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Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich

David Irving

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David Irving : Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The True Portrayal of the Man and his TimeBy MarkIn Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich, David Irving brings his considerable research to bear in order to produce another unique work of true history. Unlike his peers, Irving does not recycle material by secondary sources but conducts original research on his own, being the first ever to read the microfilms of Goebbels's diaries after having been bought by Irving from the recently opened (at the time) Soviet archives. Irving conducts interviews with the persons present at the time, compiles the testimony from their own diaries, and weaves it all together into a unique presentation that other authors cannot match.Goebbels emerges from Irving's work as a diligent, hard-working propaganda master who very much was the behind-the-scenes mastermind of the Third Reich. We see Goebbels rise to the top while destroying the reputation of "Isidor;" we see Goebbels struggle with his eternal conflict with women; we see Goebbels trying to find favor with Hitler while trying to discredit his rivals. In this way, Goebbels will by no means strike us a perfect or even a great man, but as a very human man, warts and all. While Goebbels certainly doesn't strike me as "evil" in any way, he certainly has many faults and Irving balances it all brilliantly. I heavily annotated this book and it will remain one of my primary references for this man and this period.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book but new edition is better and much less expensiveBy WinterWell researched and well written. This book as been reprinted by Focal Point Publications so one can buy new hardcover ones for \$50 plus shipping. New edition is an

improvement over the first edition with better print quality and new photographs. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. *Mastermind of the Third Reich In Intimate Detail* By John Thames David Irving's biography of the Reich propaganda minister is a fascinating study. Based on the Goebbels' diaries uncovered in Moscow the biography shows the skills and willpower of a man who was a true fighter. His pre-rise to power tussle with Bernhard "Isidore" Weiss, the Berlin deputy chief of police, was a harbinger of things to come. Goebbels was a master of prose, as many of his historically literate and extremely devastating replies to the hypocrites in London demonstrate. As he once phrased it, the British Empire had a history that was "more than dubious". Indeed, several of Goebbels' mocking commentaries on the English seem very reminiscent of Senator Gerald P. Nye's famous speech "Agression Builds the British Empire". Goebbels also had a very sentimental, artistic side, as shown by his infatuation with Veit Harlan's film, "Opfergang", starring Soderberg's wife, the Swedish actress, Christina Soderberg. Goebbels was so fascinated by it that he constantly delayed, and redelayed, its release to the German public. Goebbels' affair with Lida Barovva was never consummated, according to Miss Barovva herself. Of course, Goebbels was ruthless toward the Jews. He despised them, not merely for the usual reasons but also because of their destruction of his journalistic career. As to his famous comment on liquidating the Jews on the eastern front, that was a prognostication of the early part of the Russian campaign, a prognostication that clearly did not come entirely true, given the huge numbers of Jewish commissars in Eastern Europe after the war. Goebbels was a very gifted organizer and did fine work in raising soldiers for the German war effort later in the conflict. Joseph Goebbels certainly did despise the Jews, like many people of the day. He was a liar for the Nazi regime but usually managed to tell more truth than his rivals in London, Paris and Washington. Not always a pleasant man, Joseph Goebbels needs to be read and reread. Like the Devil himself, he was "learned in quoting scripture".

An in-depth biography of Nazi Germany's master of propaganda draws on thousands of pages from Goebbels' personal journals to describe the life of Hitler's confidant, his role in Nazi Germany, his hatred for the human race, and his death.

From Publishers Weekly This is a repellent book, and not only because of its subject. Irving (Goering) has been increasingly under fire for exploiting seemingly indefatigable research to distort history. In the book in hand, he uses enough pejoratives to sustain the illusion of objectivity regarding Hitler's propaganda chief, yet suggests that the admittedly bad man had a cause not entirely bad in itself. Nazi brutality is almost always retaliation for the plots of international Jewry and the criminality of domestic Jews. Even the books notoriously burned are "decadent and anti-German." The term *Redakteur* (editor) "to Goebbels' sensitive ear had a Jewish ring." Protesters in Saarbrücken are "a clamoring ragbag of communists, Jews, freemasons and disgruntled emigres." There is always, in Irving's own words, a "Jewish problem" that Goebbels struggles to solve. Much of the book, heavily indebted to the self-serving Goebbels diaries, is in such a vein. There seems always to be an agenda to Irving's documentation, and the language of camouflaged admiration suffuses his pages amidst his ritual scolding of the Nazis for their excesses. The real insidiousness of the biography is that its formidable documentation will gain it acceptance as history. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This latest work by Irving (*Goering: A Biography*, LJ 3/1/89) depends heavily on Goebbels' diaries and related papers. Unfortunately, the diaries are boring. Goebbels devoted much of his journal to describing his emotions (banal), love life (promiscuous), and marriage (dysfunctional). At its best, this aspect of the book is keyhole history. Far more troubling is Irving's general approach to the history of the Third Reich. He takes pains to insist periodically upon his distaste for Goebbels' Nazi extremism, but to describe Hitler as "less radical on the Jewish question" in 1942 than was Goebbels is to deny reality. Paradigmatic as well is Irving's insistence that Goebbels' vicious attacks on Jews in the 1930s were in response to the "hysteria" generated by the foreign press, the Comintern, and such dangerous "Jewish" organizations as the World League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism. In contrast, Irving offers no new evidence establishing Goebbels as the Reich's "mastermind." He neglects such important subjects as the sources of Goebbels' anti-Semitism, his development of the theories and techniques of mass propaganda, and his role as wartime Gauleiter of Berlin. Ralf Reuth's *Goebbels* (Harcourt, 1993) offers readers a more balanced approach. [For a discussion of the controversy surrounding the publication of this book, see "To Buy or Not To Buy?" p. 70.]?Dennis E. Showalter, Colorado Coll., Colorado Spring.-?Dennis E. Showalter, Colorado Coll., Colorado Springs Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA ponderous, tedious, and scurrilously misleading biography of a major Nazi leader--by a fellow traveler, if not a card-carrying member, of the movement of Holocaust denial. With access to some 75,000 pages of Goebbels' diaries, which had long been spirited away in Soviet archives, British author Irving (*Goering: A Biography*, 1989; *Hitler's War*, 1977; etc.) had the unprecedented opportunity to gain insight into the mind of Hitler's minister of propaganda. Instead, Irving inundates the reader with the personal foibles (including amorous liaisons and a love for cars) of a rather mediocre intellect and with a blizzard of details that, along some selective omissions, obscure the truth rather than shed light on it. Some of the details insinuate that the Jews brought on themselves such events as Kristallnacht; others seek to rehabilitate Hitler's reputation. Whatever happened to the Jews in WW II (and Irving

doesn't state clearly what did happen) was the doing of Goebbels and Hitler's other henchmen. ``Goebbels was the motor, goading his reluctant Fhrer into ever more radical actions against the Jews." And: ``Neither the broad German public nor their Fhrer shared his [Goebbels's] satanic antisemitism." (For a different view of the German people, see a genuinely revisionist piece of history, Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's Hitler's Willing Executioners, p. 195.) Irving lectures for the Institute for Historical , a center of Holocaust denial in this country, and has been banned from entering Germany and Canada, among other countries, because of his Holocaust denial. But here Irving is more cunning than to blatantly state that there were no gas chambers at Auschwitz. He simply says that the death camp was ``the most brutal of all Himmler's slave-labor camps and the one with the highest mortality rate"--glossing over the corpses and the memory of 6,000,000 dead. These twisted interpretations of the leader of the Third Reich and his crimes do not deserve to be called history. (Military History Book Club main selection) -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.