Building a Nazi Europe

In a compelling new study, Martin Gutmann offers an in-depth examination of the Swedish, Swiss, and Danish men who worked and fought for the Schutzstaffel, or SS, during the Second World War. Dispelling a host of myths regarding foreign collaboration with Hitler’s regime, it reveals how these men were highly motivated to affect a National Socialist Revolution across northwestern or “Germanic” Europe. Working behind Berlin desks, they played a pivotal part in shaping the Nazi New Order and actively participated in the regime’s brutal atrocities, fighting in the trenches of the Eastern Front and on the streets of Copenhagen. The book argues that these men became a focal point for infighting in the regime regarding the role of non-Germans in National Socialism, a source of tension that directly contributed to the regime’s failure. Building a Nazi Europe sheds new light on historical conceptions of fascism, collaboration, transnational history, and the Holocaust.

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Building a Nazi Europe

The SS’s Germanic Volunteers

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Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
To Djahane, Espen, Emil, and Ylva
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Note on Names

For the sake of brevity, I have refrained from spelling out the full designations of SS combat formations. Thus, for example, I refer to the SS-Division “Nordland” instead of the 11th SS Volunteer Panzergrenadier Division “Nordland.” SS ranks are in the original German with those of foreign militaries translated into their English equivalent. Place names are in their original except in cases where a common English usage exists.

The spelling of an individual foreign volunteer’s name often varies between sources, as German officials inadvertently “Germanized” many names. The Swede Hans-Caspar Kreuger, for example, appears in many German records as Hans-Kaspar Krueger. I have, as far as possible, retained the original spelling. In cases in which the SS gave volunteers pseudonyms, I use the name that was most prevalently used by the volunteer himself, with a corresponding mention in the footnotes. Because of archival regulations, some volunteer’s full names cannot be revealed. In such cases, I refer to them by their initials (for example, P.R.E[…]).
Common Abbreviations and Foreign Terms

AfZ        Archiv für Zeitgeschichte, Archive of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)
BA        Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde, German Federal Archive
BAL        Bundesarchiv Aussenstelle Lichterfelde, German Federal Archive in Lichterfelde
BAMA        Bundesarchiv Militärarchiv, German Federal Military Archive
BAR        Bundesarchiv, (Swiss) Federal Archive
BiG        Bibliothek am Guisanplatz, (Swiss) Federal Military Library
DNSAP        Danske National-Socialistiske Arbejder Parti, Danish National Socialist Workers’ Party
Germanische Leitstelle        Germanic Office, office under SS-HA
HIAG        Hilfgemeinschaft auf Gegenseitigkeit der Angehörigen der ehemaligen Waffen-SS, Mutual Aid Organization of former Waffen-SS Members
HSSuPF        Höhere SS- und Polizeiführer, Higher SS and Police Officers
IfZ        Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Institute for Contemporary History
KB        Kongelige Bibliotek, (Danish) Royal Library
LLA        Landesarchiv Liechtenstein, National Archive of Liechtenstein
MUST        Militära Underrättelse- och Säkerhetstjänsten, Swedish Military Intelligence and Security Service
NARA        National Archives and Records Administration
## Common Abbreviations and Foreign Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationale Front</td>
<td>Swiss Fascist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Nachlass, personal papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSDAP</td>
<td>Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, German National Socialist Worker's Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pz.</td>
<td>Panzer, armored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Rigsarkivet, (Danish) National Archive</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAS</td>
<td>Riksarkivet, Stockholm, (Swedish) National Archive, Stockholm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RASA</td>
<td>Riksarkivet Stockholm-Arninge, (Swedish) National Archive Stockholm-Arninge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reichsführer-SS</td>
<td>Reich's Leader of the SS, title and rank of Heinrich Himmler</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSHA</td>
<td>Reichssicherheitsbautamt, SS Reich’s Security Main Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>RuSHA</td>
<td>Rasse- und Siedlungsbautamt, SS Main Office for Race and Resettlement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Säpo</td>
<td>Säkerhetspolisen, (Swedish) Security Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>SS</td>
<td>Schutzstaffel</td>
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<tr>
<td>SS-FHA</td>
<td>SS-Führungsbautamt, SS Main Leadership Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>SS-HA</td>
<td>SS-Hauptamt, SS Main Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waffen-SS</td>
<td>Military wing of the SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wehrmacht</td>
<td>German armed forces, composed of Army, Navy and Air Force and with effective command over Waffen-SS formations</td>
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