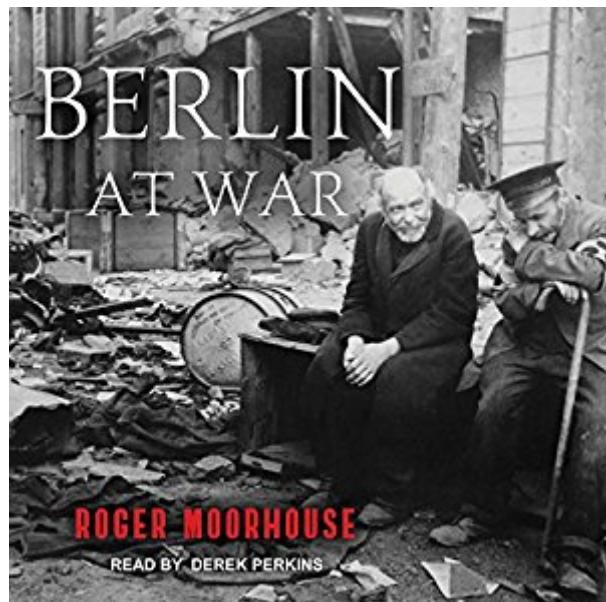


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Berlin At War



Synopsis

In Berlin at War, acclaimed historian Roger Moorhouse provides a magnificent and detailed portrait of everyday life at the epicenter of the Third Reich. Berlin was the stage upon which the rise and fall of the Third Reich was most visibly played out. It was the backdrop for the most lavish Nazi ceremonies, the site of Albert Speer's grandiose plans for a new "world metropolis", and the scene of the final climactic battle to defeat Nazism. Berlin was the place where Hitler's empire ultimately met its end, but it suffered mightily through the war as well. Not only was the city subjected to the full wrath of the Soviet ground offensive and siege in 1945, but it also found itself a prime target for the air war, attracting more raids, more aircraft, and more tonnage than any other German city. In Berlin at War, acclaimed historian Roger Moorhouse provides a magnificent and detailed portrait of everyday life at the epicenter of the Third Reich. Berlin was the stage upon which the rise and fall of the Third Reich was most visibly played out. It was the backdrop for the most lavish Nazi ceremonies, the site of Albert Speer's grandiose plans for a new "world metropolis", and the scene of the final climactic battle to defeat Nazism. Berlin was the place where Hitler's empire ultimately met its end, but it suffered mightily through the war as well. Not only was the city subjected to the full wrath of the Soviet ground offensive and siege in 1945, but it also found itself a prime target for the air war, attracting more raids, more aircraft, and more tonnage than any other German city. Combining groundbreaking research with a gripping narrative, Moorhouse brings all of the complexity and chaos of wartime Berlin to life. Berlin at War is the incredible story of the city - and people - that saw the whole of this epic conflict, from start to finish.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book gives insight into the daily life in Berlin during the war. I learned facts that clarified things I had learned in school, informed how the people of Berlin truly reacted to the events of the time and how life evolved during the war and after. I highly recommend this book if you have any interest in the topic.

Most WW2 books are about the battles between soldiers. This book details the suffering that Hitler and his henchmen caused not only to the Jews but to the very German citizens they claimed to represent. It is a heart breaking account of flies leading sheep to suffering and death.

excellent

Moorhouse has written an interesting history that is a unique in the World War 2 history of Germany. Instead of focusing on people or events, he has written about how the war affected the German capital of Berlin, especially from the regular person's point of view. He examines various facets of society, both the Nazi's supporters and those who were victimized by the Nazi's, primarily Jews. His history covers many aspects of life in the city throughout the war years. Reading about rationing, learning how people were terrorized by air raids, learning about ways people of all walks of life survived those years, and even learning a little about the aftermath of the Battle of Berlin which ended the war in Europe -- all helped provide an interesting and thought-provoking insight into what life had to be like then. No matter who was in the capital then, life couldn't have been easy as the war progressed to its grisly climax, something Moorhouse helps us see. There are areas where the book could have been better. German Jews weren't the only victims of the Nazis in Berlin. Accounts including homosexuals, gypsies, communists, and Seventh Day Adventists would have helped round out the experiences faced by victims. I also would have liked to have learned more about the aftermath of the war and how Berliners began to normalize their lives in the post-war months and years. While I liked that Moorhouse chose to focus on this being a popular history for the most part, occasionally he did go too much into the experience of the upper echelons of Nazi leadership, which is well covered in other histories. Finally, I would like to have learned more about how the Nazi loyalists in Berlin faced the end of the war. Moorhouse tells us the view of those who were disaffected or against the Nazis, but how did those people view the inevitable end in those last horrifying months? We don't really learn about them and their perspective which had to be quite different from those who celebrated the advance of the Allies on the city. Still. This book is a noble

and worthwhile attempt to cover this important aspect of life in a city that in the space of 12 years went from one of the most glorious in Europe to one that was a rubble-strewn heap of despair and misery. Understandably, this could not have been an easy topic to cover, so Moorhouse has done well in shedding light on this valuable aspect of German war history during World War 2.

The best book I've ever read on the effects of WWII on Berlin and its denizens. A very well written and structured book which approaches the theme under a different and instigating point of view, and it's almost impossible to stop reading once you've started it. Mr Moorhouse historically approaches the last world conflict, but from a human perspective, showing the dimensions of the tragedy that was the Nazi domination over the German population, and namely the Berliners, giving through testimonials and factual information a good idea of the people's morale at all stages of the conflict. This book is certainly a "must read" for anyone seriously interested in better understanding the reigning zeitgeist in Berlin at that time.

Excellent insight to the civilian life and their perspectives. Had no idea how disgusted and scared most Germans were when Hitler started WWII.

Almost like reading a documentary.....better than watching one because there was not that incredibly boring voice over they usually use to dull a very interesting subject!A friend who lived through the war in that area suggested I read it and I am glad I did. History is much more than generals and dates and battles. It's the people and this book enabled me to know the people.A bit of a slow read (which was a good change from the thrillers) but only so I didn't miss details, not because it was boring.If you are really interested in the history of that era, I suggest you spend the time reading this

Berlin at WarWell written and rich in detail, the book provides unique insight into the lives of common German citizens, Jewish residents, and soldiers from both sides who lived during this era. From the end of WWI to the Nazi takeover, through the aftermath of WWII, the author draws heavily from memoirs, private journals and newspaper accounts. Well researched and a "must read" for students of history. (I purchased this book through .)

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