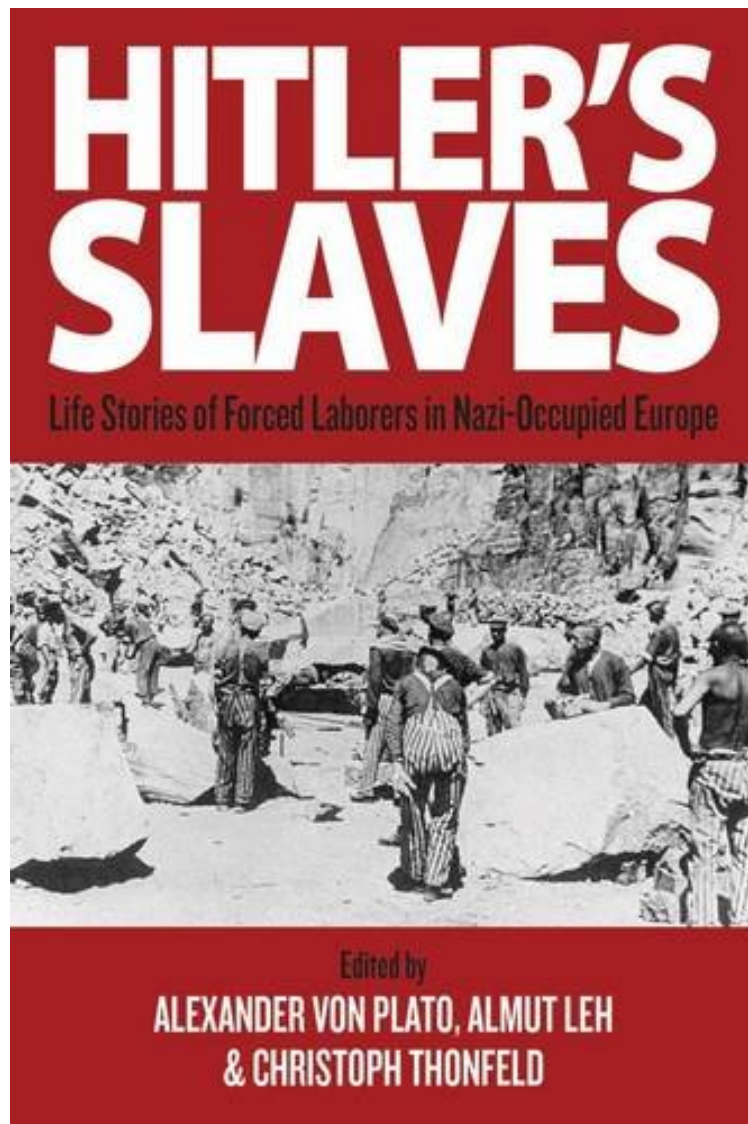


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# Hitler's Slaves: Life Stories of Forced Labourers in Nazi-Occupied Europe

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**From Berghahn Books :** **Hitler's Slaves: Life Stories of Forced Labourers in Nazi-Occupied Europe** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler's Slaves: Life Stories of Forced Labourers in Nazi-Occupied Europe:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Rating This Is Difficult. By PeterI purchased this book expecting a good history of the role slave labor played in Germany in WW2. It is basically an academic research paper and is

formatted as such which offers numerous charts and statistical information. Each case study, or what what I would call a person who was a slave laborer, is given a page or two to reveal his/her experience. The book is divided into chapters that feature a different country whose populace had to provide slave labor. The book explains in detail the numerous circumstances where one could find themselves being eligible for selection as slave labor. A short list of examples would be POW's, political prisoners, criminals, those subject to military discipline, or enemies of the Reich which includes homosexuals, communists, or people of certain religions. It should be noted that the interviews of these victims takes place rather recently so those who share their stories ONLY reflect the experience of a young person. The work reads more like a narrow research paper than a comprehensive historical book that illuminates the subject of slave labor in Nazi Germany. Those looking for a much broader view about how slave labor fit into the larger scheme of the war and its effects on German military capabilities will have to go elsewhere or be prepared to be disappointed if seeking it here.

During World War II at least 13.5 million people were employed as forced labourers in Germany and across the territories occupied by the German Reich. Most came from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia, the Baltic countries, France, Poland and Italy. Among them were 8.4 million civilians working for private companies and public agencies in industry, administration and agriculture. In addition, there were 4.6 million prisoners of war and 1.7 million concentration camp prisoners who were either subjected to forced labour in concentration or similar camps or were 'rented out' or sold by the SS. While there are numerous publications on forced labour in National Socialist Germany during World War II, this publication combines a historical account of events with the biographies and memories of former forced labourers from twenty-seven countries, offering a comparative international perspective.

About the Author Alexander von Plato is a historian and the former Director of the Institute for History and Biography at the University of Hagen (Germany). He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna, the Director of the International Life Story Project on Forced Labourers during WW II, and the Secretary of the International Oral History Association. His many publications include books and films on mentality history, focusing particularly on National Socialism, World War II, and German reunification. Almut Lehis is a historian and Research Fellow at the Institute for History and Biography at the University of Hagen (Germany) and co-editor of BIOS Zeitschrift für Biographieforschung, Oral History und Lebensverlaufsanalysen. She also is a council member of the International Oral History Association and has published on German history since 1945 and the methodology of oral history. Christoph Thonfeld is a historian and language teacher and is currently Assistant Professor of German language and culture at Cheng Chi University in Taipei, Taiwan. He is also researching forced labourers' memories of WW II in an internationally comparative perspective. He is co-editor of the periodical WerkstattGeschichte.