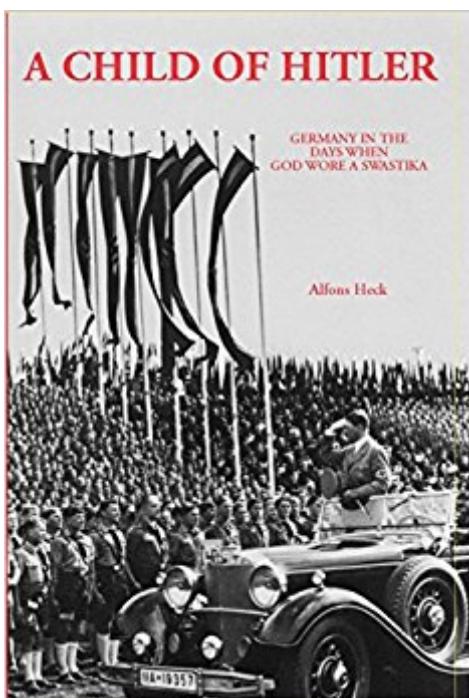


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A Child Of Hitler: Germany In The Days When God Wore A Swastika



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"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

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.

This book will verify the old saying that a person is a product of his or her environment. Alfons Heck was born in Bavaria in 1927 and since the thousand years Third Reich of Adolph Hitler lasted 12 years from 1933 to 1945 Alfons formative years were influenced by the Third Reich. Heck knew nothing else in the morals and duties of a good and just person. He cut his teeth in the Jungvolk and later as a leader in the Hitler Youth. He was indoctrinated in all aspects of the Nazi regime. The author tells us step by step of how he became a Nazi. The parades he led as a youth leader and later of his training to become a Luftwaffe pilot. As a trainee with no airplane to fly, he actually became a junior lieutenant on the West Wall in preparing defense fortifications against the Americans. His telling of the final days of the war in his town which was utterly destroyed and what happened upon his capture by the Americans. Since he knew of no other allegiance to anybody but the Nazis, Herr Heck had to come to terms as to what the Nationalist Socialist Party was in fact in the awful realities of the Holocaust and their treatment of the Polish and the Slavs represented a terrible government to all the civilized world. This book shows a seldom used approach about this awful 12 year reign of terror.

I was born in Germany, was four years old when the war ended, too young to have any direct knowledge of what happened in Hitler's Germany. The author was sixteen when the war ended and had lived through the indoctrination that all German children had to endure. He explains how the party misused the enthusiasm of the young people, how hatred of the Jews, the Poles, and the Bolsheviks was taught as a daily diet in schools and the youth organizations, how children were taught that the "Reich" as created by Hitler was more important than their lives and that to die for the fatherland was the highest honor. He also does not try to weasel out of the responsibility for being an important part of the whole criminal "Weltanschauung" (how to see the world). He does not try to explain how the whole German nation could fall under Hitler's evil spell but the book left me with a better understanding of what happened to the young, and how horrible it would have been if Germany had won World War II with this young generation being in charge.

Very interesting read. Textbook brainwashing techniques used on young children by the Nazis. But this is what any oppressive regime does. Read this for a history class and really enjoyed it. Easy to read. Gives perspective on a contentious issue.

Brain washing to its' max. Propaganda, Nazi schools, Hitler Youth Corps, do anything and everything for the Fatherland. If Germany would have won I believe that would have been the end of the world. Everyone wearing the Anti Christ's symbol (the Swastika) . Back to reality Alfons Heck was a nice child who got caught up in the Hitler Hysteria Movement in Germany at that time. I am glad he wrote this book at least now I have some what of a clue of how these kids became entrapped mentally by Hitler and his psychopathic leaders. I think Heck is not only a man now, but was a man when he was a boy regardless of who he was fighting for. He was abused by one commander and practically had no empathy left in him at the end of the war. To come out and speak to groups and write this book was a blessing for us. I believe this is recommended reading for middle school age students and I would give my copy to a middle school student anytime. Then they may have a view of what the world was like and can turn back into.

This book describes what it was like to be indoctrinated into Hitler's propaganda as a child. The author was high ranking in the Hitler youth and gives a fascinating perspective on WW II.

This was a required book for my psychology class. The style of writing wasn't the easiest to go along with, but there was a lot of important information here.

Such a good book. Allows us to finally see what is exactly that drove Nazi German brutality. Such a great story teller.

Great book on the German citizen's point of view during the war. Very informative on the Hitler youth and German culture back then. I have seen Mr. Heck on tv many times and always wondered how he felt at that point in history. This book explains it all. Very well written. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in Germany and WW2 that wants to learn how it effected the youth of that era.

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