

Both Roosevelt and two generations of "mainstream" U.S. historians have agreed that Huey Long posed the most serious domestic fascist threat to the country. Yet Herzstein curiously dismisses the Louisiana senator and the "Share the Wealth" movement in a few paragraphs. Instead, he devotes greater attention to considerably lesser known American fascists such as George Van Horn Moseley and Joe McWilliams. Weakly arguing that prewar America "remained a strongly anti-Semitic country" (371), Herzstein terms FDR a "genius" for placing native fascists in a "Nazi ghetto" by associating them with the Third Reich.

The book's shortcoming is that it attempts to do too much. The effort at comparative biography is woefully incomplete. The description of the German dictator's distorted picture of America would have benefited from a review of *Hitler's Table Talk*, and more detail on how the average German viewed the U.S. would have been instructive. Listing dozens of secondary books, Herzstein's source notes constitutes one of the finest bibliographical compilations ever assembled on the U.S. and Nazi Germany, 1933-41. He references important primary materials, including captured documents from the *Auswärtiges Amt*, but there is no indication of his having consulted declassified State Department papers. Lastly, Herzstein offers an observation that defies logic: "Roosevelt's loathing for the whole National Socialist regime [sic], in evidence by 1933, cannot be found in Churchill's writings until 1940" (413). Maybe not in his (Churchill's) writings, but certainly in his many speeches.

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Ronald Smelser and Rainer Zitelmann, eds. *Die braune Elite: 22 biographische Skizzen*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1989. p. 323. Paper.

This volume of twenty-two short biographies of Nazi leaders edited by Ronald Smelser and Rainer Zitelmann is a most welcome addition to the literature on National Socialism. In contrast to Louis L. Snyder, *Hitler's Elite: Biographical Sketches of Nazis Who Shaped the Third Reich*, which also appeared in 1989, *Die Braune Elite* is a collection of essays by a group of international experts on the Third Reich's leadership. Almost two thirds of the book's biographies were written by thirteen scholars such as Alfred Kube, Josef Ackermann, and the editors themselves who have already published full-length biographies of the Nazis covered by their essays. The rest of the chapters were produced by specialists on the Third Reich who have published major works dealing with the Nazi organizations led by the subjects of their short biographies. This is only the first volume of a planned multivolume collection of interpretative biographies of Nazi leaders, and it will be translated and published in English.

In addition to chapters on Hitler, Hess, and Bormann, seven essays are devoted to leaders of major party and state organizations ranging from the German Labor Front to the Hitler Youth and Foreign Ministry. Four contributions deal with leading representatives of the SS and another four biographies review the careers of such "failures" as Ernst Röhm and the Strasser brothers. Fritz Todt, Albert Speer, Fritz Sauckel, and Hans Frank are also included in this volume. The biographies are thematic in nature with special emphasis on the impact and function of the individual Nazi leader on the Third Reich. The essays, which vary between nine and twenty (on Hitler) pages average twelve pages of text. Like the forthcoming *Research Guide to European Biography* (Beacham Press), each biography includes a brief but valuable discussion of the major source material and a review and evaluation of biographical works on that particular Nazi.

The editors conclude that the biographies confirm what we have long known about the importance of a Nazi leader's relationship with Hitler, the impact of World War I on the psychological and political development of Nazi activists, and the attempt by many of the Nazi elite to create a *Volksgemeinschaft* to overcome the alleged ills created by liberalism, Marxism, Jews, and bourgeois society. But Smelser and Zitelmann also find that the biographies modify many of our accepted views of the Nazi leaders. Anti-Semitism was not the categorical imperative for some Nazi leaders, and others including Goebbels, Frank, and Gottfried Feder did not initially flock to the Nazi movement because of their fears of Communism and Bolshevism. The biographies of Hitler and Robert Ley demonstrate clearly that Nazi leaders were not necessarily antimodernistic and that many other Nazis rejected the rural romanticism of Himmler. This book, which is aimed at general and undergraduate readers, will be indispensable for graduate students and teachers of modern German history.

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Donald M. McKale, ed. *Rewriting History: The Original and Revised World War II Diaries of Curt Prüfer, Nazi Diplomat*. Kent, Ohio: The Kent State University Press, 1988. Pp. 257. Cloth \$25.00.

Curt Prüfer was a minor German diplomat whose career, spanning some thirty-five years, ended for all intents and purposes as ambassador (second class) to Brazil from 1939 to 1942. Rio's break of relations with Germany in January 1942 occasioned Prüfer's return to Berlin. There he was given a number of assignments, which he himself described as meaningless, in a Foreign Office that no longer played any significant role in Hitler's conduct of German foreign policy. In November of the same year, Prüfer requested