Exorcising Hitler: The Occupation and Denazification of Germany 480 pages Bloomsbury Publishing, 2011 9781408824511 2011 Frederick Taylor

In Exorcising Hitler, Frederick Taylor tells the story of Germany’s year zero and what came after. As he describes the final Allied campaign, the hunting down of the Nazi resistance, the vast displacement of peoples in central and eastern Europe, the attitudes of the conquerors, the competition between Soviet Russia and the West, the hunger and near starvation of a once proud people, the initially naive attempt at expunging Nazism from all aspects of German life and the later, more pragmatic approach, we begin to understand that despite almost total destruction, a combination of conservatism, The Marshall Plan “exorcised” Hitler, gave birth to the West German economic miracle and made the German match with France that has been the centre of the EU. They were even less certain about how to punish the Nazis and find the “good Germans” to govern the country. Taylor explains that the process, after the high-profile Nuremberg trials, was characterised by realpolitik. In 1945 there were 8 million Nazi party members, more than 10% of the population.Â There are weaknesses in this book â€“ attempting to make it topical with references to the occupation of Iraq is entirely superfluous. Yet this is an enthralling narrative about a crucial period of modern Europe's history. Topics. See what's new with book lending at the Internet Archive. Exorcising Hitler : the occupation and denazification of Germany. Item Preview. remove-circle.Â British historian Taylor (The Berlin Wall) surveys the occupation policies of the Allied victors, showing a variegated picture: brutal in the Soviet zone, relatively humane in the American, British, and French sectors, but everywhere a landscape of hunger, cold, and--in German eyes--humiliation. Taylor also examines how the efforts to bring to account millions of ex-Nazi Party members were erratic, corrupt, and ineffective. Includes bibliographical references and index. Millions of Germans trekked back from East Prussia, Poland, Silesia and Sudetenland while in the West, once the Nazis had signed the unconditional surrender, vast numbers of German troops were penned in open-air camps on the Rhine meadows. The numbers, about five million, were so great that by a legalistic sleight of hand they were reclassified as â€œdisarmed enemy forcesâ€ so they could be fed at a level lower than required for PoWs under the Geneva Convention. The challenge was not simply economic. Denazification caused resentment which, coming on top of defeat and humiliation, prodded Germans into seeking a new path for the future. British historian Taylor (The Berlin Wall) surveys the occupation policies of the Allied victors, showing a variegated picture: brutal in the Soviet zone, relatively humane in the American, British, and French sectors, but everywhere a landscape of hunger, cold, and--in German eyes--humiliation. Taylor also examines how the efforts to bring to account millions of ex-Nazi Party members were erratic, corrupt, and ineffective. Format. Book. Author/Creator. Taylor, Fred, 1947Â Germany--Social conditions--1945-1955. Denazification--History. Reconstruction (1939-1951)--Germany. Germany--Politics and government--1945-1990. Germany--Economic conditions--1945-1990. Hitler, Adolf,--1889-1945--Influence. Availability. Availability.