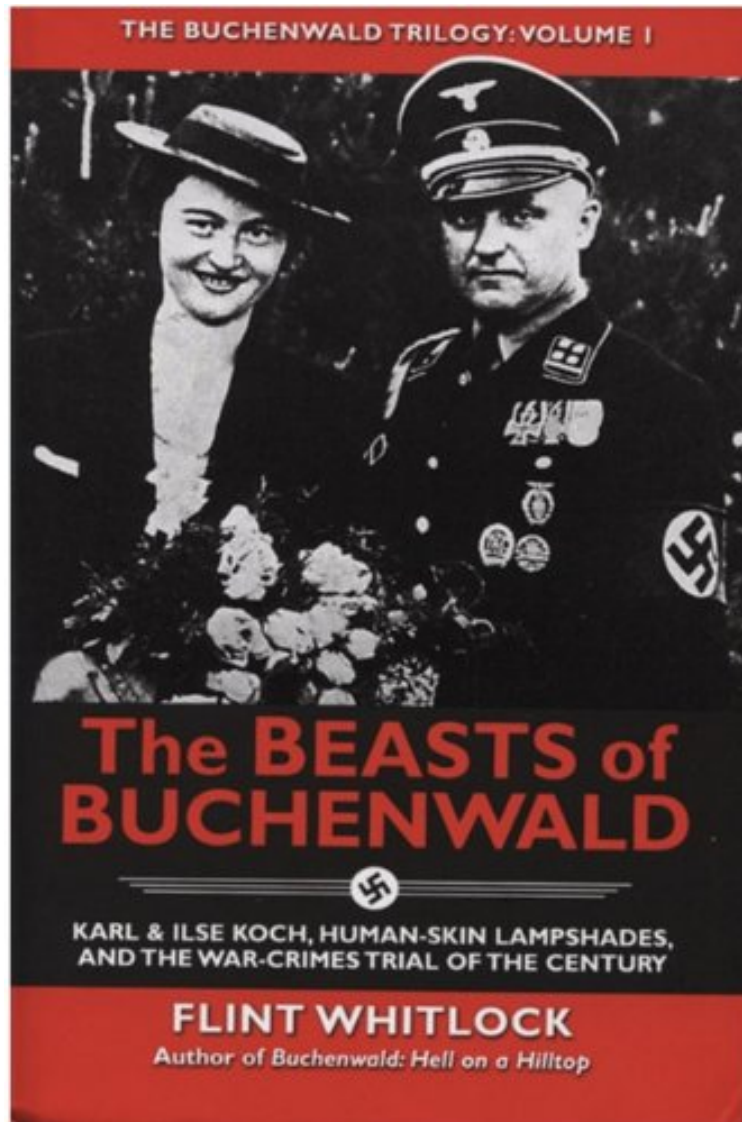


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The Beasts of Buchenwald: Karl Ilse Koch, Human-Skin Lampshades, and the War-Crimes Trial of the Century (Buchenwald Trilogy)

Flint Whitlock

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Flint Whitlock : The Beasts of Buchenwald: Karl Ilse Koch, Human-Skin Lampshades, and the War-Crimes Trial of the Century (Buchenwald Trilogy) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beasts of Buchenwald: Karl Ilse Koch, Human-Skin Lampshades, and the War-Crimes

Trial of the Century (Buchenwald Trilogy):

66 of 69 people found the following review helpful. The Evil that Men do By George J. Heidemark
The Beasts of Buchenwald: Karl and Ilse Koch, Human-skin lampshades, and the War-crimes Trial of the Century is must reading if you are interested in World War Two and the Holocaust. Flint Whitlock who usually writes military history has written a fine book on this infamous couple who are well known but who have few books focused just on them. The study traces the Koch's from before the war through its aftermath and Ilse's war crimes trials, prison sentence and suicide in jail. In detailing the main characters lives the author also gives a good sense of big events such as the rise of the Nazis, Nazi racial policy and the central place of anti-semitism to the Nazi program. Karl Koch was a true believer who enjoyed cruelty and perfected it from command's of camps starting with Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald and finally for a brief period the death camp at Majdanek. Flintlock is explicit in describing conditions at Buchenwald and at times it is truly difficult to read. Karl Koch enjoyed being a commandant and he lived as if the camps were his private kingdom. He had a villa at Buchenwald as well as a zoo for the amusement of his staff and their loved ones. His corruption was legendary and eventually it led to his execution by the SS toward the end of the war. Flintlock does a fine job of proving that Ilse did not have lampshades of prisoners with tattoo's made for her amusement- but he clearly shows that she enjoyed her position as a commandant's wife and that she enjoyed having prisoners beaten and abused. The book is very well illustrated with many photos of the couple that I have never seen as well as photos of the sites involved. The author states that this is part one of a trilogy on Buchenwald the corresponding volumes will examine the camp itself and a biography of a prisoner there. What is most disturbing is the motivation of why the Koch's participated in genocide- they seemed to be true believers who liked cruelty. The author does not give us any clear answers (if there are any) but he does a fine job of describing humanity at it's worse.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely incredible book By ssc
Very detailed book, gives a lot of insight into not only how this concentration camp worked, but how concentration camps in general were organized and run (as well as the differences between concentration camps and death camps which are often confused). The book goes through Karl Otto Koch's rise through the ranks of the Nazi party and the SS to the formation of Buchenwald to Koch's execution, then follows both the camp after Koch and Ilse Koch's life through the liberation of Buchenwald and the eventual imprisonment of Ilse Koch. This is a must read.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Beast puts it Mildly By Karen Swinson
The Beasts of Buchenwald is one more view of true monsters in that horrific Holocaust era. This time a husband and wife, Karl and Ilse Koch. The thought of some vain evil woman trotting around the prisoners on her horse attracting attention to herself and then having anyone who dared to look up at her, punished or killed. The story is well told with facts and time frames and graphic details. It sickens me to read how this evil prevailed and was accepted as just another part of life at that time. It is a gripping story. We should keep these happenings in our thoughts, passing down to our children and their children so we never forget how easy it is for darkness to overcome us while we turn our backs for just a second. Karen Swinson

The crime and punishment story of how Nazi SS Colonel Karl Koch and his wife Ilse ran Buchenwald, the most infamous concentration camp of Nazi Germany, where evil reigned unchecked and the inconceivable was commonplace.

THE BEASTS OF BUCHENWALD paints a chilling portrait of callous inhumanity. Whitlock tells the story with an urgency which resounds through the decades. --Michael E Haskew, Editor, WWII History Magazine
Gruesome, fascinating, utterly compelling, Whitlock's narrative whips along, providing a well-balanced and highly informative look inside the vicious heart of the Nazi regime. --Alex Kershaw, author of THE BEDFORD BOYS
About the Author
Renowned military historian Flint Whitlock lives with his wife in Denver, Colorado.