

# Hitlers Police Battalions: Enforcing Racial War in the East

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# Reviews

*It is great and fantastic. I actually have read and so i am certain that i am going to going to go through once again yet again in the future. I realized this ebook from my dad and i encouraged this book to find out. (Dr. Kayden Gerlach)* 

### HITLERS POLICE BATTALIONS: ENFORCING RACIAL WAR IN THE EAST



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University Press of Kansas. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 346 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.1in. x 0.8in.When the German Wehrmacht swarmed across Eastern Europe, an elite corps followed close at its heels. Along with the SS and Gestapo, the Ordnungspolizei, or Uniformed Police, played a central role in Nazi genocide that until now has been generally neglected by historians of the war. Beginning with the invasion of Poland, the Uniformed Police were charged with following the army to curb resistance, pacify the countryside, patrol Jewish ghettos, and generally maintain order in the conquered territories. Edward Westermann examines how this force emerged as a primary instrument of annihilation, responsible for the murder of hundreds of thousands of the Third Reichs political and racial enemies. In Hitlers Police Battalions he reveals how the institutional mindset of these ordinary policemen allowed them to commit atrocities without a second thought. To uncover the story of how the German national police were fashioned into a corps of political soldiers, Westermann reveals initiatives pursued before the war by Heinrich Himmler and Kurt Daluege to create a culture within the existing police forces that fostered anti-Semitism and anti-Communism as institutional norms. Challenging prevailing interpretations of German culture, Westermann draws on extensive archival researchincluding the testimony of former policemento illuminate this transformation and the callous organizational culture that emerged. Purged of dissidents, indoctrinated to idolize Hitler, and trained in military combat, these police battalions-often numbering several hundred men-repeatedly conducted actions against Jews, Slavs, gypsies, asocials, and other groups on their own initiative, even when they had the choice not to. In addition to documenting these atrocities, Westermann examines cooperation between the Ordnungspolizei and the SS and Gestapo, and the close relationship between police and Wehrmacht in the conduct of the anti-partis

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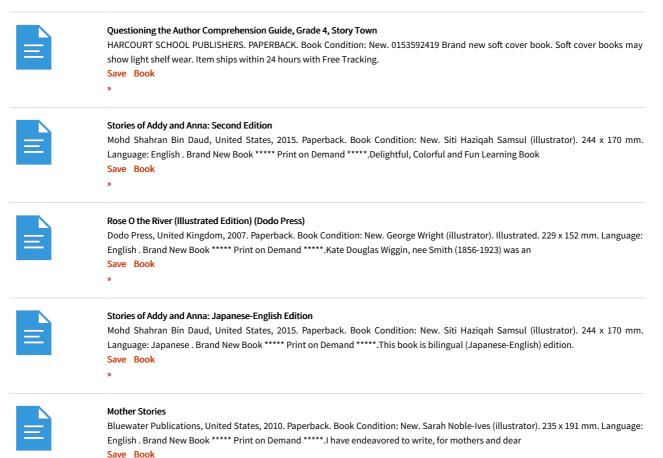
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