



## Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis

By Nicholas Stargardt

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**Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis** By Nicholas Stargardt

A groundbreaking study of what happened to children—of all nationalities and religions—living under the Nazi regime. Drawing on a wide range of new sources, *Witnesses of War* reveals the stories of life under the Third Reich as never before. As the Nazis overran Europe, children were saved or damned according to their race. Turning to an untouched wealth of original material—school assignments; juvenile diaries; letters; and even accounts of children's games—Nicholas Stargardt breaks stereotypes of victimhood and trauma to give us the gripping individual stories of the generation Hitler made.

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## Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis By Nicholas Stargardt Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

*Starred Review.* Handicapped German children taken from their families before WWII, girls of all nations raped by marauding soldiers, Jewish children shoved into ghettos: as Stargardt shows in this well-researched and horrific history, the lives of children were ravaged by Hitler's goals and the war he produced. Like Lynn Nicholas in her recent and also excellent *Cruel World: The Children of Europe in the Nazi Web*, Stargardt, a historian at Oxford, tells his story through the children's eyes using diaries and oral histories as well as other documentary sources. To be a child during the war, he notes, could be both easier and harder than it was to be an adult. Children often proved more resilient in overcoming physical and mental injuries. At the same time, they lacked the ability to directly express the pain that was haunting their dreams. Perhaps most unusual is Stargardt's illumination of how the Nazi regime affected German children, from those (who today would be called at-risk children) sent away to be "re-educated" to the idealized Hitler Youth sent to die in battle; it's a sharp and taut account of misery. 16 pages of b&w photos, 6 maps.

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From [Booklist](#)

*\*Starred Review\** First published in Great Britain in 2005, Stargardt's riveting account draws on original material from children's schoolwork, juvenile diaries, letters from evacuation camps, letters to fathers at the front, letters from reformatories and psychiatric asylums, children's artwork in the Jewish ghetto of Theresienstadt and German villages in the Black Forest, as well as adult accounts of children's games. The children include a Czech-Jewish boy in Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, a German teenager from East Prussia, two Jewish girls in the Warsaw ghetto, a German schoolgirl from a socialist family in Berlin, two teenage members of the Hitler Youth, and a Jewish boy in Lodz. Stargardt posits that as children's memories of Nazi Germany divided between those who remembered it as a time of normality and those who recalled it with fear and horror, the exact events they recollected mattered. He shows that at some point--as their parents broke down in the starving Jewish ghettos, or as they fled before the Red Army in the snows of 1945, or hid in cellars during bombing raids--many children shouldered premature responsibilities. Such dutifulness, Stargardt believes, tied them to their families, especially their mothers, long after they would normally have gone their own way. These touching stories provide a unique and important view of the Holocaust. With 16 pages of photographs and 60 pages of notes, a meticulously documented study. *George Cohen*  
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Review

"Impressive. . . . In comprehensively studying a population defined not by race, religion or nationality but by age, Stargardt has added considerably and imaginatively to the scholarship of the Holocaust and war." *—The Baltimore Sun*  
"Magnificent. . . . Stargardt is brilliant. . . . His great achievement is to touch us with the experiences of all these children." *—The Guardian (London)*  
"Stargardt tells this uncomfortable tale at its bitterest moment, from the point of view of the children who perished under Nazism or lived through it." *—The Washington Post Book World*  
"Illuminating. . . . *Witnesses of War* belongs on the bookshelf on anyone who purports to know the history of the 20th century. . . . An important contribution to the study of the war's psychological impact on children." *—Houston Chronicle*

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Shirley Akins:**

Hey guys, do you really want to find a new book to study? Maybe the book with the concept *Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis* suitable to you? The particular book was written by a famous writer in this era. The book *Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis* is a single of several books in which everyone reads now. This particular book has inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this e-book, you will enter the new age that you never knew just before. The author explained their thought in a simple way, so all of the people can easily comprehend the core of this e-book. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. In order to see the representation of the world in this book.

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#### **Kari Hughes:**

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