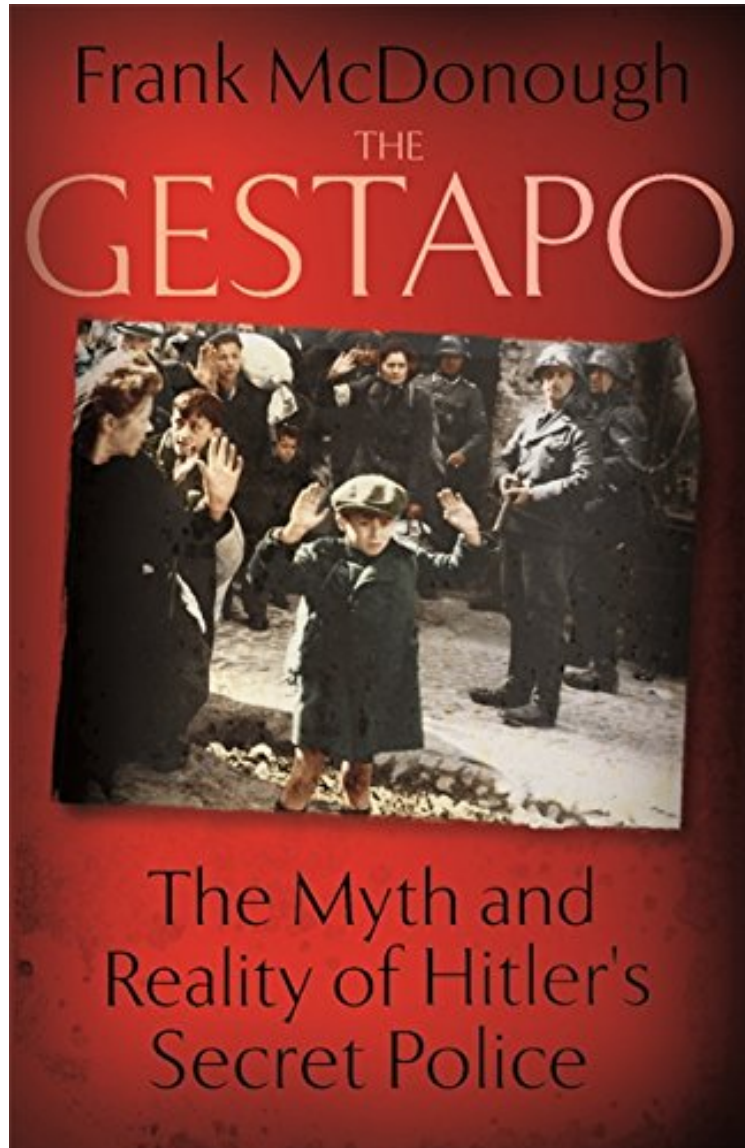


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The Gestapo

Frank McDonough

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Frank McDonough : The Gestapo before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gestapo:

33 of 33 people found the following review helpful. There are some really excellent lessons here in looking at a highly developed nation ...By vincit veritasMr. McDonough has written a view of the mind set that underpinned the Gestapo and the SS and the Nazi leadership. There are some really excellent lessons here in looking at a highly developed nation with a great history can be controlled by group of not only thugs but highly educated people who one would

expect some degree of critical thinking, but alas we find they fall short. If you read this with the idea of how this applies today, I think you will find some questions in your mind that giving the government more and more power, you will soon find that it has all the power and you have none. My aunt spent two years going to school in Munich during 1937 and 1938. She was staying with her in-laws in a five story apartment. Their apartment was on the fourth floor. She was watching a Nazi torch light parade out of the apartment window and she turned to her mother-in-law and asked why the German people put with this nonsense. Her mother-in-law turned white and said. "Don't say another word. The people upstairs are good party members." Her mother-in-law knew the consequences of expressing such thoughts. It is a very good read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Chilling Study of a Totalitarian Police State By Hans Rigelman This book shows proof that an organization rotten at the top will be rotten all the way through. Ultimately Hitler and his staff were responsible for why the Gestapo was created and what it became.

28 of 28 people found the following review helpful. McDonough's outstanding masterpiece By Jakob Knab To be painstakingly precise: This is a book about the Gestapo, not about the SS. The photo on the title page shows a group of Jewish people captured and forcibly pulled out from their dugouts during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. A SS soldier points his submachine gun at a child raising his hands. The photo is taken from a report by the SS to Heinrich Himmler, stating, "The former Jewish quarter of Warsaw is no longer in existence. To the very day this photo is the very image of the cruel and evil Nazi regime, it has left an indelible mark on our cultural memory. (A note to the publisher: It was the SS, not the Gestapo that had destroyed the Warsaw ghetto. Himmler was the Minister of the Interior, the Chief of German Police as well as the Chief of the Gestapo (Secret State Police) and the Chief (Reichsfuehrer) of the SS.) It is true, chilling is the key word: McDonough's profound and fascinating account of The Gestapo provides a new doorway into the everyday life of the Third Reich and gives powerful testimony from the victims of Nazi terror. McDonough is extremely good and knowledgeable when it comes to illuminating motives of religious opposition to the Nazi regime. Research into resistance is about motives, scope and action. Hardly any reader will know that the devoted Catholic Stauffenberg had visited the Rosenkranz Kirche (church of the rosary) in Berlin on the evening before his assassination attempt. McDonough pays tribute to Bishop von Galen and his powerful sermons. After Bishop von Galen's outburst on the Nazi regime decided to scale down its killing of handicapped people. I found the story of Helmut Hesse, a pastor belonging to the Confessing Church, particularly poignant. This radical Christian was arrested by the Gestapo for giving sermons attacking the Nazi persecution of the Jews. What Hesse did not know was that his sermons were being monitored by the Gestapo. In June 1943 he was arrested and sent to the notorious Dachau concentration camp near Munich. He was killed by a lethal injection there on 24 November 1943. At just twenty-seven years of age, Helmut Hesse became the youngest martyr of the Confessing Church. Today's Protestants ought to be proud of him despite Luther's anti-Semitic diatribes. Equally important and illuminating are the chapters Hunting the Communists and Persecuting the Jews. Frank McDonough's work has been described as, 'modern history writing at its very best: Ground-breaking, fascinating, occasionally deeply revisionist'. I take the view: Since Frank McDonough is Britain's leading post-revisionist historian he should have put forward this bold and challenging thesis: The godfathers of the Gestapo are William Cecil and Francis Walsingham, who in April 1576 had set up the Elizabethan police state, whose spies recorded everything. And torture was used more than in any other English reign. Thomas (rackmaster) Norton and Richard (torturer) Topcliffe figure prominently here. Finally I wholeheartedly agree with Matthew Feldman and Roger Moorhouse and with their respective appraisals of McDonough's brilliant achievement: A compelling and crisply written new history of the Third Reich's central instrument on domestic terror between 1933 and 1945. McDonough moves beyond the administrative history of the Gestapo to examine the key target groups not just political and religious opponents, but social outsiders and Jews. He provides a nuanced account via Gestapo files and courtroom testimony. In setting a range of victims' life stories revealed in these neglected Gestapo case files against long standing historical views of either an all pervasive surveillance or total reliance on public denunciations, The Gestapo provides an original and welcome perspective on this often misunderstood symbol of Nazi repression and enforced conformity. Impressive, illuminated by real victim stories, this book is strongly recommended. () The Gestapo is as surprising as it is illuminating, and it sets a new standard for this vitally important subject. It is my firm belief that historians with a mission like Frank McDonough are our society's conscience. They are custodians of our human experience in its misery and in its glory, in its encircling gloom and in its kindly light. The political history of all nations has hardly ever produced anything more malicious and evil than Hitler's Gestapo and SS. But at the same time there is hardly anything greater and nobler than the opposition which existed in Germany.

The Gestapo was Hitler's secret police force. Popularly depicted as a central part of an all-powerful 'Big Brother' Nazi totalitarian police state, its primary aim was to hunt down 'the enemies of the people'. Drawing on a detailed examination of previously unpublished Gestapo case files this book relates the fascinating, vivid and disturbing stories of a cross-section of ordinary and extraordinary people who opposed the Nazi regime. It also tells the equally disturbing stories of their friends, neighbours and sometimes even relatives, people drawn into the Gestapo's web of intrigue, either as informers or staff. The book reveals, too, the cold-blooded and efficient methods of the Gestapo officers. This book will reveal that the Gestapo lacked the manpower and resources to spy on everyone, that it was

reliant on tip offs from the general public. Yet this did not mean the Gestapo was a weak or inefficient instrument of Nazi terror. On the contrary, it ruthlessly and efficiently targeted its officers against clearly defined political and racial 'enemies of the people'. The book: - Provides a chilling new doorway into the everyday life of the Third Reich. - Gives powerful testimony from the victims of Nazi terror. - Offers a range of fascinating and poignant life stories of those who opposed Hitler's regime. - Unearths new evidence from Gestapo case files. Challenges popular myths on the Gestapo.- It explains the controversies surrounding the Gestapo.

Praise for Sophie Scholl:McDonough has managed to unearth some significant new material by assiduously trawling German archives, discovering diaries and letters, Gestapo interrogation files and trial documents. Times Higher Educational Supplement Praise for The Origins of the Second World War:Here is modern history writing at its very best. Frank McDonough has brought together no fewer than 30 other leading scholars to examine that most vital of historical moments - the outbreak of the Second World War - from every conceivable international aspect. Ground-breaking, fascinating, occasionally deeply revisionist and always highly readable; this sets the mark for all collaborative history from now on. Andrew Roberts About the Author Frank McDonough is Professor of International History at Liverpool John Moores University. He was born in Liverpool. He studied history at Balliol College, Oxford and gained a PhD from Lancaster University. He has written many books on the Third Reich, including: Hitler and the Rise of the Nazi Party (2012), Sophie Scholl: The Woman Who Defied Hitler (2009), The Holocaust (2008), Opposition and Resistance in Nazi Germany (2001), Hitler, Chamberlain and Appeasement (2002), and Hitler and Nazi Germany (1999). He has also published many other books, most notably, The Origins of the Second World War: An International Perspective (2011), The Conservative Party and Anglo-German Relations (2007), Chamberlain, Appeasement and the British Road to War (1998) and The Origins of the First and Second World Wars (1997). Frank has appeared on TV and radio numerous times discussing the Third Reich. He featured in a six part series 'Nazi Secrets' for National Geographic in 2012 and a 10 part series 'The Rise of the Nazis' for the Discovery Channel. He has appeared in Third Reich documentaries for BBC 1, Channel 5, and Russia Today. He acted as 'Historical Consultant' for the BBC 'History of the World Project' and the 'BBC World War One at Home' series of programmes. The US History Network placed Frank's popular Twitter account: @FXMC1957 in the Top 30 most popular historical Twitter accounts in the World.