

book to remind one of the hardships of real people and unforeseen outcomes during the Nazi regime, and it rewards the particularly diligent and thoughtful reader.

But here we also strike the volume's shortcomings, since I suspect that the average student will require considerable support to get the most out of it. Naturally the lack of an index doesn't help, but that isn't all. At times, for example, the commentary falls prey to over-generalization. The introductory statement that by 'the summer of 1933, in fact, one-man and one-party rule had become the reality' (p. 4) leaves a great deal unsaid—a truth which certainly becomes apparent as one reads on. But will the student be impressed by the fuller picture or only the catch-phrase? Under such circumstances, the risk of confusion must also be lurking. To cite another example, at one point we read that racial ideology was about more than just propaganda, only to see a little further on that 'Hitler eventually acted less for the sake of establishing the *Volk* community than for the purpose of acting, and acting became an end in itself' (p. 8). The situation is not helped by the authors' deliberate decision to eschew the direct exposition of academic interpretations and debates in favour of primary evidence. Unfortunately problems of interpretation cannot so readily be defined out of the game. Sections dealing with Jewish policy 1939–45 which fail to address directly both the intentionalist-functionalist debate and when exactly Hitler decided upon the Final Solution will always be incomplete. Arguably the book should have made space for quotations from significant secondary literature by some rather more judicious editing of the odd over-long document.

But it would not be right to end on a sour note. The authors clearly have had enthusiasm for their project, and if their volume is used thoughtfully by teachers, there is no real reason why this should not be communicated to students. I will be ordering a copy for Bradford University.

Bradford University

MARTYN HOUSDEN

*Die Reise ins Dritte Reich. Britische Augenzeugen im nationalsozialistischen Deutschland 1933–9.* By Angela Schwarz. Göttingen and Zurich: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht. 1993. 435 pp. DM 128.

In the course of the last thirty years I have talked to as many of the survivors of the First World War as I possibly can. I have never heard any of them say a good word for their French allies ('too excitable'), but they all have gone out of their way to pay tribute to the German soldiers ('more like us'). I do not claim any scientific validity for my sample of opinion, nor do I endorse their criticism of the French, but I report it for what it is worth. Certainly if one looks at the 1930s one cannot avoid the view that there was an enormous fund of goodwill for Germany amongst the British people, goodwill that was progressively dissipated by Hitler's moves towards war.

It is a view which finds corroboration in Angela Schwarz's fascinating and meticulously researched book. The belief that Germany had been unfairly treated at Versailles, and that she had suffered disproportionately in the economic crisis of the early 1930s, were two factors which prompted British public opinion to hope for the best once Hitler came into power. Once the Nazis had established themselves there was intense admiration amongst travellers to Germany for the efforts that were being made by the régime to reduce unemployment. The *Reichsarbeitsdienst*, the *Kraft-*

*durch-Freude* ethos were all held up as examples which put the National government in England to shame:

To my mind there is much to admire, and even envy, about the Germany of today. The vigorous and decisive measures taken to improve the health and strength of the population. The rebirth of national pride, after such a disastrous mess as the late war. The enormous and well-disciplined army, which is obviously the best way to ensure self-security and Peace, whilst the world is in the state it is in now. Above all, Europe has in Germany the most vigorous champion against Bolshevism.

This comes from the great cartoonist of the First World War, Bruce Bairnsfather, in an article entitled 'Old Bill would be delighted' in the *Anglo-German review* of 1936. 'Old Bill' was for once going over the top, but it is an indication of the way in which many of the British middle classes were thinking.

All this was destroyed by the events of 1938–39. The vast majority of British travellers in Germany in the 1930s were not ideological sympathizers with Nazism, and were puzzled and somewhat uneasy about the persecution of the Jews. What reassured them was their belief that the German people, like the British, were determined that there should be no war. When it became clear that Hitler was intent on war British sympathy evaporated.

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FRANK FIELD

*Rechtsgeschichte im Nationalsozialismus. Beiträge zur Geschichte einer Disziplin.* Edited by Michael Stolleis and Dieter Simon. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck). 1989. vi + 202 pp. DM 128.

This informative collection of essays, the proceedings of a wide-ranging conference on the development of the university subject of Legal History in the Third Reich, provides further evidence of the eagerness with which many German lawyers cooperated with the Nazi regime. In a clear introduction Michael Stolleis explains why the study of the development of Legal History under Nazism was neglected during the first two decades after 1945: some legal historians had openly supported Hitler's dictatorship, and naturally did not wish to rake up their own dubious pasts; other legal historians steered clear of the area so as not to embarrass their formerly pro-Nazi colleagues. Traditionally, Legal History in Germany had been concerned with the distant rather than the recent past. It was characterized by a division between academics who specialized in the history of Roman Law and those who specialized in the history of German Law. The latter showed a strong tendency towards irrational approaches, and proved highly vulnerable to Nazism. Historians of German Law hoped their material would provide the basis for a renewal of the legal system. Professor Walther Merk wrote in 1933 that 'an immeasurable treasure of ancient and hereditary Nordic wisdom is handed down to us through the older German legal sources'. Previous generations had supposedly squandered this legacy by allowing the intrusion of Roman Law; now there was an opportunity to redress the balance.

Stolleis identifies the behaviour of the legal historian and civil lawyer Justus Hedemann as an example of the way in which specialists in German Law paid homage to the Nazi regime in the hope of being entrusted with important duties in the refashioning of the legal system. Hedemann's role in the Third Reich is thoroughly