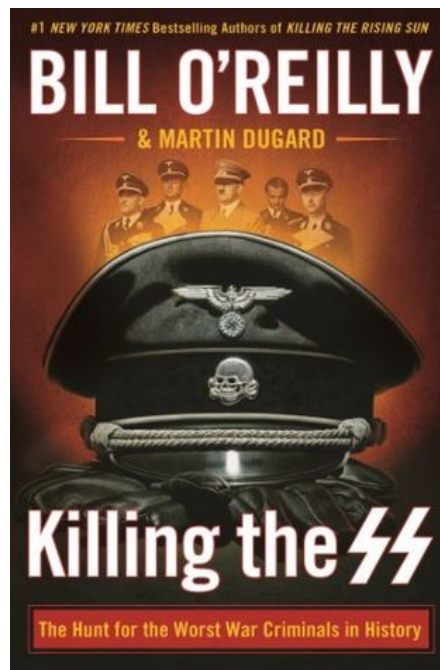




Killing the SS: The Hunt for the Worst War Criminals in History

Bill O'Reilly , Martin Dugard

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Confronting Nazi evil is the subject of the latest installment in the mega-bestselling *Killing* series

As the true horrors of the Third Reich began to be exposed immediately after World War II, the Nazi war criminals who committed genocide went on the run. A few were swiftly caught, including the notorious SS leader, Heinrich Himmler. Others, however, evaded capture through a sophisticated Nazi organization designed to hide them. Among those war criminals were Josef Mengele, the "Angel of Death" who performed hideous medical experiments at Auschwitz; Martin Bormann, Hitler's brutal personal secretary; Klaus Barbie, the cruel "Butcher of Lyon"; and perhaps the most awful Nazi of all: Adolf Eichmann.

Killing the SS is the epic saga of the espionage and daring waged by self-styled "Nazi hunters." This determined and disparate group included a French husband and wife team, an American lawyer who served in the army on D-Day, a German prosecutor who had signed an oath to the Nazi Party, Israeli Mossad agents, and a death camp survivor. Over decades, these men and women scoured the world, tracking down the SS fugitives and bringing them to justice, which often meant death.

Written in the fast-paced style of the *Killing* series, *Killing the SS* will educate and stun the reader.

The final chapter is truly shocking.

Killing the SS: The Hunt for the Worst War Criminals in History Details

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From Reader Review Killing the SS: The Hunt for the Worst War Criminals in History for online ebook

W. Nolan says

Fascinating read

I was somehow expecting a book about the SS during WWII. Instead, it is a book about the hunting down of SS war criminals after the war. As usual, very well written.

Linda Lipko says

A difficult book to read, not only because of the subject matter, but because of the poor writing. The book outlines the notorious Nazi war criminals. In detail, the authors outline the horror and sheer barbarity done to helpless Jews at the hands of men and women. Josef Mengele performed incredibly painful tests of bodies. He had a particular penchant for twins. Klaus Barbie and Adolf Eichmann, both high on the chain of those who not only followed Hitler's rules, but made some of their own along the way.

The good guys are those who years after the pain of the death and torture of their family members could not be forgotten, systematically went after, hunted down the scum of what was the Nazi killing machine.

Reading through the book, but mid-way, I was weary of the writing. Yet, no matter how many times I am read of a world gone mad, like many, I wonder about the souls of these people. How is it they felt justified in killing the innocent. Even on trial, they claimed innocence because they merely were following the orders of others.

Bobbie says

As with all the Killing books, this was great reading. It's amazing how long the hunt for Nazis has continued

Licha says

This one was heartbreaking. So much is written about the atrocities of WWII but it doesn't lessen the horror or the sadness of it. So many victims, it's hard to think of the losses. People losing complete families, sometimes right in front of their eyes. There's a story here where a young man was forced to place bodies of the deceased into ditches. He managed to do this for some months before one day he recognized the body of his sister as one of the bodies he had to place in the ditch.

O'Reilly and Dugard don't spare any details. It's a graphic read. I think this is necessary. No one must ever be spared how ugly war is. Reading about some of these Nazi officials, I had a hard time grasping just how evil they could be. They felt no remorse and pled not guilty when going through trial because they were following orders. Did compassion ever play a role in what they made people suffer? Did their sense of humanity click on and tell them they weren't just killing people in mass but they also seemed to enjoy being

sadistic to their victims?

It's sad that many of the Nazis got away with murder, never getting punished by the law. I can only wonder if they slept restless nights.

QUOTES:

ch. 17, p. 189*A jailer who was once an inmate at Auschwitz, where he was forced to operate the ovens that burned the bodies of murdered Jews, has been given the task of incinerating Eichmann. One of the observers is [Michael Goldman-Gilad] who still bears the telltale tattoo given to all Auschwitz prisoners. It was once his job to spread ashes of the dead on icy Auschwitz walkways in the winter to prevent the SS guards from slipping on the slick paths.*

ch. 18, p. 194*In an effort to entertain [SS leader Heinrich Himmler], the camp guards engaged in an activity they liked to call Fallschirmspringen--parachute jumping. [Simon] Wiesenthal bore witness to the sight of more than one thousand Dutch Jews being thrown over the edge of a quarry, falling 165 feet to their deaths.*

ch. 18, p. 195, footnote*[While in concentration camp], Cyla Wiesenthal became separated from her husband. Afterward, she wrote to a lawyer friend asking him to help locate her husband's remains. Coincidentally, Wiesenthal had also written to the same lawyer with a similar request that he help find his wife's body. Thus, the two were reunited. When they calculated how many members of their immediate families had survived the war, they were shattered to find that the answer was none. In all, eighty-nine of their relatives had been murdered.*

ch. 19, p. 200, footnote*There is no accurate count of how many were shot and killed trying to cross the wall into West Berlin, but the figure is thought to be somewhere between 180 and 200. On the other hand, the number of individuals shot trying to escape into East Berlin is well known: zero.*

Robin Case says

Page turner, I finished in one sitting.

H.C. Harrington says

O'Reilly fails to bring anything new to the readers in this rehashing of post-WW2 Nazi hunting.

At points, the writing is stiff and the characters lack unique space. Essentially, we are dealing with a flat story.

Sara says

A riveting page-turner from beginning to end with important history that needs to be known. Great book!

Debra Jeakins says

KILLING THE SS:THE HUNT FOR THE WORST WAR CRIMINALS IN HISTORY BY BILL O'REILLY & MARTIN DUGARD is the latest in Mr.O'Reilly's "killing" series. This time his focus is on four of the worst and most notorious war criminals in WWII : Adolf Eichmann, the German who coordinated and organized the "Final Solution" resulting in the deaths of millions of Jews. Martin Bormann, Hitler's right hand man and official successor as leader of the Reich . Klaus Barbie SS and Gestapo , who tortured and killed countless adults and children in France to gather intelligence. Josef Mengele, the Angel of Death. Countless horrific experiments were conducted by him. These men & several women are considered among the worst of the worst. We read in the book about how these men and women operated and the atrocities that they committed during WWII on not only Jews but Gypsies, homosexuals and special needs people. We read how Mossad, Israel's newly formed spy network tracked down and brought to trial most of these people. We follow the Nazi Hunters, the Jewish and non Jewish citizens took and used their skills and other people's skills and knowledge to track these people down.

This is a very graphic book, but history has shown us that the Nazi's were not a very nice people. They were monsters and they tortured and murdered millions of men, women and children, some of them , fortunately are still alive today. This is HISTORY & this book takes the Holocaust and puts it out there for all to see.

As with all of Mr.O'Reilly's "(killing) books, the book has been greatly researched and put together very well and very organized. I am a huge fan of history and Mr.O'Reilly and Mr.Dugard have put together another great book of people, places and events in a manner that is very organized and very informative in a format that makes you start the book and not stop till you have finished reading the credits! Another excellent book!

Greg Kopstein says

I'm far from an O'Reilly fanatic, but I have read all of his Killing series installments. I've liked them all so this one was a no-brainer for me. I got through it in 3 days - it was that engaging. It takes a lot to earn 5 stars from me, and I'm not so sure this was a slam-dunk 5, but it achieved all its goals, was well researched and engaging, so 5 stars it is.

This book guides us on a hunt across time, continents, and even oceans in our quest for the fanatical Nazi killers - The SS. I'm no expert, but I am informed on the topic, but this book taught me a lot. It was captivating and informative, a rare combination.

I suggest following this book with the films below:

Operation Finale (2018)
Operation Anthropoid
Valkyrie (2008)
Defiance (2008)
Conspiracy

And a dozen other films that parallel this topic.

Engaging, informative, and another great installment in this series.

Sotiris Makrygiannis says

1/3 of the book is related to the capture of 1 war criminal the rest is about how SS escaped to Latin America. How far right leaders protected them down there, including the Peron that looks like that used his wife Eva Peron to throw ashes to public eyes (need to study this more). Funnily, Hitler fired Himmler for some reason and covers a bit how was captured. Mossad operations and the "Avengers", the dilemmas between the Jewish community of what is a good Jew and if they should forgive them. Looks like that they didn't and the hunt is still on

Jonathan David Botchlett says

Bill O'Reilly and his lesser known co-author manages to write history in a very easy to read way that is great for those who aren't professional historians. This latest book covers the post World War II era of Nazi hunting, and while the book reveals no new revelations it is still quite good and well researched. Unfortunately, the book lacks the countdown page turning quality of his books like Killing Kennedy or Killing Lincoln. Still, all in all, I'd highly recommended this book to those interested in World War II history.

Christina DeVane says

Wow, just wow!! SOO much history that I never knew happened!! Such an intriguing read it was hard to put down! Catching head SS leaders went on for decades, and some Nazis probably still live today! -crazy! There were just so many amazing stories I can't begin to describe! It's frustrating to learn that so many Nazis got away, but all of them will stand before the ultimate Judge! Highly recommend for everyone!! I think these parts of history are important to learn, not just about the war itself.

Barbara Salamon says

An excellent book

I have read all of the "killing" books, all excellent. This one does not disappoint, read it in a day. Although it jumps around a bit, it is still easy to follow. A must read for all school children, this history MUST not be forgotten, for fear of it happening again with any group of people. Can't wait for next book.....

Jeanette says

So many decades- so much time since WWII and still the repercussions of "search" continue. They do. If only now to skeleton and DNA materials for evidence.

This is history. And the realistic outcomes and events that have happened continually since the ends of 1944/1945 with the collapse of the main NAZI party structure/ army in Berlin itself. The telling is often in flashback fashion too to encompass witness "eyes" for/to acts and processes either being persecuted by these

sadists or for their hunting to find them (perpetrators) again.

Because I lived some of this in real time in my everyday news, like the kidnap, trial of Eichmann (watched this entirety with my Dad telling me his own Trieste camp experiences on TV when it was a dinky little black and white screened box)- much of this was just more detailing to me. I knew the outcomes. But still it is so, so much more than just the more infamous names of SS or Himmler or Barbie or Eichmann. Dozens and dozens that held these levels of common knowledge atrocity habits. It's all the names we, alive at the times of most of these searches (1945-1980 for most of them)- did NOT recognize as being monsters from the surname nomenclatures. So, so many that were know by their "beast" names and not their civilian names. Or who threaded themselves within other names and professions almost immediately and hiked west away from the Russians' brutality in Germany proper itself- the final conquest.

Barbie too, I remember all of that aftermath. And how long he got to be just "a guy". Mengele too. Even having another son after the war and an entire new life!!

For those of you born much later and especially since 1990- you should read this book. Know how the ratlines worked and how many lived to be 80 and 90 years old in South America, especially Argentina and Brazil. Most of them in a highly German cultural context society too. And how some of the very worst of these were CIA attached and had help for the "insights" and knowledge that they could convey to "our" side against the Russians. Tit for tat. Even with the devil.

And you will learn about the people who spent great portions of their lives being the "seekers" and what that encompassed. Nearly everything to trace and go undercover. To befriend a possible "son" in order to find any possible real time address. Much more.

The women guards called "Raven's" - those were the ones I had heard the least amount as to "aftermath".

Nearly half of these men got out of Europe through Genoa, Italy under various help from the organizations (ODESSA and others) that enabled new names, passports and all kinds of false identity particulars.

How ironic is it that some of the worst, like Bormann, lived to be old men. And never tasted a bit of the justice or recompense that they deserved. IF SUCH a entity would even be possible.

The present tense O'Reilly telling of habit makes it dry. And the atrocity description is considerable. Terrible, terrible. Never to be forgotten.

Much of the tale of Israel- from English days to far, far after 1948 birth- it is included.

Tons of references and there is an excellent "aftermath" section for this century by name of searcher and/or descendant or perp "location/grave" at the ending of the book.

One of the last thoughts for me. Nuremberg didn't begin to do any equivalency for "trials". And the numbers and sentences were both a drop in the bucket to what they could have been. Citing the state of Europe and the masses of DP's (Displaced Persons)- it was still far, far from being a sufficient balance.

Deborah Young says

Great Read!!!

This is a spell-binder! Very interesting read. I didn't want to put it down. O'Reilly has done an excellent job researching this book.
