

Zitierhinweis

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Mehrere Dutzend Fotos bereichern den Band, sind aber mitunter ohne genauere Erklärungen eingefügt (S. 43). Alles in allem bietet der ansprechend gestaltete Sammelband einen guten ersten Überblick über die mit den NS-Verbrechen in Ostmitteleuropa verflochtene Zwangsarbeit in Leipzig.

Marburg

Klaus-Peter Friedrich

Ruth Schwertfeger: A Nazi Camp near Danzig. Perspectives on Shame and on the Holocaust from Stutthof. Bloomsbury Academic. London u. a. 2022. XVI, 255 S., Ill., Kt. ISBN 978-1-3502-7403-7. (€ 109,64.)

Ruth Schwertfeger's study emphasizes the significance of recognizing the secluded Stutthof concentration camp in the history of Nazi camps in order to expand one's understanding of the Holocaust. Also known for her work on women in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, the author exhibits a keen eye for often-overlooked aspects of Holocaust scholarship. The book delves into the history of Stutthof, located near Danzig (Gdańsk). Moreover, it aims to shed light on the significance of "Germandom" in the region as it relates to the establishment of Stutthof, its role in the Holocaust, and its evacuation and legacy in contemporary society. The author incorporates thought-provoking writings by the German author Günter Grass, who depicted the socio-political realities in Danzig. Using Grass's works in this unique approach, the author aims to display the implications or "infection" of Germandom in Danzig.

In the introduction, Sch. sheds light on the ways in which shame is manifested in Danzig in the form of silence and subsequently explains the neglect of the Stutthof camp. She argues that Stutthof, which was established in August 1939, should be recognized as a historical landmark since it was the first Nazi camp outside Germany's borders. The first chapter, entitled "Promoting German-Consciousness in a Revamped Gau, 1930–9", explores the role of *Gauleiter* Albert Forster in the transformation of Danzig into a miniature Germany. As tensions heightened, the widespread consensus regarding the Jewish people of Danzig was that they should leave the region as soon as possible. Forster, along with Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels, weaponized political turmoil to bolster ideas of a purely German Danzig. The chapter also incorporates Grass's portrayal of opposition in his work by discussing the role of political power in destroying ordinary civilians. In his work *Hundejahre*, Grass notes that ideas of race and ethnicity became central to his interpretation of clashing ideologies (p. 31.)

The second chapter focuses on the establishment of the Stutthof concentration camp. Sch. writes about how the "Third Reich" promoted German consciousness and shares a nuanced perspective of World War II by underlining its impact on the chances of survival in Stutthof. She examines the conditions in the camp and the treatment of prisoners, including Germans and non-Germans.

The next tier of Germandom in Stutthof is discussed in the third chapter, which examines the role of the guards in Stutthof, assigned from the SS, who developed a rapport with German-speaking prisoners. This consequently aided in the perpetuation of Germandom by utilizing cultural and linguistic ties in Danzig. The chapter also incorporates personal narratives from the camp and discusses its impact on the Nazi war effort.

In the fourth chapter, the author tells of how Stutthof became the primary camp for Nazi Germany, resulting in the mass relocation of prisoners from camps such as Auschwitz and Kaiserwald. The summer of 1944 saw the arrival of the Hungarian Jews in the Baltic states, prisoners who were already worn down by their experiences in previous camps.

In the fifth chapter, the author analyzes the downfall of Nazism through the lens of the Stutthof camp. Sch. discusses the events leading up to the liberation of Stutthof as well as the experience of prisoners towards the end of the war. The author provides a nuanced perspective of the Nazis' downfall, examining the events leading up to the liberation of

Stutthof as well as the experience of prisoners towards the end of the war. The chapter focuses on Stutthof survivors, shining a spotlight on their hardships and exposing the conditions of the camp during its final days. The epilogue reflects on the aftermath of the Third Reich's demise and the subsequent evacuation of the camp. It further discusses the narratives of survivors and the potential for reconciliation in the post-war period. The work ends by highlighting the importance of recognizing the role Stutthof played in the history of Nazi camps and the Holocaust.

This work serves as a reminder that while scholarship on the topic has increased in the past two decades, the Holocaust in Poland is a critical component of the study of the "Third Reich". It attributes the gap in the literature to stereotyping, which led to the subsequent neglect of lived experiences and the history of Stutthof. Sch. addresses this issue in the introductory remarks where she highlights the recent decision by the PiS government to penalize people for referring to Nazi camps in the country as "Polish camps" (p. 10). As such, the author's work demonstrates that readers will benefit from these in-depth studies of Poland's role in World War II, as it further facilitates a well-rounded discussion of Holocaust studies. This book helps emphasize Stutthof as a place of not only antisemitism but also anti-Polish violence. Furthermore, the author exposes an increasingly critical aspect of the history of World War II, which is that of propaganda bombardment. Ideas of Germandom, coupled with the constant villainization of the "Jewish Bolshevik," drastically impacted the political climate in Danzig. As the author notes, the Danzigers in the 1930s felt that the Poles wanted to suppress the region economically because of a hatred of Germany. To conclude, the book insightfully exemplifies the consequences that occurred when economic and political turmoil clashed with the weaponization of instability through propaganda.

Toronto

Susan Samardjian

„Euthanasie“-Verbrechen im besetzten Europa. Zur Dimension des nationalsozialistischen Massenmords. Hrsg. von Jörg Osterloh, Jan Erik Schulte und Sybille Steinbacher. (Studien zur Geschichte und Wirkung des Holocaust, Bd. 6.) Wallstein. Göttingen 2022. 391 S. ISBN 978-3-8353-5076-2. (€ 38,-)

"Euthanasia," or the killing of individuals with psychiatric or other disabilities and illnesses, in countries under Nazi occupation is hardly a lacuna of research, yet no comparative or comprehensive studies exist. This collection goes a long way toward remedying the issue, bringing together research by many of the foremost scholars on the various countries and regions. As space limitations here prevent a detailed evaluation of the contents of the entire book, this review will focus on those chapters that cover material for which limited research is available in the English language.

For occupied Poland, Robert Parzer addresses different agents involved in processes that resulted in only 7,000 psychiatric patients surviving the various "euthanasia" actions that were carried out in Poland during the war. Such actions, P. shows, did not always reflect the dichotomy of German killers and Polish victims who became part of Polish collective memory. Certain eugenic ideas, especially concerning the sterilization of individuals considered eugenically inferior, had already gained a foothold in Poland before the German occupation and may help explain the involvement, if not participation, of medical personnel and institutional administrators in various killing actions—especially those whose ethnic background could not, at least initially, easily be classified as either fully Polish or fully German. It was this fluidity in identity, based on German racial and ethnic categorization, P. suggests, that may have pushed these individuals toward taking a role in "euthanasia" actions in opportune times if it advanced their social standing or prevented the loss thereof by assuming a German ethnic identity. This does not change the fact, as P. makes equally clear, that the German occupiers' engagement with Polish psychiatric institutions and their patients was extraordinarily barbaric and destructive. The chapter by Jan