



Biologists under Hitler

By Ute Deichmann

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On the subject of science in Nazi Germany, we are apt to hear about the collaboration of some scientists, the forced emigration of talented Jewish scientists, the general science phobia of leaders of the Third Reich--but little detail about what actually transpired. *Biologists under Hitler* is the first book to examine the impact of Nazism on the lives and research of a generation of German biologists. Drawing on previously unutilized archival material, Ute Deichmann, herself a biologist, explores not only what happened to the biologists forced to emigrate but also the careers, science, and crimes of those who stayed in Germany.

Biologists under Hitler combines exhaustive research with capsule biographies of key scientists to overturn certain assumptions about science under the Nazi regime. Biological research, for instance, was neither neglected nor underfunded during World War II; funding by the German Research Association (DFG) in fact increased tenfold between 1933 and 1938, and genetic research in particular flourished. Deichmann shows that the forced emigration of Jews had a less significant impact in biology than in other fields. Furthermore, she reveals that the widely observed decline in German biology after 1945 was not caused primarily by the Third Reich's science policy or by the expulsion of biologists but was due to the international isolation of German scientists as part of the legacy of National Socialism. Her book also provides overwhelming evidence of German scientists' conscious misrepresentation after the war of their wartime activities. In this regard, Deichmann's capsule biography of Konrad Lorenz is particularly telling.

Certain to be regarded as the most thorough and comprehensive account of biological science in Nazi Germany, *Biologists under Hitler* will interest historians of science, historians of the Nazi era, and biologists, as well as those who wish to learn about the relationship between scientific truth and political realities.

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Editorial Review

Review

An exhaustive chronicle of biologists and their research under the Nazis...[Readers] will find painstaking detail, a clear understanding of the scientific subject-matter and determination to expose the amoral behaviour of scientists who worked under a criminal regime.

--Richard Bessel (*Times Literary Supplement*)

Although the 1980s and early 1990s saw an explosion of literature on science in National Socialist Germany, many disciplines, institutions, and other important topics still have not been covered...Ute Deichmann's book thus fills a gap in the literature...This is a comprehensive and detailed study of biologists and biology in social, political, and financial context.

--Kristie Macrakis (*American Historical Review*)

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Many critics regard this volume as the most thorough and comprehensive account of biological science in Nazi Germany.

--Jack Fischel (*Indiana Jewish Post & Opinion*)

We are now fortunate to have an English edition of this distinguished work, the first book-length treatment of the history of biology under the Nazis. Deichmann shows that, contrary to conventional wisdom, the biological sciences were handsomely supported during the Nazi period.

--Robert Proctor, Pennsylvania State University

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Users Review

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