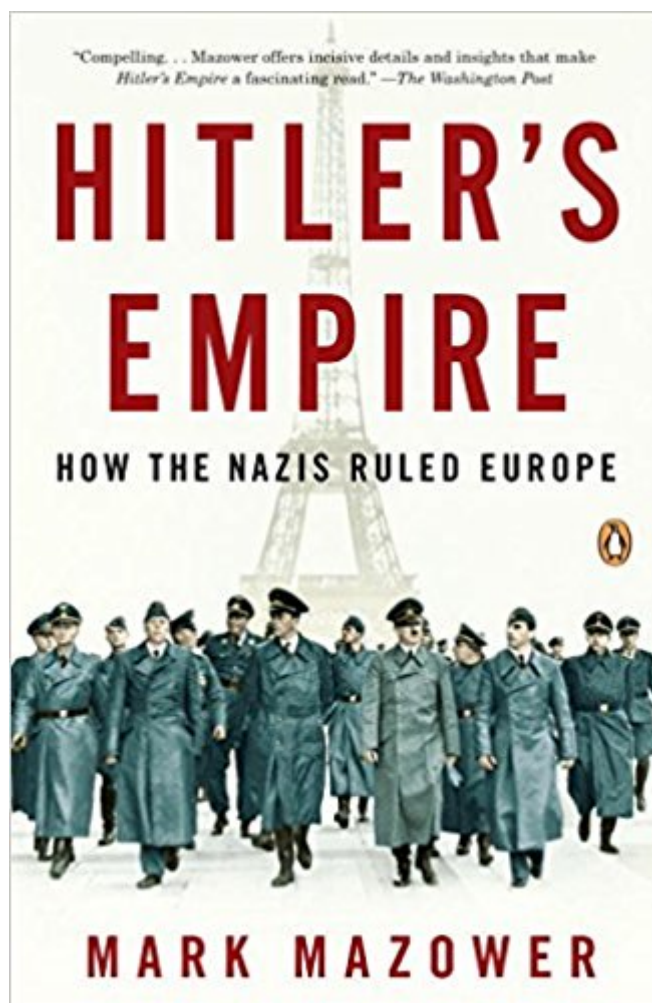


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# Hitler's Empire: How The Nazis Ruled Europe



## Synopsis

Drawing on an unprecedented range and variety of original research, Hitler's Empire sheds new light on how the Nazis designed, maintained, and lost their European dominion—and offers a chilling vision of what the world would have become had they won the war. Mark Mazower forces us to set aside timeworn opinions of the Third Reich, and instead shows how the party drew inspiration for its imperial expansion from America and Great Britain. Yet the Nazis' lack of political sophistication left them unequal to the task of ruling what their armies had conquered, despite a shocking level of cooperation from the overwhelmed countries. A work as authoritative as it is unique, Hitler's Empire is a surprising—and controversial—new appraisal of the Third Reich's rise and ultimate fall.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Columbia University historian Mazower (*Inside Hitler's Greece*) is a knowledgeable guide to the dynamics of Nazi domination of Europe. His focus is on the ambitions and foibles of the Nazi leaders, who believed that all of Europe could be made to serve German interests. As Mazower shows so well, almost nothing about the occupation had been planned beforehand. The Nazis improvised as their armies raced through Poland, the Soviet Union and the Low Countries, and Nazi generals and old-line bureaucrats fought among themselves for power and spoils. Mazower's most interesting commentary comes at the beginning, when he compares the Nazi imperium to other European empires, and at the end, when he demonstrates its long-lasting consequences. The breadth of Mazower's study is remarkable, but while not diminishing the toll of the Nazi

anti-Semitism, he claims, contrary to many scholars, that core of the Nazi worldview was not anti-Semitism, but rather the quest to unify Germans within a single German state. Pulitzer Prize winner Saul Friedländer's coinage of redemptive anti-Semitism is far more effective at evoking the realities of Nazi rule than any of Mazower's formulations. Maps. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Starred Review. To the 5000-plus titles in English that examine Hitler and the Nazi era must be added yet another tome, and one that is good. Mazower (program director, Ctr. for International History, Columbia Univ.) has produced an exceptional study of the Nazis and their quest for the control of Europe and its surrounding territory. Expanding on his *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*, Mazower masterfully surveys how the Nazis successfully applied current military technology to accomplish the age-old Prussian goal of dominating the other European nations. The Nazis were effective at conquering (at least at the beginning) but were awful at managing their new subjects: despite their initial spate of victories in 1939-40, the Germans were ruthless masters and quickly lost any support their newly conquered peoples may have felt for them as rulers. Mazower sets his narrative within the context of how European thinkers envisioned empire building in the new 20th century, which puts a slightly different spin on the Nazis and World War II. An essential work; recommended for all collections. —Ed Goedeken, Iowa State Univ. Lib., Ames Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This book is simply outstanding. Mazower covers the economic, political, and cultural goals of the occupation and explains how they were often in conflict with one another. Also covered are the governments and policies in the Axis satellite states and those conquered states where the occupation left some degree of self-government intact. It's a complex topic and a long book that will give you much to think about. Read it.

Mazower's book is a fantastic book on how the Nazis ruled Europe. This was recommended to me by my 4th year history professor. There is no doubt why that is. Mazower is able to show just what the Nazis were like when they took control of other nations. Differing between West and East in the Nazis treatment of the peoples, the book is eye opening in both the showing of the Nazis ruthless pursuit of becoming the undeniable power in Europe and the brutal actions they did in order to achieve that goal. There is so much I wish to say on how great this book is in so

many ways. Just get the book! Mazower in this book shows the real history of the Nazis and not what we hear on TV.

Book arrived brand-new...I don't believe it had ever been opened. A great deal for the price!

Readable and reliable information ..even included material on culture. Germany's quest to Germanize and take over the world by getting rid of anyone not of German extraction was far more extensive than anyone realizes....It was far more extensive than just the Jews..It was very disconcerting ..Anyone who is a student of European history should read this..

Hitler's Empire is a new book on the old subject of Hitler's Nazi rule. However, Mark Mazower has done a brilliant job looking at how the Nazis actually governed the territories and captive lands they seized during World War II. Mazower's book is long, difficult reading and is written in a scholarly style. It is largely devoid of anecdotal material on Hitler and his evil lieutenants. Nevertheless, a long dossier on such horrible men as Himmler, Goebbels, Goering and Hans Frank is viewed through their actions in governing a conquered continent. The book is a compendium of horrors from the Einsatzgruppen murder squads to the concentration camps and the murder of over six million Jews and others in the extermination policy of Hitler and his minions. We see how men like Fritz Sauckel and Albert Speer recruited and worked to death prisoners of war; how over 3 million Soviet POW's were starved, murdered and brutalized all in the name of German ascendancy and steel control over the European landmass. Mazower leaves no stone unturned in his survey of each country ruled by the Nazis. Some lands such as Denmark got off fairly easily while the lands of Central Europe and the Balkans such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Greece suffered martyrdom. France was ruled by a collaborationist government headed by Petain and Laval; while Italy under Mussolini was a junior partner in the Axis power grid. Some nations such as Spain and Switzerland were able to remain neutral. Mazower views Hitler and the Nazis as German nationalists who hated communism, democracy and anyone who stood in the way of German hegemony. With Nazi defeat the old empires of Britain and Germany fell to the rising might of new international superpowers the United States and Soviet Union. A Nazi victory would have meant untold suffering for Europeans and those who were threatened by Nazi supremacy in the world. As one who has read countless histories of the Nazi era I can recommend this book as one of the best. The reason is that it takes us on a grand tour of what happened in the nations seized by Germany during the time of occupation. Their administration of the territory conquered was based on terror, greed and racist persecution. They

were lousy at running an empire. This dark night of the European soul came with Allied victory in 1945. One hopes that such a terrorist and criminal regime as the Nazis will never rise again Kudos to Mazower on a significant contribution to the World War II literature.

"Hitler's Empire: How the Nazis Rule Europe" by Mark Mazower is quite an achievement. The archival research that underlies the book is phenomenal and makes the author's arguments and conclusions as persuasive as they are sometimes surprising. As a non-academic, with just a passing interest in the history of early 20th Century Europe, the book's chapters that I find most telling are those that document the fanatical preoccupation by the political leadership of the Third Reich with the Nazi theories of race that led to the unspeakable and irrational war against European Jews and the wholesale persecution of nationalities and social minorities that were deemed inferior to the Germanic/Teutonic ideal. It is incredible that such crackpot ideas would lead any modern country into mass murder and continent-wide alienation that ran totally against its economic and political objectives and interests. Also of some surprise to this reader was the extent of political turf battles that plagued the Germans from the beginning of their military adventures and continued to intensify as WWII dragged on. This book has been well reviewed, so I would just offer the final observation that there are lessons in Mazower's work that we could well learn from at this time. Certainly when a state or government interacts with another state without acknowledging and taking into account the latter's predictable nationalism and cultural habits, failure and conflict are somewhere close on the horizon.

Detailed account of the Nazi Germany government inner workings. How they attempted to control every aspect of life in occupied Europe. Brings to light many of the poor decisions that were made and the people that made them.

A great book, the second time I've read it, too bad it's not on Kindle. Mark Mazower never fails to impress with an incredible grasp of the subject.

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