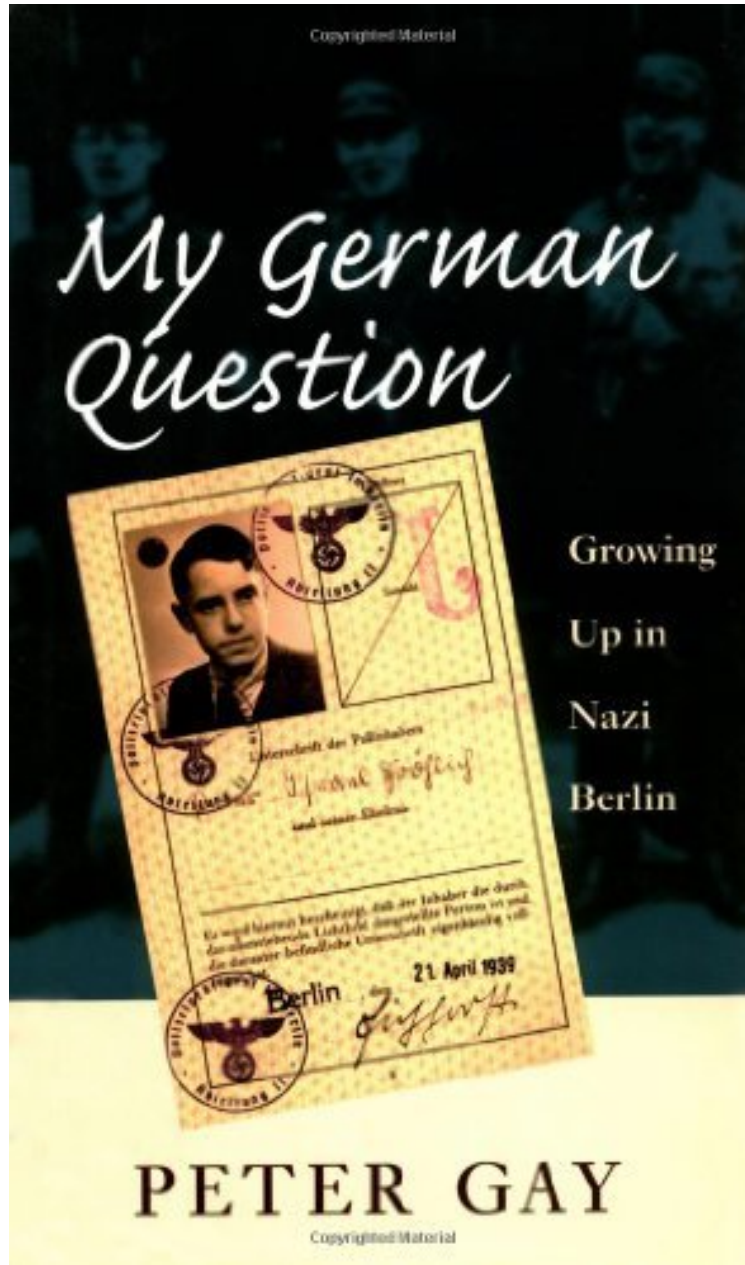


(Free and download) My German Question: Growing Up in Nazi Berlin

# My German Question: Growing Up in Nazi Berlin

Von Professor Peter Gay

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Von Professor Peter Gay : My German Question: Growing Up in Nazi Berlin before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My German Question: Growing Up in Nazi Berlin:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Personal History by a Distinguished HistorianVon Ein KundeThis is one of the most moving survivor books I have read since Into Thin Air. Unlike other readers who found it un insightful, I found in the simple telling of this terrible story ample insights for the perceptive reader. The prevailing confessional genre of our day has desensitized us, and led to expect a memoirist to bare his soul, beat his breast, bemoan his fate. Such antics would be antithetical to a man of dignity, and Professor Gay always retains his dignity. It is enough that he describes faithfully, but with detachment, his daily life in Nazi Germany as a youth. We supply the necessary subtext. Gay need only to relate dispassionately his bike ride on the morning after Kristallnacht, and the sensitive reader understands that there are things that cannot be made explicit, but that must be inferred. He tells the reader his father's non-Jewish partner expropriated his business. He describes without emotion how, a top student, he was expelled from school at age 15. He describes the trashing of his relatives' dry goods store. He shows us a picture of his lovely blond aunt, who played "Germania" at a school pageant, and tells us she was killed by the Nazis. He describes how his family finally managed to escape at the eleventh hour and come to America. He relates how his father worked uncomplainingly at a physically taxing factory job. I would not cavil at what Gay does not include. Peter Gay has done us a great service by undertaking the wrenching job of writing this book, obviously for the sake of the historical record. He writes as a historian. Do not ask for passion. The feeling is inherent in the narrative, at least for the sensitive reader.2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. remarkably un insightfulVon Ein KundeThe prose style, structure, and depth of analysis in this book do not do justice to the author's experience. For someone of Peter Gay's academic qualifications I had hopes of deeper level of insight. For example, he says three times in the book that his father "did not look Jewish" without explaining the relevance for him of that apparently important fact. I trust the writing of the book was cathartic, reading it was unilluminating. By the way, all the members of my reading group concurred that it was one of the least valuable books we've read.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Thrilling memoirVon Ein KundeI quite disagree with the negative comments being given. Of course, this book does not tend to be a historical study. This is meant to be a book about the author's psyche. It is also a statement about the Jewry in Pre-War German Society, an attack on those people that accuse the Jews of being too slow in recognizing Hitler's monstrous 'Solution'. It concentrates on that. It is also a very thin book: 170 pages. It is not the type of sensitive study Peter Gay is known for, but that is inherent to the character of this personal memoir. That he did not serve in World War II is not at all important, in this study. It is a brilliant and thrilling ego-document. For Freud-haters it is a little bit disappointing, the book is a product of an psycho-historian, and therefore contains a lot Freud theory, (which is very readable, though). But I am an Freud-addict too. Read it.

KurzbeschreibungIn this book, an historian tells of his youth as an assimilated, antireligious Jew in Nazi Germany from 1933-1939 - "the story" says Peter Gay, "of a poisoning and how I dealt with it". Gay describes his family, the life they led, and the reasons they did not emigrate sooner, and he explores his own ambivalent feelings - then and now - toward Germany and the Germans. Gay relates that the early years of the Nazi regime were relatively benign for his family: as a schoolboy at the Goethe Gymnasium he experienced no ridicule or attacks, his father's business prospered, and most of the family's non-Jewish friends remained supportive. He devised survival strategies - stamp collecting, watching soccer, and the like - that served as screens to block out the increasingly oppressive world around him. Even before the events of 1938-39, culminating in Kristallnacht, the family was convinced that they must leave the country. Gay describes the bravery and ingenuity of his father in working out this difficult emigration process, the courage of the non-Jewish friends who helped his family during their last bitter months in Germany, and the family's mounting panic as they witnessed the indifference of other countries to their plight and that of others like themselves. Gay's account adds a further perspective to the history of German Jewry..deCultural historian Peter Gay (The Bourgeois Experience: Victoria to Freud, Freud: A Life for Our Time) applies his considerable analytic skills to his memoir of his early years as a Jew in 1930s Berlin. Light-haired, blue-eyed, and culturally assimilated, the Frohlich family, as they were then known, convinced themselves that, despite the growth spurt of the Nazi party, anti-Semitism was on the wane among the German populous. Gay recalls that his daily life was relatively unaffected by the Totalitarian regime. That is until 1933, when, according to law, he became a Jew overnight. Soon the family found their living quarters shrinking and their awareness of their plight growing (though no one could possibly conceive of what would come). Though still a boy, Gay remembers that "one of the greatest moments in my life" came when the German women's relay team dropped their baton at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Then came Kristallnacht, which crystallized the family's sublimated fears and precipitated their flight from their home. After a certain suspenseful series of necessary deceptions and circuitous travels, the family began their new life in America--12-year-old Peter spoke barely a word of English. Now, decades later, Gay employs his new native tongue to uncover the psychological impulses that fed his parents' decision to stay in Berlin as long as they did and governed his own behavior as a boy. The result is credible answer to the question: How could they have stayed?.comCultural historian Peter Gay (The

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