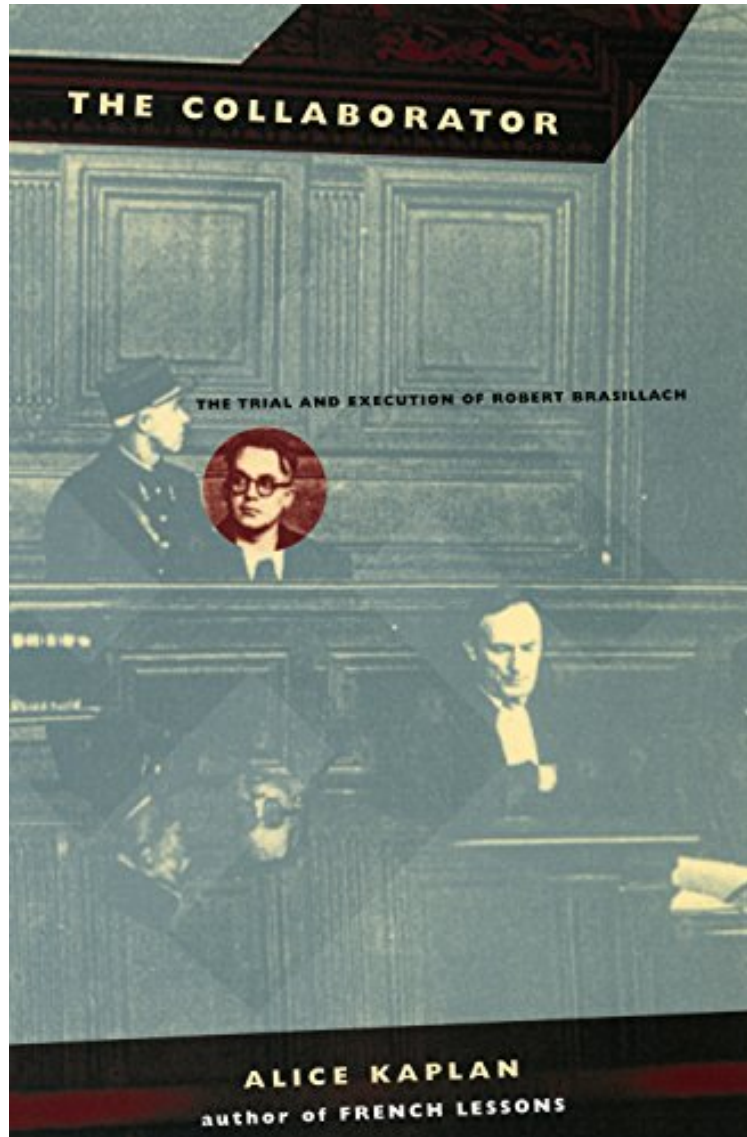


(Download pdf) The Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach

The Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach

Von Alice Kaplan

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #839074 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2014-11-20Erscheinungsdatum: 2014-11-20File Name: B00TIFUF30 | File size: 23.Mb

Von Alice Kaplan : The Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. France purges its Vichy past once again.Von John Barry KenyonThis is an unusual book on France's purge of its collaborators during the German occupation. By focussing on novelist and critic Robert Brasillach, Alice Kaplan tells us as much

about literature as about politics. By the standards of today, Brasillach's propagandist work is naive. His glorification of the Reich, for example in *Je Suis Partout* of which he was editor in chief until 1943, is hopelessly romantic (even managing to quote Virgil in support) and bore no relationship to the experiences of ordinary French people living under the occupation. He seems to have been part of a pro nazi, elite homosexual coterie who found in fascism an outlet for their love of uniforms and male bonding. Kaplan has explored in depth the trial records and notes that Brasillach's insistence on rambling on for days ensured his death sentence. He would have done better to have remained silent. It is argued that he has become a martyr for the extreme right in French politics, but this thesis not really stretched beyond references to John Marie Le Pen's admiration. One is left with the feeling that Brasillach, like Vidkun Quisling in another context, left a weaker legacy than he thought he would. The complete lack of photographs, apart from a blowup on the dust jacket, gives the impression this book will largely have a specialist readership.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The perils of anacronismVon Ein KundeI agree with the reviewer from Cambodia. It is not at all clear from Ms.Kaplan's book why Brassilach was considered such a great talent. If he was a fine reviewer or writer the book should have provided evidence so that the reader could at least have some sense of why he is worth writing about. I am prepared to believe him a significant literary figure but Ms. Kaplan never establishes that.The emphasis on Brasillach's homosexuality seems anachronistic and as the reviewer from Cambodia suggests, mixed up with present day literary and political agendas. Her reading of the prosecutor's "subtext" (Brasillach as the seduced and seducer) sounds more like a MLA paper fueled by what passes for literary studies these days than a real recreation of what was being played out in the court house. The Action Francaise group had people of real talent albeit unpleasant politics. If you want a good historical treatment of the movement I suggest Eugene Weber's book (alas out ofprint) on the Action Francaise movement.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Essential Reading for Today's IssuesVon Frederick HertzAt a time when the issues of hate speech and political crimes are so pivotal, and where the treatment of "war criminals" in Bosnia, South Africa and elsewhere are so compelling, this is an excellent book for anyone who is concerned about how governments deal with advocates of hate in the political realm. The narrative is riveting, the issues are well laid out, and the story is dramatic and powerful. Kaplan tells an important story and she tells it beautifully and carefully. Whether or not you are interested in French modern history, this story will grab you and make you think.

KurzbeschreibungOn February 6, 1945, Robert Brasillach was executed for treason by a French firing squad. He was a writer of some distinction a prolific novelist and a keen literary critic. He was also a dedicated anti-Semite, an acerbic opponent of French democracy, and editor in chief of the fascist weekly *Je Suis Partout*, in whose pages he regularly printed wartime denunciations of Jews and resistance activists.Was Brasillach in fact guilty of treason? Was he condemned for his denunciations of the resistance, or singled out as a suspected homosexual? Was it right that he was executed when others, who were directly responsible for the murder of thousands, were set free? Kaplan's meticulous reconstruction of Brasillach's life and trial skirts none of these ethical subtleties: a detective story, a cautionary tale, and a meditation on the disturbing workings of justice and memory, *The Collaborator* will stand as the definitive account of Brasillach's crime and punishment.A National Book Award FinalistA National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist"A well-researched and vivid account."John Weightman, *New York of Books*"A gripping reconstruction of [Brasillach's] trial."*The New Yorker*"Readers of this disturbing book will want to find moral touchstones of their own. They're going to need them. This is one of the few works on Nazism that forces us to experience how complex the situation really was, and answers won't come easily."Daniel Blue, *San Francisco Chronicle* Book "The Collaborator is one of the best-written, most absorbing pieces of literary history in years."David A. Bell, *New York Times* Book "Alice Kaplan's clear-headed study of the case of Robert Brasillach in France has a good deal of current-day relevance. . . . Kaplan's fine book . . . shows that the passage of time illuminates different understandings, and she leaves it to us to reflect on which understanding is better."Richard Bernstein, *The New York Times*