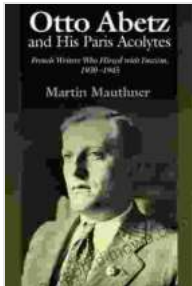


Otto Abetz and His Paris Acolytes: A Hidden Chapter of World War II



Otto Abetz and His Paris Acolytes: French Writers Who Flirted with Fascism, 1930-1945 by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3858 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 386 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Otto Abetz was the German ambassador to France during World War II. He was a key figure in the Nazi occupation of France and played a major role in the collaborationist Vichy regime. This book tells the story of Abetz and his acolytes, a group of French intellectuals and politicians who collaborated with the Nazis. It is a fascinating and disturbing account of the human cost of war.

Abetz's Early Life and Career

Otto Abetz was born in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1903. He studied law at the University of Heidelberg and became a member of the Nazi Party in 1930. In 1933, he was appointed head of the Nazi Party's foreign affairs office. In this role, he played a key role in negotiating the Munich Agreement, which gave Nazi Germany control of the Sudetenland.

Abetz in France

In 1940, Abetz was appointed German ambassador to France. He arrived in Paris just days after the German invasion of France. Abetz's main task was to oversee the occupation of France and to ensure the collaboration of the French government. He worked closely with Marshal Philippe Pétain, the head of the Vichy regime.

Abetz was a ruthless and efficient administrator. He quickly established a network of informants and collaborators throughout France. He also played a key role in the persecution of Jews in France. He was responsible for the deportation of over 70,000 Jews to death camps.

Abetz's Acolytes

Abetz was not alone in his collaboration with the Nazis. He was supported by a group of French intellectuals and politicians who believed that collaboration was the best way to protect France from the Nazis. These acolytes included:

- Pierre Laval: Prime Minister of France from 1942 to 1944.
- Jacques Doriot: Leader of the French fascist party.
- Marcel Déat: Leader of the neo-socialist party.
- Louis-Ferdinand Céline: Anti-Semitic writer.

These acolytes provided Abetz with a veneer of legitimacy. They argued that collaboration was necessary to protect France from communism and to ensure its future prosperity. They also helped to spread Nazi propaganda among the French people.

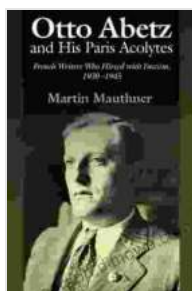
The End of the Occupation

The German occupation of France ended in August 1944, when the Allies liberated Paris. Abetz and his acolytes were arrested and charged with treason. Abetz was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was released in 1954 and died in West Germany in 1958.

The Legacy of Abetz

Otto Abetz was a complex and controversial figure. He was a Nazi who committed atrocities against the French people. However, he was also a skilled diplomat who played a key role in the German occupation of France. His story is a reminder of the human cost of war and the dangers of collaboration.

Otto Abetz and His Paris Acolytes is a fascinating and disturbing account of the human cost of war. It is a story that should be remembered and studied so that the mistakes of the past can be avoided in the future.

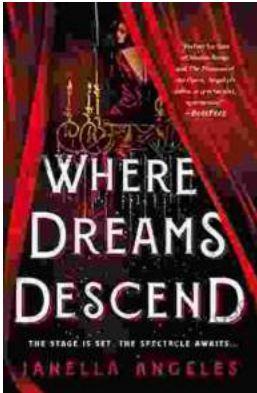


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