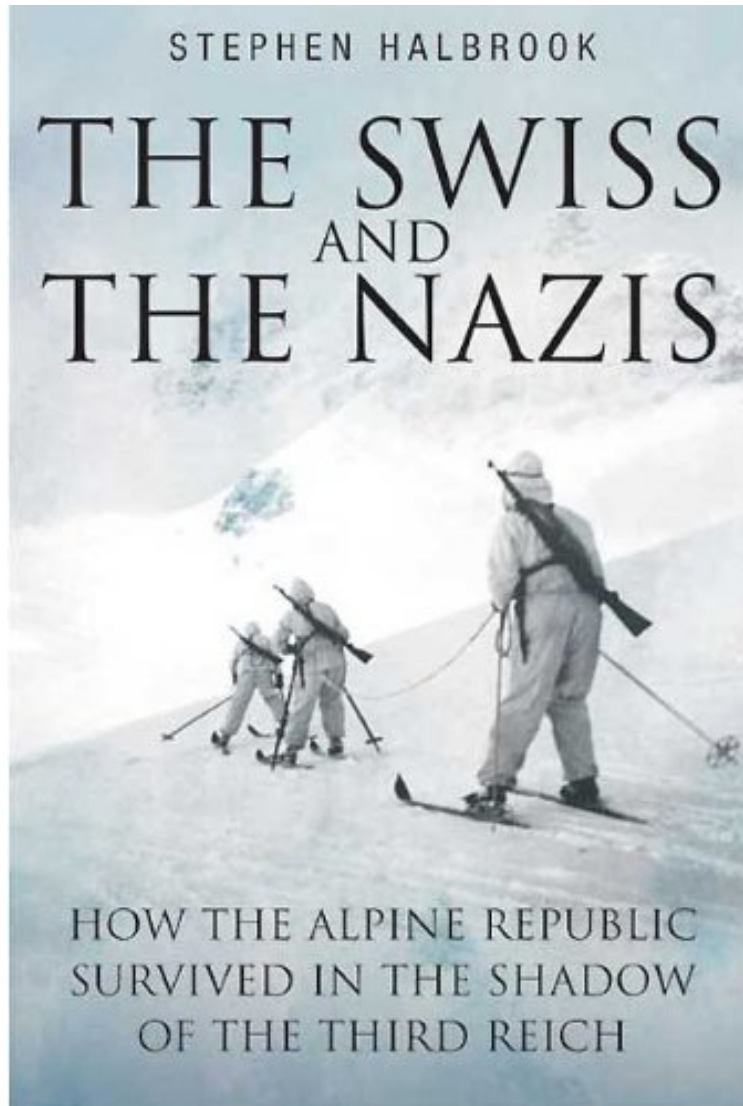


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Swiss and the Nazis: How the Alpine Republic Survived in the Shadow of the Third Reich

Von Stephen Halbrook
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Von Stephen Halbrook : Swiss and the Nazis: How the Alpine Republic Survived in the Shadow of the Third Reich before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Swiss and the Nazis: How the Alpine Republic Survived in the Shadow of the Third Reich:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Repetitive, unstructured and glorifyingVon LuteroThere are a lot of boring details being repeated in different chapters trying to overwhelmingly convince the reader about the determination of the Swiss during WW II to resist the Nazi

threat. While it seems absolutely credible that the general population was prepared to fight for its freedom the examples of other brave peoples like the Yugoslavs or the Greeks with similar terrains and even substantial British aid (e.g. Crete) show that if Germany had not started its war in the East Switzerland most likely would have been overrun. Fortunately this never happened. However, the author should have been more realistic in his assessments.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. more than slightly biasedVon J. CabelloExtremely well documented, at times even repetitive. Nevertheless it would have been an extraordinary book had it made the same effort in also showing some of the negative parts of Switzerland's participation in WWII.

KurzbeschreibungWhile surrounded by the Axis powers in World War II, Switzerland remained democratic and, unlike most of Europe, never succumbed to the siren songs and threats of the Nazi goliath.This book tells the story with emphasis on two voices rarely heard. One voice is that of scores of Swiss who lived in those dark years, told through oral history. They mobilized to defend the country, labored on the farms, and helped refugees. The other voice is that of Nazi Intelligence, those who spied on the Swiss and planned subversion and invasion. Exhaustive documents from the German military archives reveals a chilling rendition of attack plans which would be dissuaded in part by Switzerland's armed populace and Alpine defenses. Laced with unique maps and photos, the book is organized into four units. The first, A War of Words and Nerves, depicts how the Swiss mobilized an active "spiritual defense" of their country. Chapters describe jokes and slurs the Swiss devised to characterize the "Nazi pigs," the use of the press and cabaret as weapons against totalitarianism, and the role of Swiss newsreels in building the spirit of resistance. German prewar subversion plans are also revealed. The second unit, To Resist to the Death, concerns military preparations. Swiss soldiers recall an epoch when every day could have been "the day" when all hell would break lose and they would meet the enemy. Blitzkrieg plans against Switzerland devised by the German Wehrmacht in 1940 are described in detail. Switzerland was an armed camp with countless fortifications, against which the Axis could have attempted access with extreme costs in blood. In Switzerland, Jews -- like all other citizens -- were in arms, and Jewish officers served in the highest levels of the Swiss army. Struggle for Survival: Food, Fuel and Fear, the third unit, presents oral histories of daily life during the war with its shortages, alarms, and rumors. The role of women in the military and the economy are probed. A chapter on the refugee crisis investigates whether Swiss officials played a role in Germany's adoption of the "J" stamp on Jewish passports, how Switzerland became a lifeboat for refugees, and how asylum policies were liberalized as the persecution of Jews escalated. Espionage and Subversion, the fourth and final unit, covers strategic issues and intelligence activities. German attack plans and bickering in the Gestapo about who would rule a conquered Switzerland persisted. One chapter focuses on Davos, where the Swiss struggled against a Fifth Column and which became a safe haven for American airmen whose crippled bombers made it to Swiss territory. The last chapter profiles Switzerland as America's window on the Reich -- how Allen Dulles and his OSS spied on the Nazis, at times with help from Swiss Intelligence. Halbrook's other books include the award-winning Target Switzerland: Swiss Armed Neutrality in World War II, which was published in five languages.Pressestimmen...Halbrook has used original Swiss Documents, interviews and a wide breadth of research to attempt to answer why Switzerland escaped the Nazi onslaught. Daily History Blog Halbrook has written an unapologetic celebration of Switzerland's defiance of Hitler that does a good job of shedding some much-needed light on the subject. Miniature Wargames The Swiss have gotten well-deserved bad press about wartime financial tricks, ongoing opacity and so on. Halbrook presents the sympathetic parts of the complex picture. World War II MagazineKurzbeschreibungWhile surrounded by the Axis powers in World War II, Switzerland remained democratic and, unlike most of Europe, never succumbed to the siren songs and threats of the Nazi goliath.This book tells the story with emphasis on two voices rarely heard. One voice is that of scores of Swiss who lived in those dark years, told through oral history. They mobilized to defend the country, labored on the farms, and helped refugees. The other voice is that of Nazi Intelligence, those who spied on the Swiss and planned subversion and invasion. Exhaustive documents from the German military archives reveals a chilling rendition of attack plans which would be dissuaded in part by Switzerland's armed populace and Alpine defenses. Laced with unique maps and photos, the book is organized into four units. The first, A War of Words and Nerves, depicts how the Swiss mobilized an active "spiritual defense" of their country. 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