



Ordinary Organisations: Why Normal Men Carried Out the Holocaust

Stefan Kühl

E-Book	978-1-509-50293-6	October 2016	\$16.99
Paperback	978-1-509-50290-5	November 2016	\$24.95
Hardcover	978-1-509-50289-9	November 2016	\$72.75

DESCRIPTION

During the Holocaust, 99 percent of all Jewish killings were carried out by members of state organizations. In this groundbreaking book, Stefan Kühl offers a new analysis of the integral role that membership in organizations played in facilitating the annihilation of European Jews under the Nazis.

Drawing on the well-researched case of the mass killings of Jews by a Hamburg reserve police battalion, Kühl shows how ordinary men from ordinary professions were induced to carry out massacres. It may have been that coercion, money, identification with the end goal, the enjoyment of brutality, or the expectations of their comrades impelled the members of the police battalion to join the police units and participate in ghetto liquidations, deportations, and mass shootings. But ultimately, argues Kühl, the question of immediate motives, or indeed whether members carried out tasks with enthusiasm or reluctance, is of secondary importance. The crucial factor in explaining what they did was the integration of individuals into an organizational framework that prompted them to perform their roles.

This book makes a major contribution to our understanding of the Holocaust by demonstrating the fundamental role played by organizations in persuading ordinary Germans to participate in the annihilation of the Jews. It will be an invaluable resource for students and scholars of organizations, violence, and modern German history, as well as for anyone interested in genocide and the Holocaust.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stefan Kühl is Professor of Sociology at the University of Bielefeld.

To purchase this product, please visit <https://www.wiley.com/en-us/9781509502936>