A Genius For War The German Army And General Staff 1807 1945

A Genius For War The German Army And General Staff 1807 1945 A Genius for War The German Army and General Staff 18071945 This book explores the intricate relationship between the German Army and its General Staff a unique institution that shaped the development and conduct of warfare for over a century From the Napoleonic Wars to the Second World War it investigates the evolution of strategic thinking operational doctrine and tactical innovation highlighting the triumphs and failures of this formidable military force German Army General Staff Military History Warfare Strategy Tactics Napoleonic Wars World War I World War II Prussian Army German Empire Weimar Republic Nazi Germany A Genius for War offers a comprehensive and critical examination of the German Army and its General Staff spanning a tumultuous period from 1807 to 1945 The book delves into the origins of the General Staff its organizational structure and its role in shaping German military doctrine and strategy It analyzes the profound impact of Prussian military reforms the rise of the German Empire the First and Second World Wars and the institutions eventual demise The narrative highlights key figures who influenced German military thought such as Clausewitz Moltke Schlieffen and Guderian examining their strategies and tactical innovations It explores the evolution of German military doctrine from the emphasis on offensive maneuver warfare in the 19th century to the development of Blitzkrieg in the 20th The book also delves into the social political and cultural contexts that shaped the German military examining its relationship with civilian society and its role in German national identity Through meticulous research and insightful analysis A Genius for War offers a nuanced and thoughtprovoking account of a military institution that left an enduring legacy on the world Conclusion The German Army and General Staff embodied both brilliance and brutality While their military innovations shaped the art of warfare for over a century their strategic thinking often led to devastating consequences This book invites readers to contemplate the complex 2 interplay between military innovation strategic brilliance and the dangers of unchecked ambition By understanding the history of this formidable institution we can learn valuable lessons about the enduring power of military organization the importance of strategic thinking and the crucial role of ethics in war FAQs 1 How did the German General Staff differ from other military structures The General Staff was a unique institution unlike any other military organization at the time It was a professional corps of officers dedicated to planning training and coordinating military operations Its emphasis on intellectual rigor strategic thinking and continuous improvement contributed to its effectiveness and influence 2 What was the impact of Prussian military reforms on the German Army The Prussian military reforms of the 19th century were instrumental in shaping the German Army These reforms introduced a system of universal conscription emphasized rigorous training and fostered a professional officer corps This transformed the Prussian army into a formidable military force that would eventually dominate Europe 3 Did the German Armys strategic thinking always lead to success While the German Army achieved remarkable victories in the 19th and early 20th centuries its strategic thinking was not always successful The disastrous results of the First World War particularly the stalemate on the Western Front illustrate the limitations of the Schlieffen Plan and the dangers of inflexible strategic doctrines 4 What were the key innovations of Blitzkrieg and how did they influence warfare Blitzkrieg a German strategy of lightning warfare that employed rapid mechanized attacks and air power revolutionized warfare in the 20th century Its success in the early stages of World War II demonstrated the effectiveness of combined arms operations and the importance of mobility and surprise 5 What lessons can we learn from the history of the German Army and General Staff The history of the German Army provides valuable lessons about the importance of military organization strategic planning and the dangers of unchecked ambition It highlights the need for flexibility innovation and ethical considerations in warfare By understanding the successes and failures of this formidable military force we can gain valuable insights into the complexities of war and the enduring need for prudence in its pursuit 3

The German Army and the Defence of the ReichThe Rise of the WehrmachtThe WehrmachtHitler's SoldiersThe German Army in WarThe German ArmyWar of ExterminationThe German Army from WithinThe German Army and Nazi Policies in Occupied RussiaInstrument of WarEnduring the WhirlwindEncyclopaedia of the German Army in the 20th CenturyThe German Army in the WestThe Myth and Reality of German WarfareThe German Soldier in World War IIThe German Army, 1933-45The Rise of the WehrmachtHandbook on German Military ForcesThe Nemesis of PowerThe German Army on the Eastern Front Matthias Strohn Samuel W. Mitcham Jr. Tim Ripley Ben H. Shepherd Andrew Hilliard Atteridge Herbert Rosinski Hannes Heer Thomas Burke Theo J. Schulte Dennis Showalter Gregory Liedtke Bruce Quarrie Siegfried Westphal Gerhard P. Gross Dr Stephen Hart Albert Seaton Samuel W. Mitcham Bob Carruthers Sir John Wheeler Wheeler-Bennett Jeff Rutherford

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an exploration of the development of military theory and doctrine in the german army between the wars

the rise of the wehrmacht is the first comprehensive work to deal with the german war effort in world war ii from this point of view its uniqueness lies in the fact that it covers the entire war effort from the point of view of the german military that actually conducted and fought the war something that has never been done before on this scale excellent books have been written about the german army navy the luftwaffe and the ss as well as about the panzer branch the parachute arm the u boat forces etc but this is the first to cover them all in depth mitcham also covers the german wehrkreise roughly translated as military district system in depth and recognizes its importance both in the formation and expansion of the german army before the war and in its continuing importance throughout the conflict he deals with the german rearmament in greater depth and detail than has been done before points out the importance of the police in the development of germany s reserves before and during world war ii and offers new insights into the evolution and development of the german military doctrine of kesselschlact the decisive battle of encirclement and annihilation in addition the rise of the wehrmacht explains the problems the wehrmacht faced because of its too rapid expansion this expansion was far more rapid than the german generals intended and resulted in many problems especially in terms of equipment shortages and a shortage of qualified officers finally mitcham addresses the contributions of the hitler youth to the war effort where their work on farms fire and rescue crews in nursing and as postal workers for example provided essential services to german infrastructure

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a penetrating study of the german army s military campaigns relations with the nazi regime and complicity in nazi crimes across occupied europe for decades after 1945 it was generally believed that the german army professional and morally decent had largely stood apart from the ss gestapo and other corps of the nazi machine ben shepherd draws on a wealth of primary sources and recent scholarship to convey a much darker more complex picture for the first time the german army is examined throughout the second world war across all combat theaters and occupied regions and from multiple perspectives its battle performance social composition relationship with the nazi state and involvement in war crimes and military occupation this was a true people s army drawn from across german society and reflecting that society as it existed under the nazis without the army and its conquests abroad shepherd explains the nazi regime could not have perpetrated its crimes against jews prisoners of war and civilians in occupied countries the author examines how the army was complicit in these crimes and why some soldiers units and higher commands were more complicit than others shepherd also reveals the reasons for the army s early battlefield successes and its mounting defeats up to 1945 the latter due not only to allied superiority and hitler's mismanagement as commander in chief but also to the failings moral political economic strategic and operational of the army s own leadership

excerpt from the german army in war in the following chapters i have tried to give briefly and in plain untechnical language an account of the origin of the german military system and the organisation and war methods of the german army i trust that the little book will prove interesting and useful to readers of the war news and to many of our young soldiers who are now training to meet that army in the field i have endeavoured to make the book a collection of facts with only so much discussion of them as is necessary to make them clear to the reader avoiding as far as possible any attempt at criticism but the mere statement of these facts is enough to show that the german army is a very formidable fighting organisation and i think it is well that this should be understood it is a mistake to underrate an opponent the germans made this mistake with regard to our own gallant army some writers here at home appear to me to have been as much at fault in their estimates of the german army at the outset of the war in our case a mistake of this kind has very unfortunate results in the first place it does an injustice to our own splendid fighting men if the german army were an inefficient out of date war machine if it sent to the front a crowd of blundering leaders and half hearted soldiers there would be little credit due to those who have stood up so gloriously against its onset about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

this volume contains the most important contributions by distinguished historians who have thoroughly demolished this wehrmacht myth the picture that emerges from this collection is a depressing one and raises many questions about why ordinary men got involved as perpetrators and bystanders in an unprecedented program of extermination of racially inferior men women and children in eastern europe and the soviet union during the second world war pub desc

this discussion of the german military occupation of areas of russia during the second world war re evaluates many critical interpretations of wehrmacht activities and concentrates on the responses of the lower ranks to their policies

drawing on more than a half century of research and teaching dennis showalter presents a fresh perspective on the german army during world war i showalter surveys an army at the heart of a national identity driven by yet also defeated by warfare in the modern age which struggled to capitalize on its victories and ultimately forgot the lessons of its defeat exploring the internal dynamics of the german army and detailing how the soldiers coped with the many new forms of warfare showalter shows how the army s institutions responded to and how germany itself was changed by war detailing the major campaigns on the western and eastern fronts and the forgotten war fought in the middle east and africa this comprehensive volume examines the army s operational strategy the complexities of campaigns of movement versus static trench warfare and the effects of changes in warfare

despite the best efforts of a number of historians many aspects of the ferocious struggle between nazi germany and the soviet union during the second world war remain obscure or shrouded in myth one of the most persistent of these is the notion largely created by many former members of its own officer corps in the immediate postwar period that the german army

was a paragon of military professionalism and operational proficiency whose defeat on the eastern front was solely attributable to the amateurish meddling of a crazed former corporal and the overwhelming numerical superiority of the red army a key pillar upon which the argument of german numerical weakness vis à vis the red army has been constructed is the assertion that germany was simply incapable of providing its army with the necessary quantities of men and equipment needed to replace its losses in consequence as their losses outstripped the availability of replacements german field formations became progressively weaker until they were incapable of securing their objectives or eventually of holding back the swelling might of the red army this work seeks to address the notion of german numerical weakness in terms of germany s ability to replace its losses and regenerate its military strength and assess just how accurate this argument was during the crucial first half of the russo german war june 1941 june 1943 employing a host of primary documents and secondary literature it traces the development and many challenges of the german army from the prewar period until the invasion of the soviet union in june 1941 it continues on to chart the first two years of the struggle between germany and the soviet union with a particular emphasis upon the scale of german personnel and equipment losses and how well these were replaced it also includes extensive examinations into the host of mitigating factors that both dictated the course of germany s campaign in the east and its replacement and regeneration capabilities in contrast to most accounts of the conflict this study finds that numerical weakness being the primary factor in the defeat of the ostheer specifically as it relates to the strength and condition of the german units involved has been overemphasized and frequently exaggerated in fact germany was actually able to regenerate its forces to a remarkable degree with a steady flow of fresh men and equipment and german field divisions on the eastern front were usually far stronger than the accepted narratives of the war would have one believe

tysk militærhistorie tyske hær s historie tyske regimenter et engelsk opslagsværk encyclopædi over den tyske hær s historie i det 20 århundrede bogen er opdelt i tre afsnit den tyske hær i 1 verdenskrig den tyske hær i 2 verdenskrig den tyske hær efter 1945 bundesheer bogen er rigt illustreret sort hvide fotos og har ikke bare hærens historie men også beskrivelser af køretøjer våben våbentyper udrustning tekniske data og beskrivelser af kanoner kampvogne ordnance organisation m m samt kronologisk oversigt over begivhederne og udviklingen i både 1 og 2 verdenskrig og tekstafsnit om tysk militarisme versailles traktaten tyskland i mellemkrigsårene det tredie rige ss divisioner tyskland efter 1945 tyskland og nato nye våben som raketter og missiler helikoptere m m

surrounded by potential adversaries nineteenth century prussia and twentieth century germany faced the formidable prospect of multifront wars and wars of attrition to counteract these threats generations of general staff officers were educated in operational thinking the main tenets of which were extremely influential on military planning across the globe and were adopted by american and soviet armies in the twentieth century germany s art of warfare dominated military theory and practice creating a myth of german operational brilliance that lingers today despite the nation s crushing defeats in two world wars in this seminal study gerhard p gross provides a comprehensive examination of the development and failure of german operational thinking over a period of more than a century he analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of five different armies from the mid nineteenth century through the early days of nato he also offers fresh interpretations of towering figures of german military history including moltke the elder alfred von schlieffen and erich ludendorff essential reading for military historians and strategists this innovative work dismantles cherished myths and offers new insights into germany s failed attempts to become a global power through military means

the german soldier in world war ii is a graphic portrait of the life of the private soldier in the army of the third reich containing first hand accounts from german army veterans who served in the war this book is for anyone interested in the history of world war ii and the third reich

beskrivelse af den tyske hær 1933 1945 herunder gennemgang af hærens udvikling fra en hær på ca 100 000 mand reichheer til den flere millioner mand store wehrmacht under 2 verdenskrig samt gennemgang af udrustning taktik beskrivelse af væsentlige operationer og endelig den tyske værnemagts endeligt i 1945 bogen findes også i en anden udgave udgivet i usa meridan book new american library new york s å se isbn nr 0452007399

the handbook on german military forces is an indispensable primary reference source for historians and enthusiasts in 1945 the allies were still engaged in bitter fighting against stiff resistance from the german armies in the west the us war department was determined to do its best to equip the us forces fighting the germans in the field with as much knowledge as possible march 1945 saw the issue of an astonishing document entitled the handbook on german military forces this was a truly remarkable work of intelligence gathering which formed a vast compendium of all the relevant knowledge amassed on the german wehrmacht amazingly accurate and comprehensive the handbook ran to over six hundred pages and was designed to equip commanders in the field with everything they were likely to need to know

about the german forces the handbook remained classified until 1953 and then slipped into obscurity this new paperback reprint rescues this great work from obscurity covering the psychology organisation tactics and operational aspects of the german forces the weapons machines aircraft and uniforms of the german forces are also documented within the handbook the handbook on german military forces is a fascinating primary reference source for historians and enthusiasts alike providing an invaluable insight into the detail of the german army which is still an unrivaled source of information today

a documentary history of the war of annihilation nazi germany fought against the soviet union its people and the red army during world war ii histories of the german army on the eastern front generally focus on battlefield exploits on the war as it was fought in the front line they tend to neglect other aspects of the army s experience particularly its participation in the racial war demanded by the leadership of the reich this ground breaking book aims to correct this incomplete often misleading picture using a selection of revealing extracts from a wide range of wartime documents it looks at the totality of the wehrmacht's war in the east the documents have previously been unpublished or have never been translated into english and they offer a fascinating inside view of the army s actions and attitudes combat is covered and complicity in hitler's war of annihilation against the soviet union there are sections on the conduct of the war in the rear areas logistics medical judicial and the army s tactics motivation and leadership the entire text is informed by the latest research into the reality of the conflict as it was perceived and understood by those who took part

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