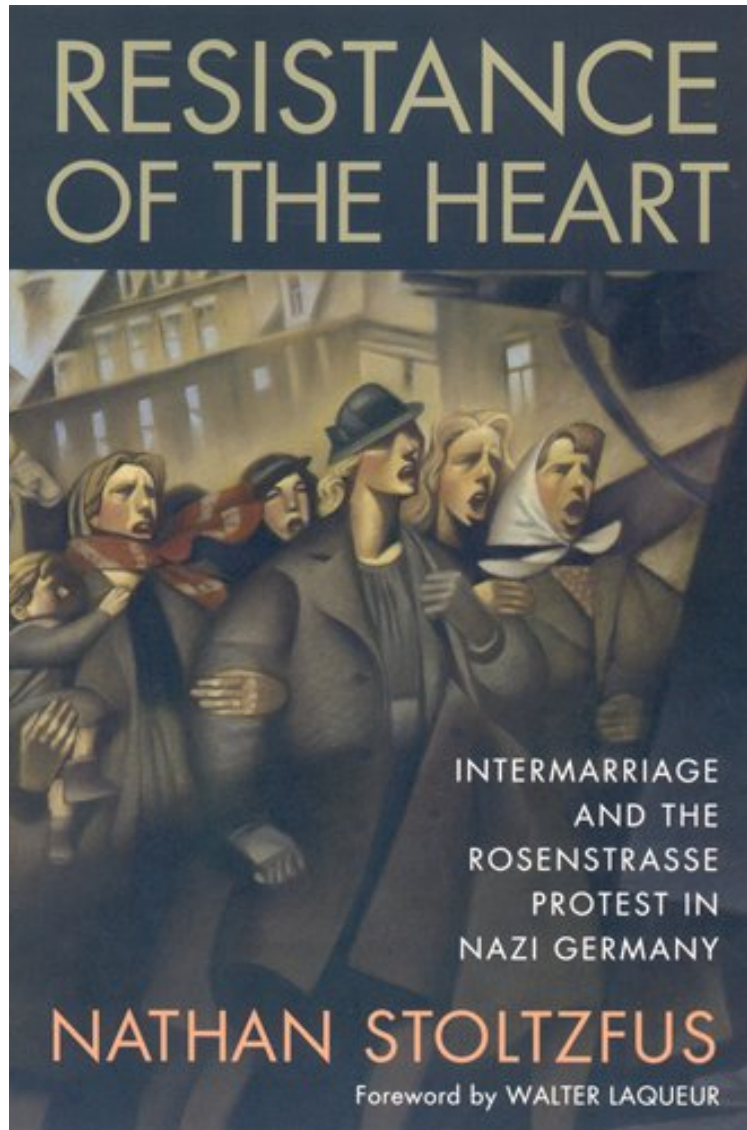


[Read and download] Resistance of the Heart: Intermarriage and the Rosenstrasse Protest in Nazi Germany

## Resistance of the Heart: Intermarriage and the Rosenstrasse Protest in Nazi Germany

*Nathan Stoltzfus*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1144392 in Books Rutgers University Press 2001-02-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.21 x .85 x 6.14l, 1.53 #File Name: 0813529093388 pages | File size: 15.Mb

**Nathan Stoltzfus : Resistance of the Heart: Intermarriage and the Rosenstrasse Protest in Nazi Germany** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Resistance of the Heart: Intermarriage and the Rosenstrasse Protest in Nazi Germany:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Profound story of resistance and courage By lwrl The Rosenstrasse Protest in Berlin saved thousands of Jewish lives (mostly men) and is an important yet virtually unknown story of the

Holocaust. How can this be? As this book brings out, 98% of Berlin Jews who survived the Holocaust were married to Aryan women. Women who were in what the Nazis declared "Jewish households" and therefore on skimpier rations than their fellow Aryans including those Aryan men married to Jewish women, since those homes were declared "Aryan households" and had larger rations and less restrictions. Jewish males were forced out of their professions too, which created further hardship on the "Jewish households". Jews in mixed marriages were coveted by the Nazis very early on, however, they (Nazis) feared potential backlash from Aryan in-laws. For that reason, intermarried Jews were actually protected at least temporarily and so the Nazis threatened the Aryan partner to abandon/divorce their Jewish spouse, "or else." Most intermarried Aryan men did so and their Jewish wives were immediately given a one-way train ticket to Auschwitz. However, most Aryan women married to Jewish men refused to succumb to the Nazi thugs. The "final roundup" in Germany was for the intermarried Jews. Saved for last (and mostly men) they were forced into carpet trucks and packed into commandeered buildings, one of which was on Rosenstrasse St. But then malnourished and beleaguered Aryan wives came for them. Standing outside the building, one wife began protesting to the well-armed, well-fed, uniformed Gestapo, demanding to be given back her husband. The crowd eventually grew to a few hundred, and occasionally the guards would threaten to mow them down with machine guns. They would scatter temporarily, but over the course of a week of protesting the only case of mass German protest against the Nazis they got what they came for; their husbands were released to them and then the story was apparently forgotten/buried. I'm very grateful to Nathan Stoltzfus for his work in collecting and preserving the stories of witnesses and bringing this important and virtually unknown story into the light of day. There is a ton of information and it is well worth the read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book tells the incredible and largely-unknown story of German ... By Jim Huffstodt This book tells the incredible and largely-unknown story of German women married to Jewish men during Hitler's reign. Even someone familiar with the vast historical literature of the Hitler period will find this new and revelatory. In 1943, the wives of German Jewish men openly protested in Hitler's Capitol the SS arrest of their mates who were slated for the death camps. Incredibly, despite the threats of armed SS men with sub-machine guns, these women did not disperse. In the end, Hitler himself, released the imprisoned husbands fearing the political fallout. Naturally, he intended to revisit the issue later with evil intent, but the war ended before he could. The author is a professor of German history at Florida State University, fluent in the language, and interviewed a number of the survivors in-depth including husbands, wives and even SS men. The book is well-written and worth reading. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. What women can do when they're ticked off! By Kelleigh Nelson How many times have we seen throughout history where women get infuriated by injustices? How many times have we seen women become tigresses when their children are threatened? How many times do we need to see throughout history that when a wrong is committed, if we were just to stand up in throngs and shout, ENOUGH!, we could stop the insanity. This book makes all the points...they saved their spouses. Why? Because they spoke out loudly and clearly. Where were the churches when this atrocity was going on? To their shame, they were too silent but for a few. Remember the old adage, "The squeaky wheel gets the oil." Never again allow this horror to happen, not to any peoples...not to any! Wonderful book, and wonderful insight to spouses who loved their Jewish partners enough to risk their own lives to save those they loved...heroic!

In February 1943 the Gestapo arrested approximately 10,000 Jews remaining in Berlin. Most died at Auschwitz. Two thousand of those Jews, however, had non-Jewish partners and were locked into a collection center on a street called Rosenstrasse. As news of the surprise arrest pulsed through the city, hundreds of Gentile spouses, mostly women, hurried to the Rosenstrasse in protest. A chant broke out: "Give us our husbands back." Over the course of a week protesters vied with the Gestapo for control of the street. Now and again armed SS guards sent the women scrambling for cover with threats that they would shoot. After a week the Gestapo released these Jews, almost all of whom survived the war. The Rosenstrasse Protest was the triumphant climax of ten years of resistance by intermarried couples to Nazi efforts to destroy their families. In fact, ninety-eight percent of German Jews who did not go into hiding and who survived Nazism lived in mixed marriages. Why did Hitler give in to the protesters? Using interviews with survivors and thousands of Nazi records never before examined in detail, Nathan Stoltzfus identifies the power of a special type of resistance--the determination to risk one's own life for the life of loved ones. A "resistance of the heart..."

From Publishers Weekly In early 1943, the Gestapo rounded up most of the Jews remaining in Berlin, the majority of whom were married to German gentiles, and interred them in a facility on Rosenstrasse, a street in the heart of the city. In the following days, their non-Jewish spouses congregated spontaneously on Rosenstrasse and demanded the return of their mates. Despite threats from the SS to shoot anyone gathering around the building, the spouses held their ground, and eventually Joseph Goebbels agreed to release the 1700 intermarried Jews. Stoltzfus, who teaches history at Florida State University, has written a powerful, exhaustively researched report on that rare episode of open, successful resistance to the regime and reaches a telling conclusion: the Nazi state was so concerned with popular acceptance that public protest could have stopped many of its murderous policies. For a significant example, he cites

the Catholic Church's successful opposition to the Nazi's euthanasia program: "[I]t seems beyond any doubt that if the churches had opposed the killing... of the Jews as they opposed the killing of the congenitally insane and sick, there would have been no Final Solution." Interwoven here are the poignant, compelling histories of couples from mixed marriages who opposed the Nazis and survived the regime. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Stoltzfus (history, Florida State Univ.) has written about an unusual and striking episode of the Holocaust. In February 1943, the remaining 10,000 Jews of Berlin were rounded up by the Gestapo; of these, about 2000 were married to non-Jews. These 2000 were herded to a collection center on the Rosenstrasse, the street that was a former center of Jewish life. Word spread quickly among the Christian spouses and relatives, and a public protest ensued, lasting a week. The author's work is groundbreaking in documenting the sensitivity of the Hitler regime to public opinion. After initial vacillation, a decision was made to release the prisoners. Stoltzfus has done an impressive job of presenting this unusual episode. He emphasizes that if the church had protested against the treatment of the Jews as it did, successfully, against the euthanasia program, the Holocaust would not have occurred. He examines issues pertaining to, among other things, intermarriage between gentile and Jewish Germans and adds an extra dimension to his account with poignant, compelling interviews with survivors, which provide the backbone of the book and make it very readable for generalists. Highly recommended for large public and academic libraries. Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., Ill. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Stoltzfus draws on archival research and oral history in a study of the 1943 Rosenstrasse protest--a week of street demonstrations by German Gentile spouses (primarily wives) of Jews interned at the Jewish Community welfare administrative center in Berlin before deportation to concentration camps. Attempting to finesse the intermarriage issue by encouraging divorce, the Nazis "temporarily exempted" intermarried Jews and their Mischlinge children from the Final Solution, an ideological compromise whose roots Stoltzfus finds in Hitler's theory of power and his fear of social unrest. Stoltzfus focuses on specific couples in sketching courtship, marriage, and parenthood in pre-Nazi and Nazi Germany, as intermarried families were, like other Jews and "enemies of the state," progressively isolated from the larger community. But the Rosenstrasse protest "worked": this "singular instance of mass German protest against the deportation of German Jews" protected the demonstrators' family members and, by war's end, "intermarried Jews constituted 98 percent of the surviving Jewish population." A careful exploration of what this often ignored event implies about the potential for resistance in Hitler's Germany. Mary Carroll