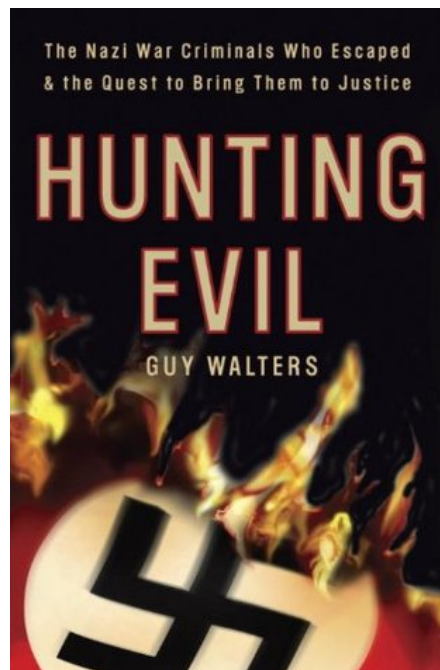




Hunting Evil: The Nazi War Criminals Who Escaped and the Quest to Bring Them to Justice

Guy Walters

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Already acclaimed in England as "first-rate" (*The Sunday Times*); "a model of meticulous, courageous and path-breaking scholarship" (*Literary Review*); and "absorbing and thoroughly gripping... deserves a lasting place among histories of the war." (*The Sunday Telegraph*), *Hunting Evil* is the first complete and definitive account of how the Nazis escaped and were pursued and captured -- or managed to live long lives as fugitives.

At the end of the Second World War, an estimated 30,000 Nazi war criminals fled from justice, including some of the highest ranking members of the Nazi Party. Many of them have names that resonate deeply in twentieth-century history -- Eichmann, Mengele, Martin Bormann, and Klaus Barbie -- not just for the monstrosity of their crimes, but also because of the shadowy nature of their post-war existence, holed up in the depths of Latin America, always one step ahead of their pursuers. Aided and abetted by prominent people throughout Europe, they hid in foreboding castles high in the Austrian alps, and were taken in by shady Argentine secret agents. The attempts to bring them to justice are no less dramatic, featuring vengeful Holocaust survivors, inept politicians, and daring plots to kidnap or assassinate the fugitives.

In this exhaustively researched and compellingly written work of World War II history and investigative reporting, journalist and novelist Guy Walters gives a comprehensive account of one of the most shocking and important aspects of the war: how the most notorious Nazi war criminals escaped justice, how they were pursued, captured or able to remain free until their natural deaths and how the Nazis were assisted while they were on the run by "helpers" ranging from a Vatican bishop to a British camel doctor, and even members of Western intelligence services. Based on all new interviews with Nazi hunters and former Nazis and intelligence agents, travels along the actual escape routes, and archival research in Germany, Britain, the United States, Austria, and Italy, *Hunting Evil* authoritatively debunks much of what has previously been understood about Nazis and Nazi hunters in the post war era, including myths about the alleged "Spider" and "Odessa" escape networks and the surprising truth about the world's most legendary Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal.

From its haunting chronicle of the monstrous mass murders the Nazis perpetrated and the murky details of their postwar existence to the challenges of hunting them down, *Hunting Evil* is a monumental work of nonfiction written with the pacing and intrigue of a thriller.

From the Hardcover edition.

Hunting Evil: The Nazi War Criminals Who Escaped and the Quest to Bring Them to Justice Details

Date : Published (first published February 1st 2005)

ISBN :

Author : Guy Walters

Format : Kindle Edition 538 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, World War II, Holocaust, War, Historical

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From Reader Review Hunting Evil: The Nazi War Criminals Who Escaped and the Quest to Bring Them to Justice for online ebook

Leonard Romney says

Well researched. Hard to read. Depressing because of how little interest was shown by the allies after WWII in finding and prosecuting war criminals. In fact, USA, France Britain and Russia all hired nazi war criminals for espionage. Very disturbing. The book is very explicit about the specific atrocities committed.

Tom Blumer says

This was a disappointing read. Seemed that the author was trying to discredit much of the past activities rather than really talk about what was really happening. I found the book rather difficult to read as it wandered aimlessly. There are better books about this out there.

Jill Hutchinson says

This is a very detailed book about the activities of Nazi war criminals after the war and how some of them were located and brought back for justice. The interactions among the many organizations, Nazi sympathizers, the Catholic Church, and the Allies can get just a bit complicated but it certainly is fascinating. The overall impression is that there was not any great interest in hunting down these criminals since Europe was in shambles and the priority was to get the countries back on their feet and fight the new menace of communism. The author destroys the credibility of one man who was known as the greatest of the Nazi hunter, Simon Wiesenthal.....he shows through his research that much of the credit that Wiesenthal took for running these men to ground was untrue. That is a bit disturbing but appears to be supported by fact.

The author gives the most attention to the major figures on the most wanted list.....Dr. Joseph Mengele, Klaus Barbie, and, of course, Adolph Eichmann. Many were hiding in plain sight due to the assistance of Juan Peron, the dictator of Argentina and of the three mentioned above, only Mengele was never captured. An interesting and rather chilling look at the search for those responsible for the Holocaust and other atrocities.....a search that goes on until this day. But time has pretty much run out due to the years that have passed since WWII. Recommended reading but be warned....it moves very slowly.

Joe says

Of the Nazi war criminals who evaded justice, some escaped to South America while others stayed in Germany. Some became Cold War informants for the allied powers while most lived as working-class family men. Most kept their noses clean, even as they held onto their delusion, paranoia and prejudice.

The varied, yet often bland, lives these men led after the war lends credence to the idea that there is evil lurking in every society, waiting for the right conditions. Men like Adolf Eichmann (who organized the concentration camp system) and Franz Stangl (commandant at Treblinka) transformed into bitter but outwardly harmless old men, appearing no different from the curmudgeons and casual racists you might find

anywhere.

Hunting Evil is full of these unforced revelations. It's a history book of comprehensive research (there are 100+ pages of bibliography and notes) where the facts speak for themselves. It's the story of how easily red tape and shifting priorities (from WWII to The Cold War) can bog down righteous causes and it shows how easily the pursuit of justice can be turned to the pursuit of selfish ends. In this regard, *Hunting Evil* often proves frustrating, though the lesson is important; the biggest obstacles to justice are more often built from pettiness than villainy.

But there are bright spots as well; heroes hiding in the weeds. There's an old, blind man and his daughter who find the world's most wanted Nazi and don't take no for an answer when the world drags its feet in response. There's a daring team of Mossad agents who travel halfway round the world to get their man. And there's a US government official who cuts through the red tape to establish a system to find and extradite war criminals hiding on US soil.

My biggest complaint is the book's format, as the chapters are long and designed more for thematic flow than ease of locating information. Even with the extensive index, finding relevant anecdotes has proven difficult. And that's a shame, as this is a book I would otherwise reference frequently.

Edited 3-10-2018

Karolyn says

Not as exciting as one would think. I really was looking for the breakdown on each of the top dogs, but this was everyone meshed together.

Jim says

Really liked this book. Left me with a feeling of anger about how these criminals were allowed to slip through the net of justice. Also an interesting reappraisal of the work of Simon Wiesenthal.

Paul Greenfield says

History of the hunt for Nazi war criminals including Adolf Eichmann, Josef Mengele, Franz Stangl and Klaus Barbie.

Jennyb says

I know, I know, it's the second Nazi book I have read in as many weeks. No, I am not becoming some crazed, despicable Neo-Nazi. It's just that after I read the book about Eichmann, I needed to know what became of the rest of those evil em-ffs. I guess you find that out in the course of these discursive 400+ pages, but it's not easy.

There is, first of all, a lot more here than just "Mengele lived out his life unmolested in Brazil." Walters talks about the agencies that were tasked with prosecuting Nazis after the war, and their inadequacies. He talks about the networks that helped Nazis escape, and their inadequacies. But the inadequacy he really goes after, over and over to the point of its being truly tedious, is other Nazi hunters, specifically Simon Weisenthal. Although SW is dead, Walters goes after him with such venom and frequency, you'd think he must have personally insulted Walters' Grandma, yesterday.

But back to the Nazis' fate: you don't really get much about that until well into the second half of the book. And then the narrative is maddeningly non-linear: you read a piece of information about Barbie, for instance, and then it's "As we shall see later..." Breaking up the narrative of each person's fate, and then stuffing the intervening pages with minutiae, just doesn't work. It's tough to keep straight what happens to whom, and where you are in the midst of their chronicle.

The book is crammed with information, but the structure makes it feel not very informative. When over half is spent on what is essentially personal discreditation and background, and then the real stories are diced up and crammed in at the end... Well, it's unimaginably frustrating. I can't fathom why the author structured the book this way, and I think it detracts enormously from what is a serious and seriously compelling topic.

Claire says

Meticulous and fascinating account of the post-WW2 hunt for escaped Nazis. Walters is not afraid to be (often rightly) critical of governments, organisations and individuals over their approach to the problem and effectively debunks a few myths in the process, but, unlike many other studies of this subject, he doesn't resort to the kind of hysterical over-analysing and conspiracy-theorising that mars a lot of work on this topic.

Charles Blumberg says

This book spends more time discrediting Simon Wiesenthal than the actual search for Nazis. I was expecting much more on the actual search and lives of Nazis.

Paul Kerr says

Long title but a very intricate and well researched book on a subject which remains fascinating despite coming to the end of its natural life given the limited number of such criminals still alive. The book as expected focuses on the hunts for the nazi bigwigs - Bormann, Eichmann, Mengele - and expertly takes us through the determination (and sometimes serious lack of determination from the authorities) to track these people down. However, the main surprise for me was not that it made we want to read more about the Nazis, but rather their most famous adversary - Simon Weisenthal - Walters essentially provides a character assassination on the famous nazi hunter throughout the book, which pushes the reader to the limits in its severity, but does make me want to see if others are in agreement with the ineffectiveness of the man who never forgot..

Ginger Miller says

Almost unbelievable

This book turned my stomach. So very many merely walked away from the greatest crime in the history of the world. It didn't end at Nuremberg as so many believe. Those who committed the actual crimes walked away. Hidden by South American countries, no, not just hidden but protected. Eichmann. Mengele, Stangl, Barbie. Too many to name. However I do want to point out that Barbie was first used by the Americans. How this nation could align itself with such a sadist is impossible to understand. Some are not mentioned at all. I was interested in the author's take on the "suicide" of Gustav Wagner but he never touched on the subject. The writer seems to regard Simon Wiesenthal as little more than a clown. I personally take exception to this because, even if he did not do all he took credit for he NEVER allowed the Holocaust to be forgotten. And that was necessary. Serge and Beate Klarsfeld are heroes and should be honored as such. Overall a well researched, well written book that left me feeling rather bitter because after the war was won not one country even seemed to care beyond Nuremberg. Brutal, sadistic, criminals lived long lives, their crimes never revealed. Their victims left with no justice.

Sue says

I could not get through the first CD, I tried but it just did not hold my interest.

JoAnn Jordan says

This is an excellent book on Nazi War Criminals and the search made to bring them to justice. The book is well written and entertaining.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in Nazi history.

Matt says

This book should have been called "Hunting Evil: Or why Simon Wiesenthal is full of shit". Walters does a great job of thoroughly depressing the reader by explaining how no one, not even the Israeli Government, had all that much interest in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice. Instead, the cold war and the harsh and violent birth of the state of Israel consumed much of the time, energy, and resources of America's, Britain's, and Israel's governments. This left the Nazi's free to escape to a whole host of sympathetic countries, with ample help from the Catholic Church and Latin American political leaders.

It's really unnerving to see how little the world cared about bringing these monsters to justice, as if the six year orgy of sadism that was the Holocaust meant nothing, and those responsible should just be allowed to return to their pre-war lives. The fact that Mengele died a free man is offensive. As a Jew, it pains me to be faced with the sad truth that we have always and will always be globally hated as a race, and that we will forever have to fight for our continued survival on this planet. When Pat Buchanan comments that we should stop searching for Nazis because they are all really old now and the war was a long time ago, my faith in the modern social consciousness of living in a civilized society is shaken.

I've never been more scared, nor more proud, to be a Jew.

The only flaw to this book, and it is a HUGE one, is that Walters spends a considerable amount of time explaining why Simon Wiesenthal is a liar. While I understand the reason to set the record straight on Simon Wiesenthal's actual role in the Eichman kidnaping and subsequent Nazi hunting, that should have been a separate book. Instead, Walters, time and time again, veers away from the actual stories of the escaping Nazis to point out all of the lies and inconsistencies that Wiesenthal told in interviews and in his various autobiographies. If Walters had just told the stories and left Wiesenthal out of it, the reader would have figured out that he was not involved. Instead, the book reads a bit like a bitter, "gotcha" type expose. Still, I guess it's impossible to talk about Nazi Hunting without involving Wiesenthal.

I'm no defender of Simon Wiesenthal, but I would have rated this book higher had there been less Wiesenthal-bashing in it.
