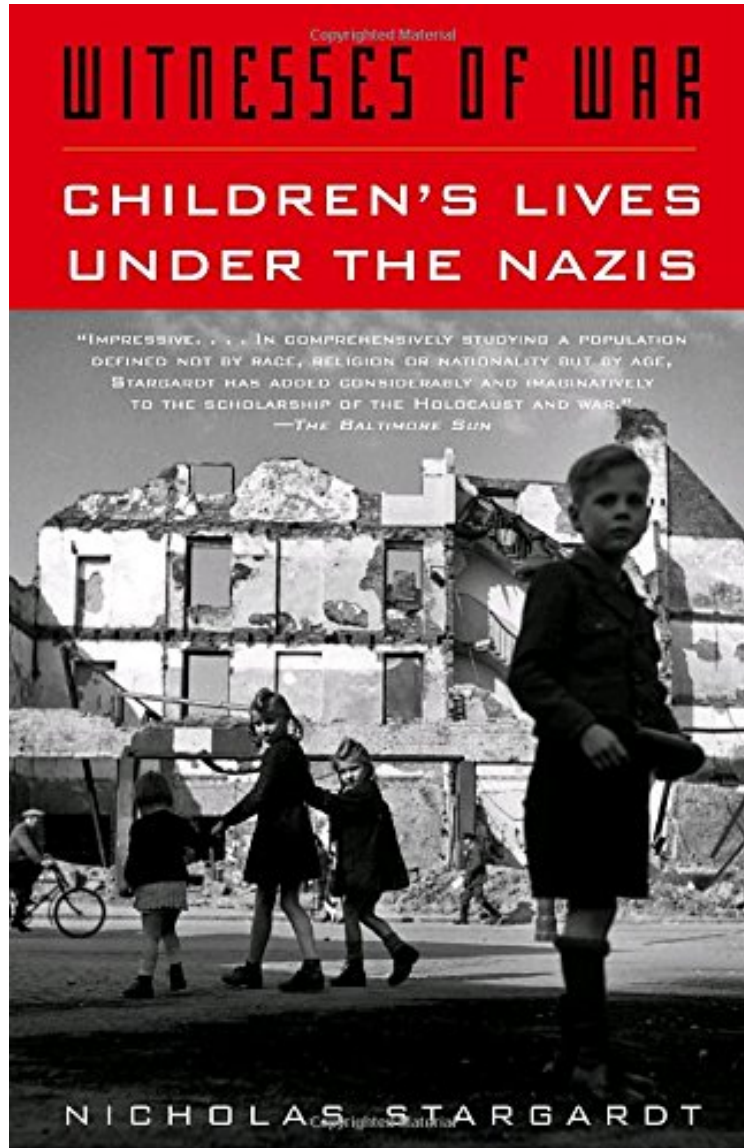


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## Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis

*Nicholas Stargardt*

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#1139048 in Books Vintage 2007-01-09 2007-01-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.98 x 1.09 x 5.191, 1.04 #File Name: 1400033799528 pages | File size: 46.Mb

**Nicholas Stargardt : Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Understanding the German mindset  
By Jack  
When I first tackled this book I was at first disappointed in the deep depth of the detail given by the author. It seemed like more detail than was needed. I was determined to push through the details. It paid off for me when I reached the chapters that covered the period after the defeat of the Nazis. The detail gave me the understanding of how the German people suddenly flip-

flopped and then blamed the Nazis for their problems without much self examination of the individuals own role in the unbridled support they gave to the Nazis. This insight was very real for me because the book contains quotes from journals, diary notes, letters, and personal reports of the people who were diehard supporters of the Nazis. The author has demonstrated the tenacious perseverance to get to the feelings and thoughts of the people that supported the Nazis. It is very insightful to realize how brainwashed the Germans had become. The idea of blaming the bombing of their cities on the Americans who were tools of the Jews because the Germans had not bombed any cities in the USA. It only leads to the conclusion that the Germans did not think for themselves but were sponges to absorb the propaganda of their regime. Wow!!! How could such smart people be so stupid??0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A moving book that will, definitely, make you ...By Susannah L. SulzmanA moving book that will, definitely, make you cry, make you think, and tune you in to the suffering of the people considered "collateral damage" in any war effort. This one is heartbreaking and well worth reading.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Experiences of the Germans and All Their VictimsBy VanThe book focuses on the experience of children (weighted towards teenagers) during the war. For most readers there is probably not a whole lot that's new here, but it's a good overview.

A groundbreaking study of what happened to children of all nationalities and religions living under the Nazi regime. Drawing on a wide range of new sources, *Witnesses of War* reveals the stories of life under the Third Reich as never before. As the Nazis overran Europe, children were saved or damned according to their race. Turning to an untouched wealth of original materials school assignments; juvenile diaries; letters; and even accounts of children's games Nicholas Stargardt breaks stereotypes of victimhood and trauma to give us the gripping individual stories of the generation Hitler made.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Handicapped German children taken from their families before WWII, girls of all nations raped by marauding soldiers, Jewish children shoved into ghettos: as Stargardt shows in this well-researched and horrific history, the lives of children were ravaged by Hitler's goals and the war he produced. Like Lynn Nicholas in her recent and also excellent *Cruel World: The Children of Europe in the Nazi Web*, Stargardt, a historian at Oxford, tells his story through the children's eyes using diaries and oral histories as well as other documentary sources. To be a child during the war, he notes, could be both easier and harder than it was to be an adult. Children often proved more resilient in overcoming physical and mental injuries. At the same time, they lacked the ability to directly express the pain that was haunting their dreams. Perhaps most unusual is Stargardt's illumination of how the Nazi regime affected German children, from those (who today would be called at-risk children) sent away to be "re-educated" to the idealized Hitler Youth sent to die in battle; it's a sharp and taut account of misery. 16 pages of bw photos, 6 maps. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist \* Starred \* First published in Great Britain in 2005, Stargardt's riveting account draws on original material from children's schoolwork, juvenile diaries, letters from evacuation camps, letters to fathers at the front, letters from reformatories and psychiatric asylums, children's artwork in the Jewish ghetto of Theresienstadt and German villages in the Black Forest, as well as adult accounts of children's games. The children include a Czech-Jewish boy in Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, a German teenager from East Prussia, two Jewish girls in the Warsaw ghetto, a German schoolgirl from a socialist family in Berlin, two teenage members of the Hitler Youth, and a Jewish boy in Lodz. Stargardt posits that as children's memories of Nazi Germany divided between those who remembered it as a time of normality and those who recalled it with fear and horror, the exact events they recollected mattered. He shows that at some point--as their parents broke down in the starving Jewish ghettos, or as they fled before the Red Army in the snows of 1945, or hid in cellars during bombing raids--many children shouldered premature responsibilities. Such dutifulness, Stargardt believes, tied them to their families, especially their mothers, long after they would normally have gone their own way. These touching stories provide a unique and important view of the Holocaust. With 16 pages of photographs and 60 pages of notes, a meticulously documented study. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Impressive. . . . In comprehensively studying a population defined not by race, religion or nationality but by age, Stargardt has added considerably and imaginatively to the scholarship of the Holocaust and war."The Baltimore Sun Magnificent. . . . Stargardt is brilliant. . . . His great achievement is to touch us with the experiences of all these children."The Guardian (London) Stargardt tells this uncomfortable tale at its bitterest moment, from the point of view of the children who perished under Nazism or lived through it."The Washington Post Book World Illuminating. . . . *Witnesses of War* belongs on the bookshelf on anyone who purports to know the history of the 20th century. . . . An important contribution to the study of the wars psychological impact on children."Houston Chronicle