The Meaning Of Sebastian Haffner

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The Meaning Of Sebastian Haffner
According to the curator of a controversial exhibit at the Jewish Museum of New York in 2002, the Israeli media had claimed that one of the artworks displayed turn[ed] the Holocaust into pornography ...

The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust
Sometime in the near future, you are possibly going to do something that might have been unthinkable a few months ago: You are going to go see a movie. Maybe it ll be a long-awaited reunion with ...

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97 Movies You ll Want to See This Summer
² In what follows, I discuss how we use the term pornography, often imperceptibly, to make cultural meaning out of increasing anxieties ... (pp. 106-134) Sebastian Haffner, a prominent German ...

In this succinct, fact-based, insightful analysis of Hitler and his impact on the world, Sebastian Haffner displays his skills as a first-class journalist and a student of German and modern European history. A keen psychologist, he describes the man, the politician, the ideologue, the military leader, the mass-murderer, and ultimately the traitor to his own (adopted) country. Mr Haffner ... has exposed better, and more briefly, than anyone else the clockwork of that infernal machine Gordon Brook-Shepherd, Sunday Telegraph Lucid, informative and provocative. Golo Mann, Der Spiegel Nothing I have read on the Third Reich has been as valuable as Sebastian Haffner s Meaning of Hitler Manfred Rommel, Stuttgarter Nachrichten a stimulating book, brilliant and rich in ideas; in short a masterpiece of historical essay writing. Joachim Fest, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung This study ... deserves the highest praise. There is nothing of this brevity and depth to inform the younger generation and give those who lived through the era food for thought. Peter Diehl-Thiele, Süddeutsche Zeitung He circumnavigates the Hitler phenomenon in order to illuminate it from seven different viewpoints, and that in under 200 lucid and precise pages without assuming any prior knowledge. Peter Graf Kielmansegg, Münchner Merkur not one more biography but an analysis - a most penetrating analysis - of what Hitler was up to in his astonishing career A.L. Rowse Sebastian Haffner s book already has received recognition ... as perhaps the best that has dealt with the phenomenon of Hitler and his impact on the 20th century. It is better than Trevor-Roper s best-seller, The Last Days of Hitler ... a most penetrating analysis of what Hitler was up to in his astonishing career. The New Republic Tough-minded evaluation of Hitler s career ... That this book was a best-seller in Germany [43 weeks] indicates that Haffner s countrymen welcomed this compact, lucid, hard-headed reexamination of contemporary history. Publishers Weekly Until [1991], as Sebastian Haffner wrote in his short, matchless book The Meaning of Hitler (1978), we had been living in the Europe which Hitler created for us: the split continent and the mutilated, divided Germany. Neal Ascherson, The Observer

Defying Hitler was written in 1939 and focuses on the year 1933, when, as Hitler assumed power, its author was a 25-year-old German law student, in training to join the German courts as a junior administrator. His book tries to answer two questions people have been asking since the end of World War II: How were the Nazis possible? and Why did no one stop them? Sebastian Haffner s vivid first-person account, written in real time and only much later discovered by his son, makes the rise of the Nazis psychologically comprehensible. An astonishing memoir... [a] masterpiece. Gabriel Schoenfeld, The New York Times Book Review A short, stabbing, brilliant book... It is important, first, as evidence of what one intelligent German knew in the 1930s about the unspeakable nature of Nazism, at a time when the overwhelming majority of his countrymen claim to have know nothing at all. And, second, for its rare capacity to reawaken anger about those who made the Nazis possible. Max Hastings, The Sunday Telegraph Defying Hitler communicates one of the most profound and absolute feelings of exile that any writer has gotten between covers. Charles Taylor, Salon Sebastian Haffner was Germany s political conscience, but it is only now that we can read how he experienced the Nazi terror himself that is a memoir of frightening relevance today. Heinrich Jaenicke, Stern The prophetic insights of a fairly young man... help us understand the plight, as Haffner refers to it, of the non-Nazi German. The Denver Post Sebastian Haffner s Defying Hitler is a most brilliant and imaginative book one of the most important books we have ever published. Lord Weidenfeld

Using his skills as a journalist, historian, and memoirist, Sebastian Haffner (author ofThe Meaning of Hitler) traces the development of the German Empire (1871-1945) and the central role of warfare that characterized the Reich. Haffner contends that Germany s unfavorable geographic position had much to do with the state s belligerence and that, from its inception, created the conflicts that culminated in two world wars. The fruit of decades of study, the moving and sometimes very personal testament of an author whose works more than any others have influenced public opinion and challenged academic historians. Die Zeit A brilliant work from the top hat of a powerful historical magician. Rudolf Augstein, Der Spiegel A thoroughly successful work. Wiener Tagblatt A book with more historical insights than a whole pile of learned volumes. Münchner Abendzeitung The history of the Third Reich in just 43 pages? Impossible to do more than discuss a few features superficially. But not with Sebastian Haffner. This brilliant thinker a journalist turned historian reveals the fundamental lines of development in a way that anyone can follow. The pages bristle with questions and unexpected answers. The 300 pages of The Ailing Empire contain more clever and original insights into German history between 1871 and 1945 than many a weighty tome. Dieter Wunderlich This illuminating survey by a German journalist focuses on the continuities and discontinuities of the modern German Reich ... Haffner argues that the founding of the state was never regarded as a climactic achievement but rather as a springboard for expansion, and that Germany s unfavorable geographic position had much to do with the state s armed belligerence. The author also contends that the Reich was self-destructive almost from the beginning, creating a host of enemies who brought it to its knees in two world wars and eventually divided it. He describes how Hitler accelerated the catastrophic finish of the Reich by inopportunely taking on both the Russians and Americans, then tried to turn military defeat into the annihilation of the German people with his Nero Directive of March 18-19, 1945. Publishers Weekly [The Ailing Empire] tells the story of yesterday s Germans who made today. It is a story Americans must understand. San-Diego Union Sebastian Haffner has written a book that traces the path of Germany s political self-destruction, and offers a realistic account of the war s real causes ... It is a highly readable analysis of the road from Bismarck to Hitler ... This book, based on many previously unpublished accounts, is a devastating portrait of human society. Chattanooga Times This is a highly readable analysis of German history over the last century. A long-time journalist, Haffner asserts that the foundations of the German Reich were an inadequate basis for a modern nation state and contained the seeds of its own destruction. Though lacking documentation, Haffner s first-hand recollections of the Nazi era are most interesting. Particularly noteworthy are his observations on daily life during the regime and his judgment regarding those literary and artistic antis who chose internal emigration within the Hitler state. Library Journal

A noted German journalist explains why Hitler's campaign to transform the crippled republic of the 1930s into a military and industrial power convinced Germans at all levels of society that he was the nation's savior

Sebastian Haffner regarded himself as a Prussian with a British passport. In this overview of Prussia s 170-year history as an independent state, he depicts Prussia s evolution from a sensational 18th century success story a state based on law, one of the first in Europe to its absorption into the Third Reich where the rule of law was the first thing that Hitler abolished. In this succinct and readable book, Haffner argues that Hitler s racial and nationality policy was the opposite of Prussia s and Hitler s political style, the very opposite of Prussian. In his short book The Rise and Fall of Prussia Haffner combines a critical examination with a declaration of love for a state which always lived beyond its means ... but which managed to combine material poverty with intellectual grandeur. Michael Stürmer,Welt am Sonntag Haffner sees Prussia s history as the 'tragedy of a purely rational state'. An agglomeration of arbitrary territories, it made a virtue of its artificiality, adapting to the enlightenment and then to romanticism, but finally also to nationalism, betraying the basis of its statehood and leading to its ultimate destruction. Chrisian Roth,Akademische Blätter Haffner long regarded himself as a 'Prussian with a British passport'. He identified with Prussia and its achievements: general compulsory schooling (1717), the abolition of torture (1740), the establishment of religious toleration (1740), Bismarck s welfare state (1883), the medical giants Virchow, Koch, von Behring, the intellectual giants Kant, von Humboldt and von Schlegel, and much more. At the end of his book he recounted the (often-ignored) expulsion of millions of Prussians from their homeland in 1945. 'It was an atrocity, the final atrocity of a war which had more than its share in atrocities, admittedly begun by Germany under Hitler.' His message is very relevant today, when he praises those expelled for rejecting revenge and having the courage to say, 'This is enough.' David Childs, The Independent

A noted German journalist explains why Hitler's campaign to transform the crippled republic of the 1930s into a military and industrial power convinced Germans at all levels of society that he was the nation's savior

The denial of the Holocaust has no more credibility than the assertion that the earth is flat. Yet there are those who insist that the death of six million Jews in Nazi concentration camps is nothing but a hoax perpetrated by a powerful Zionist conspiracy. Sixty years ago, such notions were the province of pseudohistorians who argued that Hitler never meant to kill the Jews, and that only a few hundred thousand died in the camps from disease; they also argued that the Allied bombings of Dresden and other cities were worse than any Nazi offense, and that the Germans were the true victims of World War II. For years, those who made such claims were dismissed as harmless cranks operating on the lunatic fringe. But as time goes on, they have begun to gain a hearing in respectable arenas, and now, in the first full-scale history of Holocaust denial, Deborah Lipstadt shows how despite tens of thousands of living witnesses and vast amounts of documentary evidence this irrational idea not only has continued to gain adherents but has become an international movement, with organized chapters, independent research centers, and official publications that promote a revisionist view of recent history. Lipstadt shows how Holocaust denial thrives in the current atmosphere of value-relativism, and argues that this chilling attack on the factual record not only threatens Jews but undermines the very tenets of objective scholarship that support our faith in historical knowledge. Thus the movement has an unsuspected power to dramatically alter the way that truth and meaning are transmitted from one generation to another.

A teenage boy struggles to adjust to the changes in his life when his father dies suddenly and he loses the girl he loves.

In this book written in early 1940 in England, Sebastian Haffner, a recent refugee from Nazi Germany, analyzed Hitler, the Nazis, the German population, and German émigrés. His purpose was to help the Allies wage psychological warfare against Nazi Germany, to correct misconceptions about the Nazi regime, and to outline the foundation of future peace in Europe. Sebastian Haffner's book is unmatched as a contemporary analysis of the Third Reich. It is quite remarkable that, writing in 1940, he could produce such acute insights into Hitler s character and political hold over Germany Ian Kershaw ... excellent analysis of Germany's ills ... Deutschland, Deutschland, über Alles, according to [Haffner], is no mere musical fantasy but a national mania, a fixation, which is driving the nation, not as some imagine, to a great and noble destiny, but to damnation ... This is a particularly penetrating study of a phenomenon whose like history has, perhaps, not ever been seen before. The New York Times (August 1941) Haffner's clear-sighted analysis, applied mainly to the dissection of his fellow Germans, also annihilates any claim by his contemporaries not to have known about Nazi crimes. The nature of Hitler's regime, he says, was well understood; all that is open to debate is the eagerness with which it was supported ... Apocryphally, Churchill told his cabinet to read this book so that they would understand the Nazi threat. We should do likewise to understand how close we came to ignoring it. The Observer clear-sighted and perspicacious ... This brilliant journalist shows that it was possible to see and to hear and to draw one s conclusions if one only had the will. Süddeutsche Zeitung An alarm call trying to awaken the British to the unique nature of Hitler and the Nazi regime ... Remarkably prescient J. G. Ballard A powerful and sustained text ... it explodes with rhetorical fireworks. Haffner produces a convincing picture of the Nazis, their numbers, their power and the destructive nihilism that united them Giles MacDonogh, BBC History

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