what they were doing, learning on the job, so to speak, and that, if anything, rings clear. Do you, the reader, remember a first job where you feared it would be found out you were a pretender, a fraud, a newbie? Imagine being given an entry-level job in command of thousands of slave laborers, displaced persons to be worked to the last pfennig of their worth and then destroyed, fed only enough to eek out that last pfennig of work...on the gate of many of the concentration camps (Konzentrationslagern) one sees the inscription ARBEIT MACHT FREI. I have seen the gate at Sachsenhausen, just north of Berlin, and used by the Soviets and East Germans as a prison for many years after the war. Usually this is translated as "work will make you free." I have understood a different meaning, a distinctly Germanic one. Arbeit--Work; Macht--Power; Frei--Unconfined...from my 1939 German dictionary. For, as we know, freedom is an American concept. Those three words were, at best, double entendre or propaganda. As understood by Germans in the SS, a wholly different meaning was conveyed. In a country where the Abitur (high school diploma) was looked upon as we in America might look upon a Master's Degree today, men of only elementary education took up the leadership in many aspects of the classless German society which Hitler sought to create. Of course, few such men went through the indoctrination of the Labor Service, mandatory for all young men issued spades to drill with instead of guns, the Hitler youth, or the concept of the Lebensborn (children born out of wedlock for the Fhrer). All of these schemes, when shone under the light of day for the world to see, were doomed to failure. Yet the Elite seemed never to grasp this fact. They pursued their aims with whatever efficiency was possible, a German tradition. The trains ran in a timely manner nearly till the absolute end of the war, even after the massive bombings of major cities and bridges. Hugo Boss continued to design revisions in the war uniforms to account for shortages in quality material. This is an essential book for a library on the 20th Century--not a "read" but a true reference work. What Germany and the European Union aspire to, and will become, has passed through the mind of Adolph Hitler and his collaborators, into the minds of the descendants of the "Tter" und "Opfern" (German for the perpetrators and the victims--to which the Germans now include the victims of Allied strategic bombing of civilian population centers). As sure as the Persian Gulf Wars I and II were initiated in our national interest, understanding of the perpetrators of the various atrocities, and, as we know, in some cases exceptions, of the all-important period from the Treaty of Versailles to the end of hostilities in May, 1945 in Europe are part of the prologue to the 21st century. Some find history dull and heavy, but like the Law, history has a long grasp. Read this book. More than once! My highest recommendation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer Very good read, though I wish there was a summary at the end. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By David robbins Fascinating history. Never heard most of this at any time. Very worthwhile.

While the trial of Hitler's fallen elite at Nuremberg has been thoroughly documented, the interval between the Nazis' capture in May and June 1945 and the start of the actual trial in late November has until now remained shrouded in shadow. With *Interrogations*, acclaimed historian Richard Overy opens a new window into the Third Reich, providing an intimate glimpse of the savage dictatorship in its death throes. More than thirty transcripts of the interrogations are reproduced here for the first time, allowing us to hear the voices of the newly captured "Hitler gang"--including Gring, Speer, and Hess--as they squirmed under the Allies' glare. *Interrogations* is the stark and disturbing history of defeat; it lays bare as never before the human weaknesses that made the Third Reich possible.

From *Library Journal* Desperate rats will devour one another to survive. At the end of World War II, the members of the captured Nazi hierarchy were indeed desperate to survive. Craven and cringing, they dissembled with their captors, attempting to sacrifice one another to escape inescapable guilt. As historian Overy (*Russia's War*) points out, though there was never any doubt about the criminality of the Nazi regime, subjecting that regime to judicial process was very risky: if the case were not proven, the accused might actually go free. Overy presents excerpts of the pretrial interrogations that provided the Allies with much of the information they needed to convict those responsible for the war and its atrocities. Overy's descriptions of the interrogations and illuminating commentary reveal the leaders of the "master race" to be weak-willed cowards. It was typical for the primary defendants to deny responsibility for the barbarity that occurred right under their noses or to feign incredulity that such fantastic cruelty could even occur. Copiously annotated and supported by an extensive bibliography, *Interrogations* is highly recommended, especially for academic libraries with a strong emphasis on 20th-century or military history. Michael F. Russo, Louisiana State Univ. Libs., Baton Rouge Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* By June 1945, most of the top Nazi political and military officials were in Allied custody. However, the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal did not convene

until late November. During the interval, Goring, Speer, Hess, Jodl, Ley, and many of the lesser lights were interrogated as Allied legal authorities gathered evidence. Overy, professor of modern history at King's College, London, has assembled the transcripts of more than 30 of these interrogations. The results are stunning. Some of the transcripts are sickening, as when relatively minor officials describe with chilling blandness the process of selection for life or death at Auschwitz. Some have a surreal, almost comical, effect, as when Hess, apparently feigning amnesia, claims he does not know Goring, who is trying to engage him in conversation. Franz Von Papen, one of the non-Nazis who felt sensible conservatives could control Hitler, provides invaluable insight into their attitudes toward Hitler and the Nazi movement. This is a riveting but deeply disturbing book, which will make an essential contribution to our understanding of the Nazi era. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

"Profoundly unsettling....a chilling glimpse of Hitler's chief lieutenants." J. G. Ballard, in *The New Statesman*

"Gripping, horrifying, absorbing and dismaying by turns." Richard J. Evans, in *The Times Literary Supplement*

"Riveting...an essential contribution to our understanding of the Nazi Era." Booklist