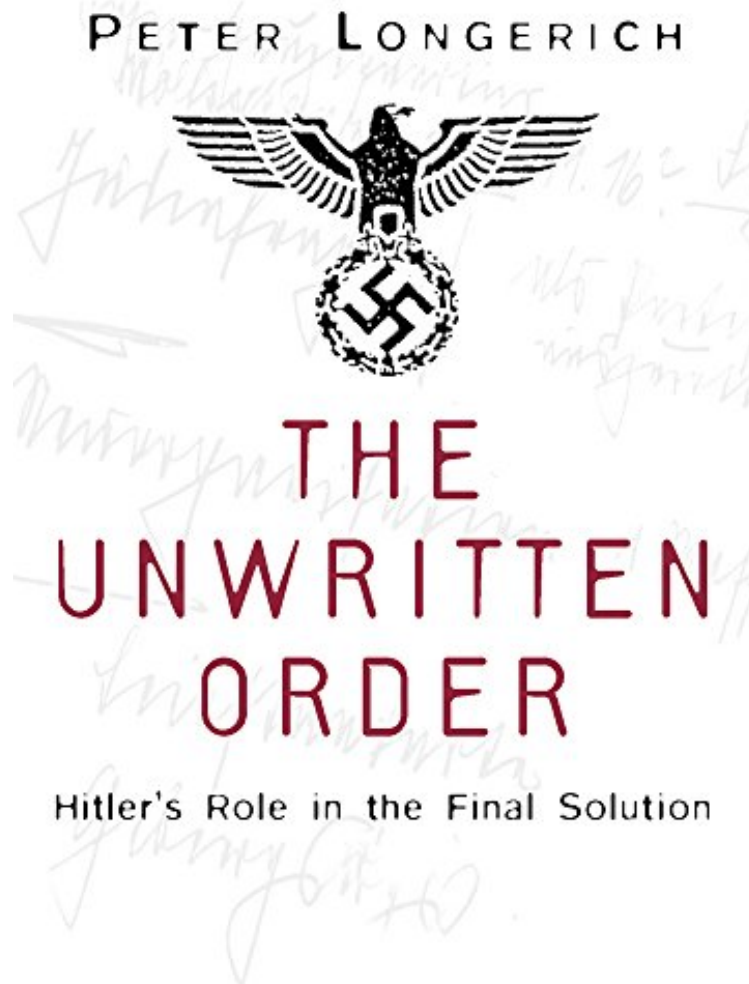


[FREE] The Unwritten Order: Hitler's Role in the Final Solution

The Unwritten Order: Hitler's Role in the Final Solution

Peter Longerich

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Peter Longerich : The Unwritten Order: Hitler's Role in the Final Solution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unwritten Order: Hitler's Role in the Final Solution:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. mportant piece of literature in understanding the history of the HolocaustBy BacchusAt just over 120 pages, The Unwritten Order is a short book but I must say that it was a bit of a slog to get through.Peter Longerich is a German historian based at Royal Holloway College (part of the University of London). He was one of the expert witnesses at the libel trial between David Irving and Deborah Lipstadt/Penguin Books over comments made about Irving in Lipstadt's book "Denying the Holocaust".There are three main sticking points for Holocaust deniers. The first is that gas chambers were never used to kill Jews in concentration camps; the second is that the numbers of dead (generally set at six million) is a hopeless overestimate by a factor of at least ten

and third, there was no specific order by Adolf Hitler authorising the killing of Jews. David Irving is known to be a great admirer of Hitler and for many years, his stance was that the killing of Jews was done without his knowledge and that he in fact did much to protect Jews. Longerich was called upon to deal with the issue of Hitler's involvement in the Holocaust. No specific order has ever been found in which Hitler explicitly orders mass killing of Jews. In preparing for the case, Longerich found that no-one had ever tried to check this out and put those findings together in one book. This book is the result of Longerich's researches into this topic. In a series of short chapters, Longerich traces the writings of Hitler, his speeches, the notes of various functionaries and the personal diaries of people like Goebbels and the speeches and letters of people like Himmler and Heydrich as well as many others. The key thing that emerges is that Hitler, as an absolute dictator, had complete control over the anti-Semitic policies of the Third Reich and it is clear that main orders were given only after consultation with Hitler. Document after document is shown to state, "the Fuhrer thinks this" or "the Fuhrer says that." The other thing to realise is that the Holocaust was not a single event but a developing process. The experience of reading and interpreting a vast range of documents is quite a mental slog and I did sometimes find it hard to follow. This is a book describing administrative procedures rather than execution methods and in many ways was very turgid. The only thing that did give me pause was the sheer numbers involved. It is quite shocking when looked on the micro level when you learn on a single day, over a thousand people getting shot. I think this is the kind of book you should read if you are already familiar with the history of the Holocaust; it is of quite a specialist nature. However, I think it very rewarding.

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Ramiro Collazo
By Ramiro C. Wonderful History reference ...
5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Supports Hitler's Final Solution
By R PRIUS
Despite the fact that Hitler, as head of state, craftily left no paper trail connecting himself to the systematic annihilation of 6 million people, this book manages to support the concept that it was Hitler who masterminded the holocaust. Much like a puppet master, Hitler orchestrated mass extermination under the auspices of the Third Reich via his henchman Heinrich Himmler and somewhat covertly managed to, at least publicly, absolve himself of direct participation in the final solution. The author does a good job of linking Hitler to the holocaust by uncovering documentation via testimony and documentation to one of the most shocking as well as enduring legacies of WWI. While this book may seem somewhat dry at times, I found it interesting and pertinent to other books relating to the topic as a whole. This is definitely a book for anyone interested in WWII as well as the Holocaust. It illuminates a subject often discussed and investigated and provides solid documentation regarding the subject.

The fact that the Holocaust was the result of conscious decisions made by the highest levels of the Third Reich has been under-emphasized. Although it would be a mistake to put the murder of the Jews down to Hitler's will alone, it is time to make clear that Hitler was the driving force behind radicalization of the National Socialist policy of extermination. Without Hitler there would be no Holocaust. This book offers documentary proof of Hitler's central role in the murder of European Jews. Various documents and fragments of documents have been pieced together and the codified language of the dictator has been deciphered.

"Peter Longerich is one of the leading German authorities on the Holocaust." Ian Kershaw