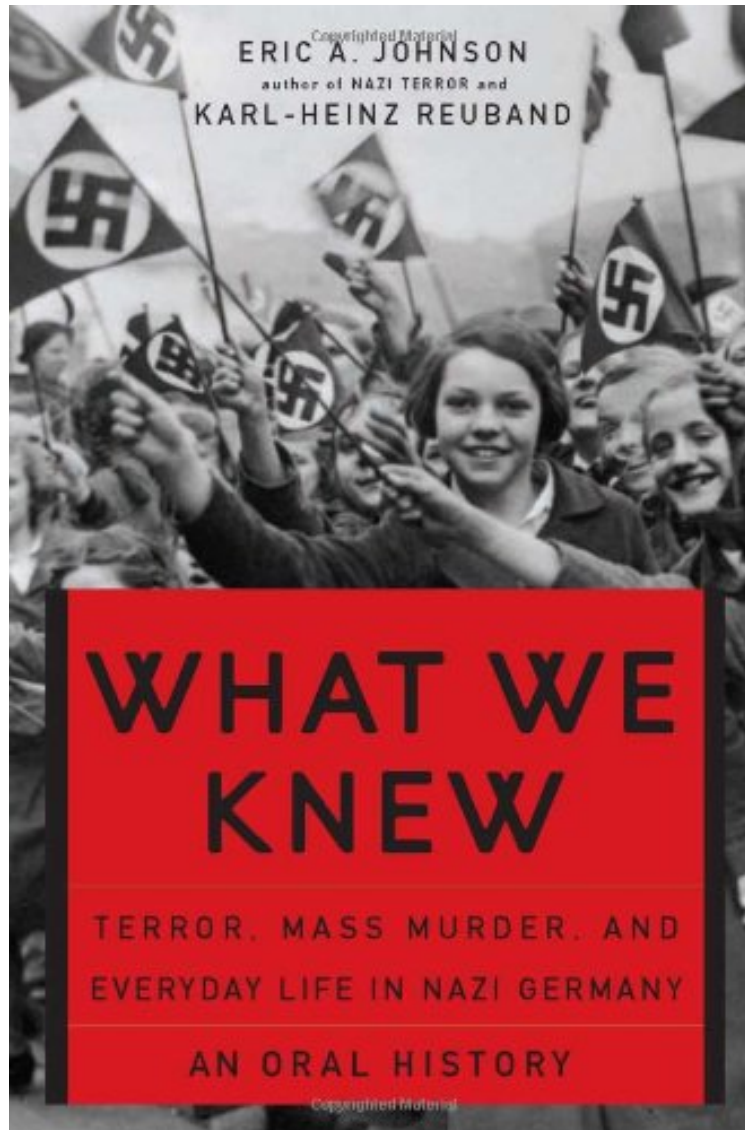


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What We Knew: Terror, Mass Murder, and Everyday Life in Nazi Germany

Eric A. Johnson, Karl-Heinz Reuband
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#499275 in Books Karl Heinz Reuband Eric A Johnson 2006-02-28 2006-02-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .84 x 5.40l, .85 #File Name: 0465085725464 pagesWhat We Knew Terror Mass Murder and Everyday Life in Nazi Germany an Oral History | File size: 29.Mb

Eric A. Johnson, Karl-Heinz Reuband : What We Knew: Terror, Mass Murder, and Everyday Life in Nazi Germany before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What We Knew: Terror, Mass Murder, and Everyday Life in Nazi Germany:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. They knew!By Ruben M. Garciareading this makes it clear that

many more of the German population knew about the Nazis "Final Solution" and what went on in the Concentration Camps than has been admitted. 28 of 28 people found the following review helpful. A book for the academic. By Tim Johnson I just finished this book after some weeks of reading and putting it down then reading again, etc. In short, it was a difficult read but having made that qualifier, it was also positive and surprisingly interesting and valuable. For any person, primarily students, who are researching with an intention of writing a paper about Nazi Germany and any subtopics therein, this is a must-read book. The first two thirds of the book are fascinating primary sources--interviews with people who experienced various aspects of being caught up in this horrendous machine that was Nazi state power. The conclusion makes the premise that virtually everybody at the time knew what the Nazi state was working to accomplish. The authors lay waste to the old claim that "we didn't know". Almost every person knew of the collections and the deportation because it happened in daylight and no attempt was made to hide the event. The "network information" that came from stories told by soldiers on leave and by undercover BBC broadcasts contributed to this general knowledge. The plethora of work camps in Germany itself provided evidence of major wrong-doing. The size of the operations and the number of people involved preclude any reasonable denial that major parts of the Nazi Party's Manifesto was being acted upon. The general reader and I certainly include myself among this group, will particularly get bogged down in the last section. The authors take their data and display it in numerous charts and conduct a precise analysis of this raw information. It is all terribly useful if you are footnoting a research paper but considerably less so if you are trying to have a quiet read. Therefore, be warned. This is a book containing many pearls of information but the water where they are located is deep and sometimes murky. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is always best to hear how things really were in the statements ... By abc It is always best to hear how things really were in the statements of those who were there. I hate the part of humanity that allows us to do what happened in the era of the Nazi party. I pray that humanity never reaches into the deep dark parts of the German people in WW2. But alas we always repeat history. The book itself was well presented and I saw no attempts to hide the truth. After all we have seen isn't the truth the most important thing when looking at history ?.

The horrors of the Nazi regime and the Holocaust still present some of the most disturbing questions in modern history: Why did Hitler's party appeal to millions of Germans, and how entrenched was anti-Semitism among the population? How could anyone claim, after the war, that the genocide of Europe's Jews was a secret? Did ordinary non-Jewish Germans live in fear of the Nazi state? In this unprecedented firsthand analysis of daily life as experienced in the Third Reich, *What We Knew* offers answers to these most important questions. Combining the expertise of Eric A. Johnson, an American historian, and Karl-Heinz Reuband, a German sociologist, *What We Knew* is the most startling oral history yet of everyday life in the Third Reich.

From Publishers Weekly The refrains in Germany for many years after WWII were "we didn't know" about the Holocaust, and "if we had known and had tried to do something, we too would have been killed by the Nazis." These claims have not stood up to historical scrutiny. Large numbers of ordinary Germans were involved in carrying out the mass murder of Jews, and knowledge of it was widespread among the population at home in Germany. Moreover, the Nazi elite ruled primarily by consensus, not terror; it was a popular dictatorship. Central Michigan University historian Johnson and German sociologist Reuband confirm these interpretations in their wide-ranging study based on hundreds of interviews and surveys they conducted with both Jewish and Christian Germans. Johnson (*Nazi Terror*) and Reuband don't add much that is new to what we know about the Nazi dictatorship and the Holocaust, but the materials they have gathered are interesting. Roughly two-thirds of the book consists of transcripts of interviews with Jews who had a range of experiences (going into hiding, leaving Germany before Kristallnacht, suffering in the camps) and Germans (those who heard about the murder of Jews, those who didn't, those who participated). The analysis in the book's final third is sober and sobering. But it's the gripping immediacy of the interviews, laced as they are with anger, guilt, sadness and, still among some Christian Germans, pride, that carries the book. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred* The authors interviewed nearly 200 people--Holocaust survivors and perpetrators--in researching the book, and more than 3,000 people--Jews and non-Jews--were surveyed in writing about their experiences during the Hitler years. Johnson and Reuband began their research in 1993; 40 interviews were selected for this book (20 were Jews and 20 were non-Jews). The authors posit that "far from living in a state of constant fear and discontent, most Germans led happy and even normal lives in Nazi Germany." They believe that the Holocaust could not have been possible without the complicity of the majority of the German population. Johnson and Reuband conclude that many Germans were quick to concern themselves only with their private lives and tended not to think about what was happening to the Jews. Despite the regime's efforts to keep the mass murder of Jews a secret, news of the atrocities reached a large portion of the German public by the end of the war. The authors insist that about one-third of the population became aware of the murder of Jews while it was taking place, and it is evident that many Germans did not want to know about what was being done. This scholarly work is a major contribution to the understanding of life in Nazi Germany and a compelling narrative that is certain to be the standard work on the subject. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

'Hypnotic oral history ... This is not an enjoyable story but one that should be told'. -- Western Daily Press 20050219 'A necessary, careful and highly systematic addition to the Holocaust history, compiled by experts' -- Good Book Guide 20050301 'Johnson and Reuband present an unique and important work of oral history' -- Publishing News 20050520 'This is a splendid contribution to many of the questions asked by historians of the 21st century about daily life, complicity, and dissent in Germany between 1933 and 1945.' -- History Today 20050501 'Fascinating ... The strength of What We Knew is its diversity, its vivid detail and extraordinary memories' -- Independent 'The gripping immediacy of the interviews, laced as they are with anger, guilt, sadness and, still among some Christian Germans, pride, carry the book' -- Publishers Weekly 'Vast, truthful, compassionate and illuminating, the most comprehensive study of this kind ... a thorough and worthwhile investigation, substantially gleaned from the words of those who were the participants, observers, and survivors' -- Jewish Telegraph 'Joltingly vivid testimonies open a shocking window on the mentality of the time' -- Scotsman 'Makes hypnotic and uncomfortable reading' -- Western Daily Press 'A very important book' -- Max Arthur 'Horrorifying and moving ... a major oral history of the Third Reich' -- Publishing News 'What We Knew' seeks to address outstanding questions ... The results are fascinating' -- BBC History