



Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis

By Nicholas Stargardt

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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 material—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.

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Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis By Nicholas Stargardt Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. 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 b&w photos, 6 maps.

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review 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*
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Review

"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 war's psychological impact on children." *—Houston Chronicle*

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joseph Braddock:

This Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't be worry Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis can bring whenever you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even telephone. This Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Andrew Hall:

The knowledge that you get from Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis is the more deep you rooting the information that hide into the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this kind of Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis instantly.

Jesus Moreno:

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