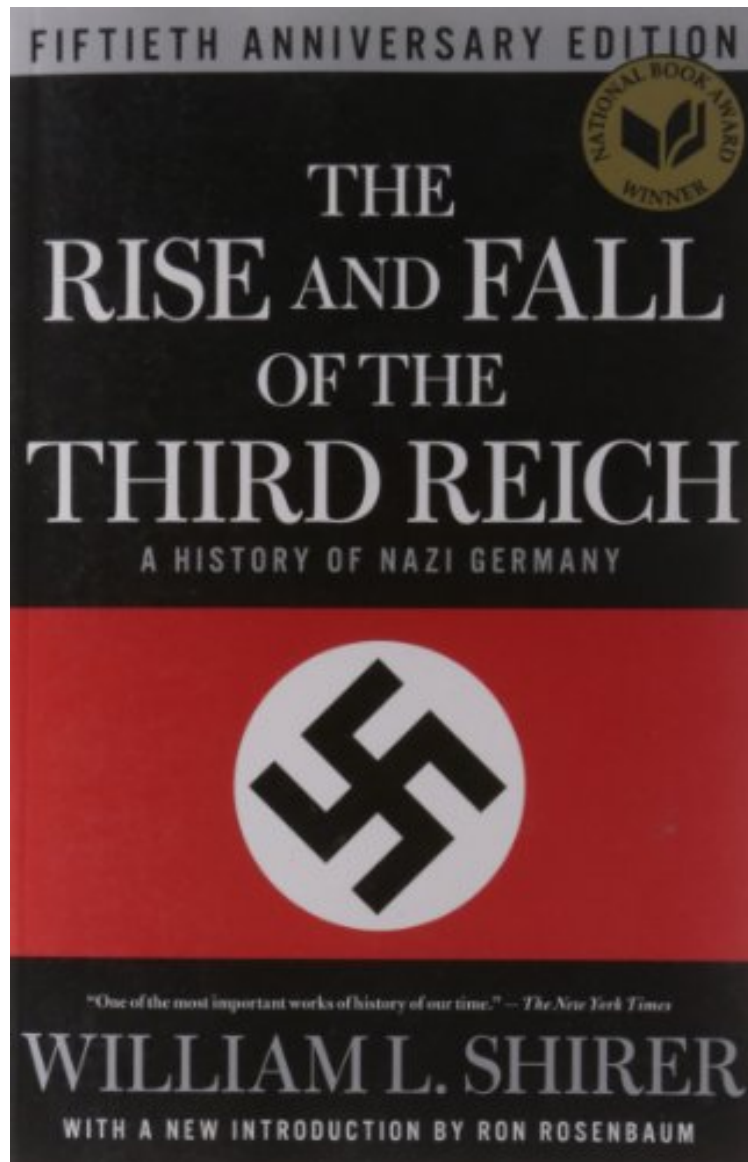


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The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany

William L. Shirer

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William L. Shirer : The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany:

73 of 74 people found the following review helpful. A classic book for students of World War II in Europe By J. Chambers I first read The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich in high school about 3-4 years after it was published. My best friend had read it, and he pushed his copy on me, urging me to read it too, which I did. My second reading was

recently. With more than fifty years between readings, the book came across very differently this time. Since the book was published in 1960, there have been hundreds of documentary and docudrama films made about the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party, the war in Europe, and the downfall of Germany. There have also been hundreds of books on the subject, many of which I've read. So on my second reading, there wasn't much of the material that I wasn't already fairly familiar with. But in 1960 when the book was published, there wasn't a lot of in-depth material on Germany and the Third Reich. Shirer did a bang-up job of documenting the rise of Hitler and the Nazis from his firsthand view, the road to war, early victories, and the eventual downfall due to the Soviets turning the tide of war in the east, and American and British troops closing the noose from the west. The book was an instant bestseller in 1960, and now, 56 years later, it's still a big seller. Don't be put off by the book's length, it's well worth reading. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. THE definitive account of Nazi Germany By Matthew Faulkerson William Shirer wrote the most detailed book on the Third Reich using the documents from said reich. It contains the early beginnings of Hitler's life all the way up to his suicide in the bunker and the aftermath of the final destruction of Germany. Shirer also mentions his personal experiences of viewing Hitler (he was a correspondent) in public and the context of the situations quite well. There is even a small section dedicated to the Holocaust Revisionism aspect which started as soon as the Third Reich's crimes were revealed. Much in the same way that the JFK and 911 conspiracy theories started right after the events occurred. Guaranteed to be a great read for anyone interested in WW2 history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For people who want to know how, why and who By Ifleazar I had heard of Mr. Shirer's book for many years, but had blanched at the length. I got intrigued again when I learned he had been one of "Edward R. Murrow's boys" and had actually been in Europe as an American correspondent during this entire period - from the 20s through the war and aftermath. He points out when he was actually in attendance for certain events, and has done extensive research into the actual documents - telegraph messages, diaries, notes from meetings, news stories, etc. It is an interesting ride. I did get a bit overwhelmed with all the names of the leaders, both in and out of Germany (including the revolving door of Nazi generals), but if you can fight through that, or have a better grasp of the participants than I did, it is a most informative and interesting book. I sure know more now than I did before I read it.

Hailed as "one of the most important works of history of our time" (The New York Times), this definitive chronicle of Hitler's rise to power is back in hardcover with a new introductory essay by Ron Rosenbaum (Explaining Hitler and How the End Begins) commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of its National Book Award win. The fiftieth anniversary edition of the National Book Award-winning bestseller that is the definitive study of Adolf Hitler, the rise of Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, and World War II. This special edition now features a new introduction by Ron Rosenbaum, author of Explaining Hitler and How the End Begins.

Orville Prescott "The New York Times" One of the most important works of history of our time. Theodore H. White A monumental work, a grisly and thrilling story. John Gunther One of the most spectacular stories ever told. Hugh Trevor-Roper "The New York Times Book " A splendid work of scholarship, objective in method, sound in judgment, inescapable in its conclusions. "One of the most important works of history of our time." -Orville Prescott "The New York Times" "A monumental work, a grisly and thrilling story." --Theodore H. White "The New York Times Book " A splendid work of scholarship, objective in method, sound in judgment, inescapable in its conclusions." --Hugh Trevor-Roper "One of the most spectacular stories ever told." -John Gunther From the Publisher William L. Shirer's THE RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH is a monumental study of the 20th Century's most frightening moments. Now, 53 years after the end of World War II, it may seem incredible that our most valued institutions, and way of life, were threatened by the menace that Hitler and the Third Reich represented. Shirer's description of events and the cast of characters who played such pivotal roles in defining the course Europe was to take is unforgettable. Benefiting from his many years as a reporter, and thus a personal observer of the rise of Nazi Germany, and availing himself of some of the 485 tons of documents from the German Foreign Office, captured by the First Army, as well as countless other diaries, phone transcriptions, and other written records, meticulously kept at every level by the Germans, Shirer has put together a brutally objective account of how Hitler wrested political control of Germany, and planned and executed his 6 year quest to dominate the world, only at the end, to see Germany go down in flames. The combination of personal recollection and amassing of historical evidence distinguishes this book as one of the great historical works of any time. For instance, he recounts that, from his apartment in Plosslgasse, in Vienna, he personally witnessed how perhaps half of Vienna's 180,000 Jews bargained their way to freedom in 1938. Shirer explains that Hitler believed that France and England were too weak to pose much of a threat to his ambitions to subjugate Czechoslovakia, and later Poland. The momentary relief of Russia as a threat to his domination of Europe as a result of the flurry of diplomatic activity that preceded his invasion of Poland is fascinating. There is no relief, throughout his narrative, of the brutality of Hitler and such a large contingent of Germans who populate this narrative. Although 1600 pages long, this is such a richly rewarding experience for anyone who wants to come to grips with the mysterious question as to how this menace to civilization ever came into being, much less was sustained for

as long as it was. The answer, unfortunately, is that most of Germany, for a whole host of reasons, embraced Nazism and the fanaticism that Hitler engendered. For another book that deals with this problem, why so much of Germany lent its support to Hitler, I heartily recommend *HITLER'S WILLING EXECUTIONERS*, by Daniel Goldhagen, published by Vintage Books. Although filled with perhaps more statistical details than the non-professional historian would need, this book helps to adumbrate the themes in Shirer's great book. George Davidson, Director of Production, The Ballantine Publishing Group

About the Author Ron Rosenbaum is the bestselling author of *Explaining Hitler* and *The Shakespeare Wars* and has written or edited six other books. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New Yorker*. He writes a column for *Slate* and lives in New York City.