



Plotting Hitler's Death: The Story of German Resistance

By Joachim Fest



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In this definitive account of German resistance to Hitler's regime, an acclaimed Hitler biographer turns his attention to those Germans who, from 1933 until nearly the moment the Third Reich collapsed, plotted to kill the Fuhrer. As Fest places the resistance in the larger political and social context, readers can better understand the difficulties of opposition in an age of totalitarianism. Photos.

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Plotting Hitler's Death: The Story of German Resistance By Joachim Fest Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1563663 in Books
- Published on: 1996-10-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.22" h x 1.33" w x 6.36" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 432 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Prodigious research and a commonsensical tone distinguish this compelling survey of the German resistance. Fest (Adolf Hitler, etc.) challenges the idea of "everyday resistance" in Nazi Germany, which has often been extended to include adolescent rebellion, antisocial behavior and the telling of jokes about Nazi bigshots. Any attempt to give ordinary people a consequent role in resisting National Socialism founders, he contends, on the realities of a totalitarian system, which can be challenged effectively only by those with the protection and influence to shield themselves as they draw conclusions and make plans. Fest focuses on the men and women whose rejection of Nazism culminated in the July 20, 1944, attempt on Hitler's life. Carl Goerdeler, Claus von Stauffenberg and most of their counterparts were slow to accept the need to act until well into the war. The author insists that the resisters were more than simple opportunists seeking to escape a sinking ship, however. Their growing awareness of Nazi atrocities, he explains, generated a corresponding sense that Germany was under the rule of a criminal regime. Opposition became a moral imperative regardless of its practical chances for success. While the resisters had no head for conspiracy and no coherent concept of Germany's future, they did accurately perceive their essential task: to remove Hitler, at whatever cost. Though they failed, Fest makes a convincing case that they nevertheless established an enduring moral standard not only for Germany but for the world. Photos.

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From Library Journal

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's *Hitler's Willing Executioners* (LJ 3/15/96) again stirred an ongoing debate with his assertion that Germans willingly participated in Adolph Hitler's policies. Historian Fest (*Hitler*, Harcourt, 1992) more than adequately counters Goldhagen's thesis. Fest begins by pointing out that his book is intended for a wide audience of general readers, not specialists who already know that in fact there was resistance throughout Hitler's rule. In a narrative that is a joy to read, he masterly covers the whole sweep of resistance from the beginning of the Third Reich to its destruction. Adding greatly to the work for the general reader is a section of short biographies of the major people involved in the resistance and a list of books that are cited in the original German edition that are available in English. Fest, for example, writes that the lessons of the failed resistance "is that it is virtually impossible to overthrow a totalitarian regime from within." Fest offers an outstanding effort to make scholarship readable for those with a general interest in history. His work should be on the shelves of all libraries. ?Dennis L. Noble, Sequim, Wash.

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From [Booklist](#)

Daniel Goldhagen's recent *Hitler's Willing Executioners* received massive attention, painting a portrait of a society that was virtually monolithic in its hatred of Jews and dedication to their destruction. Fest, a widely respected German authority on the Nazi era, has provided a superbly written and valuable counterpoint. Virtually from the moment of Hitler's ascension in 1933, various individuals and groups worked to modify Nazi policies, to subvert the Nazis' grasp for power, and ultimately to kill Hitler and overthrow the Nazi regime. Despite their courage, virtually all of the plotters failed to significantly threaten Nazi power or policies. As Fest indicates, to challenge totalitarian power effectively, single-minded purpose, unity of thought and action, and well-organized and highly disciplined infrastructure are required; unfortunately, all of these attributes were lacking in the various conspiracies. A gripping and heartbreaking account of heroic men who struggled against a force and movement that they hated but failed to understand. *Jay Freeman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Lawless:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or even goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are reading whatever they have because their hobby is reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book if they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will require this Plotting Hitler's Death: The Story of German Resistance.

Kathi Adamo:

The actual book Plotting Hitler's Death: The Story of German Resistance has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research previous to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you will get the point easily after scanning this book.

Rose Bennett:

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