



A Child of Hitler: Germany in the Days When God Wore a Swastika

By Alfons Heck

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In this starkly candid account of one boy's indoctrination into the Hitler Youth, we see a side of Nazism that has been little recorded. This autobiographical account is a rare glimpse at World War II from a German boy's viewpoint.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A marvelous story that needs to be told" -- *Baltimore Sun*, 1985

"It is a complicated, lingering history that Heck carries with him." --*Boston Globe* March 29, 1985

"Necessary for a full understanding of World War II" --*Detroit Free Press* 1985

"This is savagely good yarn. As good in many respects as Erich Maria Remarque's ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT as a social history of common people in uncommon times." --*Los Angeles Times* March 7, 1985

From the Publisher

The book, and its sequel, "The Burden of Hitler's Legacy," is a unique inside view into the methods of youth indoctrination. The author is the only former high-ranking Hitler Youth leader who writes and speaks openly about his adolescent fascination with Adolf Hitler.

The book is the basis for the 1991 HBO documentary "Heil Hitler: Confessions of a Hitler Youth." Alfons Heck is the narrator and subject of the film, for which he won an "Emmy" and a "Peabody," as well as other awards.

The BBC also used the book in 1988 as source material for its documentary "The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler," in which the author is featured. That film is frequently aired on A&E's "Biograph" series, as well as on the "History Channel."

Heck is also the co-author of the award-winning young adult book "Parallel Journeys," the account of his life as described in "A Child of Hitler," but in contrast to that of his former lecture partner, Helen Waterford, a Jewish survivor of Auschwitz. The late Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck gave joint lectures to hundreds of schools across the United States for nearly ten years. Heck still continues to give lectures at schools and universities. In 1999, he gave the keynote speech during the Holocaust Awareness Week at the University of Colorado at Boulder, based on his book.

From the Author

As this century, perhaps the bloodiest in history, comes to a close, most eye witnesses to the epochal event of the Nazi era have already died. I may be the only German still alive who met Adolf Hitler as a teenager and writes and speaks about it publicly. Although I was a former high-ranking, even fanatic, member of the Hitler Youth, the honest account of my life in "A Child of Hitler" serves neither as a glorification nor a white-wash of the Nazi era, but primarily as a warning. It's quite easy to incite hatred, especially in the young, and that's the basic message of the book, as well as that of my lectures. Nothing is more satisfying to than to talk to students and motivate them to study history as the key to their own future.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Burdette:

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Carolyn Cook:

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