This first socio-organizational history of the Gestapo, the SD, and the regular detectives of the Third Reich, 1932-1937, this book explores the roots of their roles in police terror and programs of mass murder. These personnel helped to form the character and missions of their organizations, which were not simply created from above by Hitler, Himmler, or Heydrich. Hitler's Enforcers is based on research at 34 archives in Germany and the United States, including the personnel files of over 1,000 former members, and is the first such study to benefit from the German documents captured by the Soviets and Poles and kept secret until recently.

The Grim story of the most vicious Terror Agency of all time—Its sinister Power and Barbaric acts, and the twisted men who led it—Hitler, Himmler, and Eichmann. This is the brutal expose of the rotten core of Nazi Germany. Here is revealed the true story of Hitler's terror police, the in-famous Gestapo—the madmen who headed it, the sadists who staffed it, the degenerate party that spawned it.

The best-selling author of Devil in the White City documents the efforts of first American ambassador to Hitler's Germany William E. Dodd to acclimate to a residence in an increasingly violent city where he is forced to associate with the Nazis while his daughter pursues a relationship with Gestapo chief Rudolf Diels.

Explores the Gestapo's complex system of enforcement and control to reveal the day-to-day reality of political policing under Hitler. Stackhouse challenges the abiding perception of the Gestapo as policing only through terror and totalitarianism, drawing on research in hundreds of secret police case files.

A history of Nazi Germany's secret police written by one of their victims, with a new introduction by the author.

Twenty years after Germany's victory in World War II, while the entire country prepares for the U.S. president's visit, Berlin Detective Xavier March attempts to solve the murder of a high-ranking Nazi commander. Reprint.

For twelve years, Hitler's secret state police—the Geheime Staats Polizei, better known as the Gestapo—spread a reign of fear and terror over Europe. Spoken of in whispers, a law unto themselves, the Gestapo was the power behind the power. Torture, betrayal, execution, utter ruthlessness, were the stepping stones by which the Gestapo under Göring, Himmler, and Heydrich climbed to the top of the Nazi bureaucratic pile. As Nazi power spread, so did the evil reputation of the Gestapo, splying into every compartment of the individual's life, backed by concentration camps and the state-sanctioned right to extract confessions under torture. As the war ended, the Gestapo tried to eradicate all trace of its crimes. In this, it failed. It left photographs; it left witnesses; it left records. From these it is possible for us to be eyewitnesses to the Gestapo in its grisly heyday.--From publisher description.

A 2018 FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE The chilling, little-known story of the rise of Nazism in Los Angeles, and the Jewish leaders and spies they recruited who stopped it. No American city was more important to the Nazis than Los Angeles, home to Hollywood, the greatest propaganda machine in the world. The Nazis plotted to kill the city's Jews and to sabotage the nation's military installations: plans existed for hanging twenty prominent Hollywood figures such as Al Jolson, Charlie Chaplin, and Samuel Goldwyn; for driving through Boyle Heights and machine-gunning as many Jews as possible; and for blowing up defense installations and seizing munitions from National Guard armories along the Pacific Coast. U.S. law enforcement agencies were not paying close attention—preferring to monitor Reds rather than Nazis—and only Leon Lewis and his daring ring of spies stood in the way. From 1933 until the end of World War II, attorney Leon Lewis, the man Nazis would come to call "the most dangerous Jew in Los Angeles," ran a spy operation comprised of military veterans and their wives who infiltrated every Nazi and fascist group in Los Angeles. Often rising to leadership positions, this daring ring of spies uncovered and foiled the Nazi's disturbing plans for death and destruction. Featuring a large cast of Nazis, undercover agents, and colorful supporting players, Hitler in Los Angeles, by acclaimed historian Steven J. Ross, tells the story of Lewis's daring spy network in a time when hate groups had moved from the margins to the mainstream.

Draws on the latest research to present a history of the Gestapo, from its creation during the Weimar Republic to the fate of its officers after World War II, and unravel the truths and mysteries behind its rule.

Chronicles the Nazi's rise to power, conquest of Europe, and dramatic defeat at the hands of the Allies.
The award-winning author of Hitler's Prisons presents an unprecedented, integrated account of the Nazi concentration camps from their inception in 1933 through their demise in the spring of 1945.

Lucie Aubrac (1912-2007), of Catholic and peasant background, was teaching history in a Lyon girls' school and newly married to Raymond, a Jewish engineer, when World War II broke out and divided France. The couple, living in the Vichy zone, soon joined the Resistance movement in opposition to the Nazis and their collaborators. Outwitting the Gestapo is Lucie's harrowing account of her participation in the Resistance: of the months when, though pregnant, she planned and took part in raids to free comrades—including her husband, under Nazi death sentence—from the prisons of Klaus Barbie, the infamous Butcher of Lyon. Her book is also the basis for the 1997 French movie, Lucie Aubrac, which was released in the United States in 1999.

The INSTANT New York Times Bestseller A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice A New York Times Notable Book A Best Book of the Year: Time, Wall Street Journal, and Publishers Weekly In this “stunning literary achievement,” Donner chronicles the extraordinary life and brutal death of her great-great-aunt Mildred Harnack, the American leader of one of the largest underground resistance groups in Germany during WWII—"a page-turner story of espionage, love and betrayal" (Kai Bird, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Biography) Born and raised in Milwaukee, Mildred Harnack was twenty-six when she enrolled in a PhD program in Germany and witnessed the meteoric rise of the Nazi party. In 1932, she began holding secret meetings in her apartment—a small band of political activists that by 1940 had grown into the largest underground resistance group in Berlin. She recruited working-class Germans into the resistance, helped Jews escape, plotted acts of sabotage, and collaborated in writing leaflets that denounced Hitler and called for revolution. Her coconspirators circulated through Berlin under the cover of night, slipping the leaflets into mailboxes, public restrooms, phone booths. When the first shots of the Second World War were fired, she became a spy, courting top-secret intelligence to the Allies. On the eve of her escape to Sweden, she was ambushed by the Gestapo. At a Nazi military court, a panel of five judges sentenced her to six years at a prison camp, but Hitler overruled the decision and ordered her execution. On February 16, 1943, she was strapped to a guillotine and beheaded. Historians identify Mildred Harnack as the only American in the leadership of the German resistance, yet her remarkable story has remained almost unknown until now. Harnack's great-great-niece Rebecca Donner draws on her extensive archival research in Germany, Russia, England, and the U.S. as well as newly uncovered documents in her family archive to produce this astonishing work of narrative nonfiction. Fusing elements of biography, real-life political thriller, and scholarly detective story, Donner brilliantly interweaves letters, diary entries, notes smuggled out of a Berlin prison, survivors' testimony, and a trove of declassified intelligence documents into a powerful, epic story, reconstructing the moral courage of an enigmatic woman nearly erased by history.

The Gestapo was the most feared instrument of political terror in the Third Reich, brutally hunting down and destroying anyone it regarded as an enemy of the Nazi regime: socialists, Communists, Jews, homosexuals, and anyone else deemed to be an 'anti-social element'. Its prisons soon became infamous - many of those who disappeared into them were never seen again - and it has been remembered ever since as the sinister epitome of Nazi terror and persecution. But how accurate is it to view the Gestapo as an all-pervasive, all-powerful, all-knowing instrument of terror? How much did it depend upon the cooperation and help of ordinary Germans? And did its networks extend further into the everyday life of German society than most Germans after 1945 ever wanted to admit? Answering all these questions and more, this book uses the very latest research to tell the true story behind this secretive and fearsome institution. Tracing the history of the organization from its origins in the Weimar Republic, through the crimes of the Nazi period, to the fate of former Gestapo officers after World War II, Carsten Dams and Michael Stolle investigate how the Gestapo really worked - and question many of the myths that have long surrounded it.

From its creation in 1933 until Hitler's death in May 1945, anyone living in Nazi-controlled territory lived in fear of a visit from the Gestapo – an abbreviation of Geheime Staatspolizei – or secret state police. Young or old, rich or poor, nobody was beyond the attentions of a brutally efficient organization that spread its malignant influence into every corner of Europe in the wake of the all-conquering German armed forces. The Gestapo offers a detailed history of this evil operation – commanded for much of its life by the SS chief Heinrich Himmler – whose 20,000 members were responsible for the extermination of millions of Jews and other races. Based upon the Gestapo's own archives and eyewitness accounts, the author charts the development of the organization, its key figures, such as Reinhard Heydrich, its brutal methods, and how the Gestapo dealt with internal security, including the various unsuccessful attempts to assassinate Hitler. The book is a lively and expert account of this notorious but little-understood secret police that terrorized hundreds of thousands of people across Europe. [This is a text-only ebook edition.]

A World War II veteran and dedicated researcher traces the career of Gestapo chief Heinrich Muller and exposes the Cold War cover-up by both East and West as to his later whereabouts and activities. The fascinating first-hand account by a top defector of the ruthlessness, spy intrigues and curious personalities of the Third Reich. A unique and intimate record, full of surprises, sardonic wit and tragic endings.

"Gestapo tactics": Espionage, intrigue, and subversion. Cunning, cynical, and ruthless in exploiting every human weakness - and murdering anyone who got in the way. Koehler was a special agent working for the top Nazi cop Heydrich, head of the Gestapo, the Secret State Police. He earns his spurs as spying in France, disguised as a Trotskyist refugee, laying the groundwork for Germany to annex these provinces, and matching wits with French and Communist intelligence services. A keen observer and skilful narrator, Koehler reveals how the Gestapo secretly financed and supported the Rumanian Iron Guard and the Spanish Fascists. Then he is sent undercover to a concentration camp to finger a fugitive. What he sees there, and the flogging that puts him in hospital, sows the seeds of his plan to escape. His next mission is to recover "The Fatal File" – documents showing that Hitler's grandmother became pregnant while working as a maid in the Rothschild mansion in Vienna -- the Austrian chancellor's secret blackmail weapon to hold Nazi Germany at bay. Heydrich advises Koehler to employ a beautiful Countess to inveigle the file -- Austria is disarmed -- and the Wehrmacht marches into Austria. Koehler is then promoted to the detail guarding Hitler's residence in the Alps, and gets his chance to escape to Switzerland, where he writes "Inside the Gestapo". In 1943 the OSS commissioned a psychological profile of Hitler by Walter Langer, who drew on the revelations in this book. In 1972 Langer followed up with The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report, which became a mass-market bestseller.

Based on research at 34 archives in Germany and the United States, this socio-organizational history of the Gestapo, the SD, and the regular detectives of the Third Reich, from 1932-1937, is the first such study to benefit from the German documents captured by the Soviets and Poles and kept secret until recent years.
Thousands of Jews and "Aryan" Germans opposed to Hitler led illegal lives under the Nazi terror and survived the relentless hunt of the Gestapo, the concentration camps, and the bombing. They survived in various ways; some as ordinary citizens taking part in the work-day life, others with fake passports, hidden in cellars, living precariously in all the dark corners of a vigilantly policed country. In fourteen autobiographical accounts, author Eric Boehm offers a cross-section of these heroic personalities. We Survived is itself an historical document, giving a window back into this epoch period during World War II. Now reappearing in print over fifty years after its original publication, We Survived remains as relevant and necessary as ever before - an honest testimony to the strength of the human spirit when it triumphs over adversity.

A compelling firsthand account of life behind bars in Nazi Germany, from the point of view of a young member of the Polish Underground.

As an increasingly polarized America fights over the legacy of racism, Susan Neiman, author of the contemporary philosophical classic Evil in Modern Thought, asks what we can learn from the Germans about confronting the evils of the past. In the wake of white nationalist attacks, the ongoing debate over reparations, and the controversy surrounding Confederate monuments and the contested memories they evoke, Susan Neiman's Learning from the Germans delivers an urgently needed perspective on how a country can come to terms with its historical wrongdoings. Neiman is a white woman who came of age in the civil rights–era South and a Jewish woman who has spent much of her adult life in Berlin. Working from this unique perspective, she combines philosophical reflection, personal stories, and interviews with both Americans and Germans who are grappling with the evils of their own national histories. Through discussions with Germans, including Jan Philipp Reemtsma, who created the breakthrough Crimes of the Wehrmacht exhibit, and Friedrich Schorlemmer, the East German dissident preacher, Neiman tells the story of the long and difficult path Germans faced in their effort to atone for the crimes of the Holocaust. In the United States, she interviews James Meredith about his battle for equality in Mississippi and Bryan Stevenson about his monument to the victims of lynching, as well as lesser-known social justice activists in the South, to provide a compelling picture of the work contemporary Americans are doing to confront our violent history. In clear and gripping prose, Neiman urges us to consider the nuanced forms that evil can assume, so that we can recognize and avoid them in the future.

Formed in 1933, the Gestapo became one of the most feared state forces of the Third Reich before and during World War II. Chronicling the history of the organization, from its origins to the brutal and horrific offenses that it perpetrated on hundreds of thousands of people, to its eventual downfall, Gestapo is a compelling tale of power and destruction taken to their most terrifying extremes. Familiar in films as the ominous men wearing black leather trench coats seen arresting people on the film's most chilling scenes, the true story of the Geheime Staatspolizei (or Gestapo for short) is even more frightening. Drawing on numerous sources, Gestapo explores how this secret state police force was born on 26 April 1933, the creation of Hermann Göring. Together with the Kriminalpolizei and the Sicherheitsdienst, the Gestapo would enforce a reign of terror on Germany and across much of Europe. Containing profiles of key figures and chilling tales of its death squads' sadistic efficiency - from the torture of Resistance members to mass murder in collaboration with the Einsatzgruppen - Gestapo shows how the organization thrived on Hitler's insecurity until, as the Allies triumphed, its members were eventually rounded up and, as far as possible, brought to justice.

The Vienna Gestapo headquarters was the largest of its kind in the German Reich and the most important instrument of Nazi terror in Austria, responsible for the persecution of Jews, suppression of resistance and policing of forced labourers. Of the more than fifty thousand people arrested by the Vienna Gestapo, many were subjected to torturous interrogation before being either sent to concentration camps or handed over to the Nazi judiciary for prosecution. This comprehensive survey by three expert historians focuses on these victims of repression and persecution as well as the structure of the Vienna Gestapo and the perpetrators of its crimes.

From its creation in 1933 until Hitler's death in May 1945, anyone inside Nazi-controlled territory lived in fear of a visit from the Gestapo - Geheime Staatspolizei - or Secret State Police. Young or old, rich or poor, nobody was beyond the attentions of a brutally efficient organization that spread its malign influence into every corner of Europe in the wake of the all-conquering German armed forces. The Gestapo is a detailed history of Heinrich Himmler's evil organization, whose 20,000 members were responsible for the internal security of the Reich. Under its auspices, hundreds of thousands of civilians, resistance fighters and spies in occupied Europe were brutalized, tortured and murdered, and many, many more were deported to almost certain death in concentration camps. This book describes the Gestapo's transformation into a vital element in the Nazi regime, operating from the most feared address in the Reich: Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse 8, Berlin. Based upon the Gestapo's own archives and eyewitness accounts, the author charts the development of the organization, its key figures, such as Reinhard Heydrich and Heinrich Müller, its brutal methods, and how the Gestapo dealt with internal security, including the various unsuccessful attempts to assassinate Hitler. The Gestapo is a lively and expert account of the notorious but little-understood secret police that terrorized millions of people across Europe.

An examination of the everyday operations of the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police. It looks at the three-way interaction between the police, the German people and the enforcement of Hitler's policies, as an example of popular participation in the operations of institutions such as the Gestapo.

A new, comprehensive exploration of the Gestapo from a renowned historian of the Third Reich. Drawing on a detailed examination of previously unpublished Gestapo case files this book relates the fascinating, vivid and disturbing accounts of a cross-section of ordinary and extraordinary people who opposed the Nazi regime. It also tells the equally disturbing stories of the involvement of the German citizenry in the Gestapo's surveillance and reveals the cold-blooded, efficient methods of the Gestapo officers. Despite its material constraints, the degree to which the group was able to manipulate—and collude with—the general public is as astonishing as it is chilling, for it reveals that the complicity of regular German citizens in the rendition of their associates, friends, colleagues, and neighbors was essential in allowing the Gestapo to extend its reach widely and quickly. • Longlisted for 2016 PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize and ranked one of the 100 Best Books of 2015 in the Daily Telegraph • With access to previously inacessible records, this is the fullest and most definitive account of the Gestapo yet published. The Gestapo will provide a chilling new doorway into the everyday life of the Third Reich and give powerful testimony from the victims of Nazi terror and poignant life stories of those who opposed Hitler's regime while also challenging popular myths about Hitler's secret police.
’Thoroughly researched and fascinating’ Observer ‘Wondrous a formidable piece of scholarship’ Bookanista In 1939, the Gestapo created a list of names: the Britons whose removal would be the Nazis’ first priority in the event of a successful invasion. Who were they? What had they done to provoke Germany? For the first time, the historian Sybil Oldfield uncovers their stories and reveals why the Nazis feared their influence. Those on the hitlist - more than half of them naturalised refugees - were many of Britain’s most gifted and humane inhabitants. Among their numbers we find the writers E. M. Forster and Virginia Woolf, humanitarians and religious leaders, scientists and artists, the social reformers Margery Fry and Eleanor Rathbone MP, the artists Jacob Epstein and Oscar Kokoschka. By examining these targets of Nazi hatred, Oldfield not only sheds light on the Gestapo worldview; she also movingly reveals a network of truly exemplary Britons: mavericks, moral visionaries and unsung heroes.

Examines the Gestapo as an instrument of terror in Nazi Germany, arguing that the relatively small organization relied on the complicity of ordinary Germans to support their program of selective terror that targeted Jews and other specific groups

The word ‘Gestapo’ has become synonymous with the terrible brutality and terror of the Nazi regime in World War II. The Gestapo came into existence in 1933 as Department IA of the Prussian State Police. Under the SS, the Gestapo grew in power, and was given the job of investigating and combatting ‘all tendencies dangerous to the state’. Schutzhaft (protective custody) gave the Gestapo the power to imprison without judicial proceedings, often in concentration camps. It was also responsible for destroying opposition to Hitler. By early 1942, as the Nazi regime became increasingly unpopular in Germany, a number of protests took place. The Gestapo's response was brutal. Thousands were arrested and executed, and all dissent was crushed. The History of the Gestapo provides an authoritative overview of this sinister instrument of repression. Never before had an organisation attained such complexity, been vested with such power, or reached such a pitch of ’perfection’ in efficiency and horror.

This is a detailed history of Heinrich Himmler’s evil organization, whose 20,000 members were responsible for the internal security of the Reich. Based upon the Gestapo's own archives and eye-witness accounts, the author charts the development of the organization, its key figures, such as Reinhard Heydrich and Heinrich Muller, its brutal methods, and how the Gestapo dealt with internal security, including the various unsuccessful attempts to assassinate Hitler.