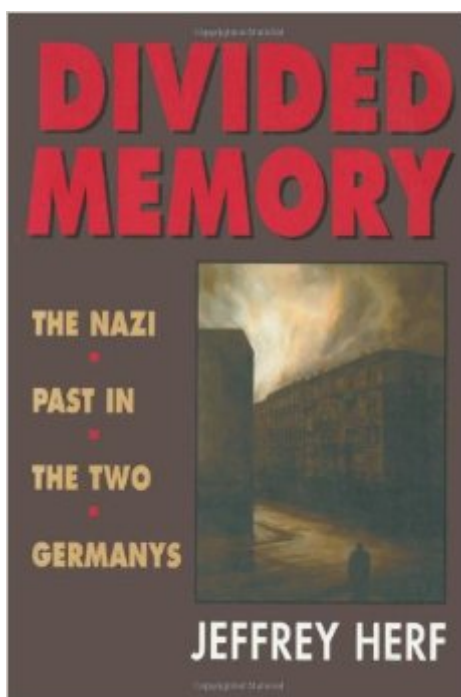


The book was found

# Divided Memory: The Nazi Past In The Two Germanys



## Synopsis

What has Germany made of its Nazi past? A significant new look at the legacy of the Nazi regime, this book exposes the workings of past beliefs and political interests on how--and how differently--the two Germanys have recalled the crimes of Nazism, from the anti-Nazi emigration of the 1930s through the establishment of a day of remembrance for the victims of National Socialism in 1996. Why, Jeffrey Herf asks, would German politicians raise the specter of the Holocaust at all, in view of the considerable depth and breadth of support its authors and their agenda had found in Nazi Germany? Why did the public memory of Nazi anti-Jewish persecution and the Holocaust emerge, if selectively, in West Germany, yet was repressed and marginalized in "anti-fascist" East Germany? And how do the politics of left and right come into play in this divided memory? The answers reveal the surprising relationship between how the crimes of Nazism were publicly recalled and how East and West Germany separately evolved a Communist dictatorship and a liberal democracy. This book, for the first time, points to the impact of the Cold War confrontation in both West and East Germany on the public memory of anti-Jewish persecution and the Holocaust. Konrad Adenauer, Theodor Heuss, Kurt Schumacher, Willy Brandt, Richard von Weizsacker, and Helmut Kohl in the West and Walter Ulbricht, Wilhelm Pieck, Otto Grotewohl, Paul Merker, and Erich Honnecker in the East are among the many national figures whose private and public papers and statements Herf examines. His work makes the German memory of Nazism--suppressed on the one hand and selective on the other, from Nuremberg to Bitburg--comprehensible within the historical context of the ideologies and experiences of pre-1945 German and European history as well as within the international context of shifting alliances from World War II to the Cold War. Drawing on West German and recently opened East German archives, this book is a significant contribution to the history of belief that shaped public memory of Germany's recent past.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 560 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press; First Edition edition (October 10, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674213033

ISBN-13: 978-0674213036

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6.6 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,001,731 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #391 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Fascism #1971 in Books > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust #2733 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > European

## Customer Reviews

A previous view has mischaracterized this work as one that deals with attitudes toward Israel. The primary purpose of this book is the role of the Holocaust in memory among the respective West and East German elites following World War II. It is not a broader work on social history, which one could argue needs to be done, but criticizing someone for the book he didn't write is misplaced. Herff's arguments center around the coming to grips with the Holocaust in politics in the two German states. He asserts, correctly, that East German leaders chose to adopt the Marxist line that WWII was a fascist war, and the Holocaust a product of fascism rather than racism. The leaders did so in order to portray the installed Stalinist state as the legitimate government in eastern Germany and being utterly disconnected from the Nazis. The result was a whitewashing of historical memory, portraying Jews and other minorities as virtual martyrs of the East German state. Herff further argues, and places blame, on West German leaders for failing to engage the Holocaust. However, he points out that Karl Adenauers efforts to engage conservatives on this issue was a forward-thinking move, and ultimately salvaged West Germany on this issue. Ultimately, the issue of the two Germanys and Israel has to do with the evolution of historical memory rather than philo-semitism or philo-nazism. This book will be useful for those seeking to understand the role of memory in WWII and the Cold War.

good

Herf applies a very simplistic test to determine the Nazification of both Germanies: did they side with Israel in the Middle East version of the Cold War or did they not? The trial against Paul Merker in the East, which had as its background East Germany's reluctance to pay reparations to expropriated Jews, serves as his prime evidence for the continuation of things Nazi in the GDR. But both of these arguments completely ignore the Marxist ideology underlieing the rationale of the East German leadership and bypass more complicated issues of political allegiance. Moreover, they totally eclipse the East German cultural discourse on the Holocaust, a discourse that was decades ahead of discussions in the West and still proves to be more sophisticated than most that is being

written in Western academia.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Divided Memory: The Nazi Past in the Two Germanys Memory Exercises: Memory Exercises Unleashed: Top 12 Memory Exercises To Remember Work And Life In 24 Hours With The Definitive Memory Exercises Guide! (memory exercises, memory, brain training) NASTY NAZIS 2: NASTY NAZIS & NASTY NAZI BITCHES: 165 PULP MAGAZINE COVERS FEATURING NASTY NAZIS AND NASTY NAZI BITCHES DOING WHAT THEY DO BEST... Panzertruppen: The Complete Guide to the Creation & Combat Employment of Germanys Tank Force 1933-1942 (Schiffer military history) (v. 1) Trauma and Memory: Brain and Body in a Search for the Living Past: A Practical Guide for Understanding and Working with Traumatic Memory BRAIN: 51 Powerful Ways to Improve Brain Power, Enhance Memory, Intelligence and Concentration NATURALLY! (MEMORY, Memory Improvement, Learning, Brain Training) Quantum Memory: Learn to Improve Your Memory with The World Memory Champion! Two Boys, Divided by Fortune, United by Tragedy: A True Story of the Pursuit of Justice Teddy Bears Past and Present, Vol. 2 (Teddy Bears Past & Present) Past Life Regression: A Practical Guide To Understanding PLR - Learn How To Release Past Fear, Unlock Hidden Powers, & Gain Insight On Your Life's Purpose. ... Hypnosis, Death, Dreams, Spirituality) Letting Go of the Past: Hypnosis to Heal Your Life, Let Go of the Past and Move On via Relaxing Rain Hypnosis and Meditation Cooking for Two: 365 Days of Fast, Easy, Delicious Recipes for Busy People (Cooking for Two Cookbook, Slow Cooking for Two, Cooking for 2 Recipes) Verdi and/or Wagner: Two Men, Two Worlds, Two Centuries Pieces of the Past: A Stroll Down Jamaica's Memory Lane Total Memory Makeover: Uncover Your Past, Take Charge of Your Future Searching For Memory: The Brain, The Mind, And The Past The Art of Memory Forensics: Detecting Malware and Threats in Windows, Linux, and Mac Memory Small Memory Software: Patterns for systems with limited memory (Software Patterns Series) Nonvolatile Memory Technologies with Emphasis on Flash: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Using Flash Memory Devices Brain Training And Brain Games for Memory Improvement: Concentration and Memory Improvement Strategies with Mind Mapping (New for 2015)

[Dmca](#)