



The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven for Hitler's Men

Eric Lichtblau

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The shocking story of how America became one of the world's safest postwar havens for Nazis

Thousands of Nazis — from concentration camp guards to high-level officers in the Third Reich — came to the United States after World War II and quietly settled into new lives. They had little trouble getting in. With scant scrutiny, many gained entry on their own as self-styled war "refugees," their pasts easily disguised and their war crimes soon forgotten. But some had help and protection from the U.S. government. The CIA, the FBI, and the military all put Hitler's minions to work as spies, intelligence assets, and leading scientists and engineers, whitewashing their histories.

For the first time, once-secret government records and interviews tell the full story not only of the Nazi scientists brought to America, but of the German spies and con men who followed them and lived for decades as ordinary citizens. Only years after their arrival did private sleuths and government prosecutors begin trying to identify the hidden Nazis. But even then, American intelligence agencies secretly worked to protect a number of their prized spies from exposure. Today, a few Nazis still remain on our soil.

Investigative reporter Eric Lichtblau, relying on a trove of newly discovered documents and scores of interviews with participants in this little-known chapter of postwar history, tells the shocking and shameful story of how America became a safe haven for Hitler's men.

The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven for Hitler's Men Details

Date : Published October 28th 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

ISBN : 9780547669199

Author : Eric Lichtblau

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, War, World War II, Holocaust



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From Reader Review The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven for Hitler's Men for online ebook

Prince William Public Library System says

As the title suggests, Eric Lichtblau, a Pulitzer Prize winning investigative reporter, tells the story of how America became a safe haven for thousands of Nazi war criminals. What makes this book different from the others about the same subject are the new facts that are brought to light by the author using recently declassified documents that show how US intelligence agencies because of their fear of communism, collaborated with Nazis to block investigations by Justice department and reporters that tried to expose their criminal past.

This book is quite captivating, full of interesting facts some really horrific.

A recommended reading especially for those interested in history.

-Nancy K.

[Click here to find the book at the Prince William County Public Library System.](#)

Morris says

“The Nazis Next Door” is a book about the various Nazis living in our country after the war, along with how our government not only helped bring them here but helped them avoid prosecution through various means, including forged documents.

As opposed to many history books, this one is easily read and accessible not only to the novice, but also provides little known information to historians. My major was history, with a concentration in Jewish history, and I was appalled by just how much has been hidden for so long. The fact that Patton himself was an anti-Semite made me feel physically ill.

A secondary benefit to the history lesson is the knowledge at just how carefully we need to question the actions of our own intelligence agencies. This is certainly a timely topic, and one that we could all use a reminder regarding.

If a reader has an interest in the Holocaust, especially the more unexplored topics surrounding it, I cannot recommend “The Nazis Next Door” enough. Novice or professional, it is an excellent resource.

This review is based upon an advance copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Ionia says

This book is well deserving of more than five stars. If I could, I would.

There has been a lot of focus in recent years on the Nazi members that escaped to South America, but rarely

have I seen much focus on those who came to America. It was interesting to read about these individuals and what happened to them as a result of their actions.

This author did not only compile a book of meticulous research and facts, but also was compassionate and yet neutral in his writing. You can tell when reading his words that he feels for those who were affected by the violence and unfairness of the Nazis. I appreciate feeling a connection with the author when reading historical accounts as it makes the reading less dry and impersonal.

I also greatly appreciated that the recounting of events from the concentration camps was only briefly covered toward the beginning and thereafter only facts needed to support the book were used. It really does get tiring seeing so many books about this subject that simply spend page after page telling us what we already know.

If you have an historical interest in this subject and would like to hear of events that you haven't heard before, this book is the way to go. I have the utmost respect for the writing ability of this author.

This review is based on a complimentary copy from the publisher and provided through Netgalley. All opinions are my own.

Eric says

While I knew that we brought over Nazi rocket scientists to work on our rocket programs (later, NASA) I had always thought of them as just white jacketed nerds at a blackboard not really connected to the Holocaust. Unfortunately, the greats such as Werner Von Braun were responsible for running the slave camps that produced the V2 rockets, and as such were directly involved in the mistreatment and murder of their workers. Worse than that, are the many senior-level Nazi SS officers that were brought to the US to be Spies against the Soviets for the CIA.

This book takes you through the stories of many agents of the Third Reich that were brought into the US, ranging from the lowly death-squad murderer to colleagues of Eichmann, in order to assist the US with rocketry or spying. It then chronicles the attempts of the Justice Department Special Nazi Unit founded during the Carter administration to deport these Nazis, sometimes successful, sometimes not, and the attempts by the Reagan administration (pat buchanan) to block deportation of these war criminals.

I'm glad I read it, but frustrated at my country.

Karen says

Excellent book explaining in detail how the US Government aided, harbored, relocated, and employed known Nazis at the end of WWII, even as the Jews and other persecuted groups languished in the camps, unable to secure visa's or find places to go. US Government officials are named, most who were more than happy to overlook "minor war crimes" as the re-tooled bio's and files read, in order to bring in known high-level Nazis who could help in the Cold War against Russia, some even before the war ended. Files were scrubbed, polygraph test discrepancies were overlooked, and the US Government was willing to turn a blind eye. It wasn't until decades later, as US public sentiment shifted, that investigations began to "find" these

criminals, long hidden by our own government. Full disclosure, I couldn't finish the book. While reading account after account, it was clear how rampant anti-semitism was here in the US, and how that set the stage for what occurred. The book is very detailed, and even without finishing it, it was clear how it turned out.

Πα?λος says

μπορε?τε να δε?τε και την κριτικ? μου στο **dreamers and co** στο

<http://dreamersandco.com/2017/03/i-na...>

Μ?χρι τ?ρα, ε?χα διαβ?σει σε ?ρθρα, ιστοσελ?δες και κεφ?λαια ιστορικ?ν βιβλ?ων πως οι χ?ρες της Λατινικ?ς Αμερικ?ς (με την αρωγ? του Βατικανο? β?βαια) ?ταν ο κατεξοχ?ν ασφαλ?ς τ?πος για τους πρ?ην Ναζ? αξιωματικ?ς μετ? την λ?ξη του Β' παγκοσμ?ου πολ?μου. Το βιβλ?ο αυτ?, ?ρθε να δ?σει μ?α ν?α και εν πολλο?ς ?γνωστη εικ?να σχετικ? με την στ?ση των Η.Π.Α. απ?ναντι στους ναζ? τους κατ? τ?πους συνεργ?τες τους.

Υπ?ρξαν αρκετ?ς περιπτ?σεις κατ? τις οπο?ες ο εκ?στοτε πρ?ην Ναζ? συνεργ?στηκε με τις κατασκοπικ?ς υπηρεσ?ες των Η.Π.Α. με αντ?λλαγμα την αμερικανικ? υπηκο?τητα και την εξαφ?νιση του παρελθ?ντος του. ?νθρωποι απ? την Ρωσ?α, την Λιθουαν?α και την Σερβ?α π?ρα απ? το πρ?το κακ? που ?καναν στις χ?ρες τους με την προδοσ?α τους και την συνεργασ?α τους με τους Ναζ? κατακτητ?ς, υπ?πεσαν και σε δε?τερο ολ?σθημα κ?νοντας τους κατασκ?πους για λογαριασμ? των Αμερικαν?v. Πολλο? εξ αυτ?v μ?λιστα χ?τσαν μια καινο?ρια καρι?ρα και συνταξιοδοτ?θηκαν με τιμ?ς απ? το αμερικανικ? δημ?σιο.

Οι περισσ?τερες υποθ?σεις ?μειναν στο αρχε?ο καθ?ς δε συν?φερε τις μυστικ?ς υπηρεσ?ες να παραδεχτο?ν πως εν γν?ση τους χρησιμοπο?ησαν τους μ?χρι πρ?τινος θαν?σιμους αντιπ?λους τους. Μια ομ?δα δημοσιογρ?φων-ερευνητ?ν ξεκ?νησε δειλ? δειλ? να φ?ρει στο προσκ?νιο τις περιπτ?σεις αυτ?ς και ως ?να βαθμ? τα κατ?φερε. Αρκετο? εγκληματ?ες οδηγ?θηκαν στο δικαστ?ριο και απελ?θηκαν χ?νοντας την υπηκο?τητα και την ανωνυμ?α που τους ε?χε προσφερθε? χρ?νια πριν. Ταυτ?χρονα, υπ?ρξαν παραλ?ψεις και λ?θη που οδ?γησαν στην ατιμωρησ?α κ?ποιων αποδεδειγμ?να συνεργατ?v των Ναζ? αλλ? και η καταδ?κη εν?ς ανθρ?που που τελικ? ε?χε την ατυχ?α να ?χει το ?διο ονοματεπ?vυμο με τον "Ιβ?v τον τρομερ?" ?να εξαιρετικ? β?αιο φ?λακα στρατοπ?δου συγκ?ντρωσης.

Εξαιρετικ? βιβλ?ο, διαβ?ζεται ε?κολα και σ?γουρα αποτελε? μια καλ? πρ?ταση για τους σχετικο?ς (? μη) με τον δε?τερο παγκ?σμιο π?λεμο. Προτε?νεται ανεπιφ?λακτα!

(readathon 2017 7/90)

Bill says

[image error]

sappho_reader says

"Didn't these people get it? This was a war. You did what you had to do to survive"

Tscherim Soobzokov, ex-CIA spy residing in New Jersey

Accused of collaborating with the Nazi SS during the invasion of USSR

Shocking. If I wasn't already aware of some of this material I would have had a difficult time accepting it. My cub scout image of the U.S Government is continually shattered. Persistent antisemitism within Washington and the U.S. military during and after WW2 resulted in the further disgrace of the Jews by leaving them in the camps they were supposedly "liberated" from and denied immigration to the United States. What is more disturbing is that while the Jews had nowhere to go the U.S Government actively recruited 1600 ex-Nazi's into the United States in an effort to combat Russia in the new Cold War via "Operation Paperclip". Didn't take long for many of them to assimilate in America and downplay their involvement in the Holocaust. I always wonder how they can live with their conscious knowing what they did during the war, and how others can defend them.

Sarah says

A few years ago I read "The Good German" by Joseph Kanon. It was an interesting work of fiction set in Berlin about how the American and Russian victors were scrambling to secure scientists and other "good Germans". The goal was two fold: keep that scientist from the other side and to get him to your home country to benefit from his expertise. Wonderful book, so-so movie.

The Nazi's Next Door is the true story of how and why the United States brought in 10,000 Nazis to work for an intelligence agency or NASA. I was astounded how the U.S. government overlooked and/or "white washed" records of gross war criminals in order to benefit from Nazi expertise and to keep them from the Russians. Criminals were not punished if they had value. Instead they were given American citizenship and a paycheck.

This is a well researched book on a part of history that is not well known.

Patrizia Galli says

E' un fatto noto che dopo il crollo del Terzo Reich moltissime personalità eminenti del regime trovarono rifugio in Sudamerica, grazie alla complicità di misteriose organizzazioni che operavano in Europa e nel Mondo. Meno noto è il fatto che molti nazisti abbiano trovato invece rifugio negli Stati Uniti, che si erano fatti paladini indiscutibili della democrazia, ma che chiusero entrambi gli occhi pur di avvalersi dei servigi di alcuni tra gli scienziati più importanti del regime di Hitler, ma non solo. Incredibilmente molti di loro, non solo scienziati, ma anche guardie carcerarie, soldati delle SS, collaborazionisti di regimi fantocci dei paesi dell'est Europa, benché riconosciuti come criminali di guerra, furono reclutati dall'FBI e dalla CIA e utilizzati come informatori negli anni della Guerra Fredda.

Lichtblau ricostruisce le vicende di moltissimi personaggi, il cui passato venne ripulito alla perfezione dalla CIA o dall'FBI, grazie all'analisi di documenti desecretati negli ultimi anni e a rapporti d'intelligence

riservati, che hanno aggiunto dettagli ancor più numerosi alle storie già conosciute. Se vagamente si conosce la storia che ha portato alcuni degli scienziati più influenti del Reich a collaborare con gli Stati Uniti, ancora non si sapeva che queste equivoche "risorse" ammontavano a una decina di migliaia di persone; né quanto profondamente fossero coinvolti con la Shoà: Karl Wolff, per esempio, che trattò la sua resa direttamente con Allen Dulles, futuro direttore della CIA, era stato addirittura il braccio destro di Himmler; Wernher von Braun, forse il più noto tra tutti gli scienziati del Reich, ideatore del V2 in Germania, divenne la mente direttiva del programma spaziale americano (e non pagò mai le sue colpe, se non in maniera postuma...); Arthur Rudolph, che del V2 aveva diretto la produzione in Germania e che in America divenne capo ingegnere del Saturn V, il razzo che portò gli americani sulla Luna; le storie di susseguono, una più raccapricciante dell'altra, anche in conseguenza del fatto che furono gli stessi americani ad ostacolare le indagini del Dipartimento di Giustizia.

Lichtblau fa luce anche sui prigionieri dei campi dopo la fine della guerra: durante l'occupazione americana, britannica e russa, in quei campi morirono, sebbene la guerra fosse finita da tempo, perché «il mondo non sapeva che farsene di loro». Addirittura molti medici e ufficiali nazisti si ritrovarono a lavorare per gli americani come sorveglianti di quegli stessi campi di concentramento dove prima torturavano e uccidevano gli ebrei. E molti ufficiali nazisti si fecero passare per vittime, e un gran numero di criminali di guerra ottenne il visto per espatriare negli USA. Anche Il Vaticano aiuto ex nazisti e fascisti a rifarsi una vita in Sudamerica, «purché fossero anticomunisti». Agghiacciante.

Matt Bennett says

Nazis in America? Sure, you're thinking - Werner Von Something or other helped us with the rockets. And maybe a SS thug or two slipped through the cracks and came here and built cars in Ohio for a while. But we basically caught them and booted them out, right?

Wrong.

As Pulitzer-winner Eric Lichtblau shows in this absolutely riveting account, the US government helped up to 10,000 (TEN THOUSAND!) Nazis - some of them high-ranking officials with major roles in the Holocaust - get into the country and stay here. Why? Good damn question. Ostensibly because they were anti-Soviet. But rank anti-semitism in the CIA, FBI, State Dept and elsewhere helped as well. So while legions of brutalized Jewish survivors struggled to rebuild lives in war-shattered Europe, the murderous scumbags of the Third Reich were ushered into the relative nirvana of post-war America by our own government.

Lichtblau (who, full disclosure, is a friend) has written a compelling, infuriating, and vitally important account of this extraordinary black mark in American history. It is an absolute must-read.

Jen says

A detailed accounting of the US's active recruitment and harboring of top Nazi officials responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths during the Holocaust. I took off one star because the book reads as just that, an accounting, for a good portion, making it a bit tedious and occasionally hard to follow, but it gathers steam as in some cases justice is finally served. Regardless, everyone should read this book. Just prepare to be horrified by what the US government did in the name of stopping communism.

Lindsey says

Given the recent release of the CIA's "Torture Report," perhaps it is fitting to be reading another scathing indictment on them (and other American intelligence agencies), who have failed time and again to uphold the very values that America purports to stand for.

Well written and completely engaging from start to finish, this book reveals with startling detail the numerous ways in which Nazi war criminals came to the United States after the war. The assistance they received from the U.S. government is the most distressing part of this narrative.

Though the Project Paperclip story wasn't exactly new, it was my first time reading about it. I found it particularly disappointing that NASA was where many of the Nazi scientists ended up. Space exploration has a tinge of idealism and optimism to it, but it seems so tainted when you know that some of the most pivotal moments in its history have been made possible by the efforts of these men.

Sandi says

This made me mad but it needed to be written I agree it's Pulitzer winner

Ruth says

I learned a few things here that confirmed my dislike of a number of public figures--Patton for one. This book is another iteration of the large degree to which we did nothing to help the Jews (or other refugees) in the years during and after WWII. Leaving people in the concentration camps with their former Nazi torturers as overlords for many years, is just one example. I kind of knew, but not really, how disgracefully we behaved. You see movies with the Americans "liberating" the camps and assume it's all hunky-dory from there. It almost never was; and that's a good thing to know. All this took up about 3 chapters, and then we home in on some fairly wearying stuff about what the CIA and FBI did to help the Nazis speed on over to the USA to become some rather useless spies. Meanwhile the refugees continued to suffer. This latter part of the book, about 75%, was not very interesting. Almost immediately after the war (I didn't realize the time frame on this) we got very worried about what Russia could do to us, and our main focus was on out-spying them. For us the war was over; we hadn't suffered much, so we left those who had continuing on with their suffering and dying. My problem overall is that what the book had to offer, compared to many other tomes on the same subject, is very light.
