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## Review of Interrogations: the Nazi elite in Allied hands

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## LJ Review Cover Sheet and Survey

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Title of the book: *Interrogations: The Nazi Elite in Allied Hands, 1945*

Author or editor of the book: Richard Overy

This book is recommended for: academic libraries

Comments for your editor: It has been interesting to read about the Germans in World War II. I was wondering if it would be possible to switch gears a bit and read some British history (not necessarily with respect to World War II exclusively) or some biographies.)

### Review

Author: Richard Overy

Title: *Interrogations: The Nazi Elite in Allied Hands, 1945*

Publisher: Viking

Release date: October 15, 2001

Number of pages: 652 pages.

Features: Photographs

Format: (Hard cover)

ISBN: 0-670-03008-2

Price: \$32.95

Desperate rats will devour one another to survive. At the end of World War II, the members of the captured Nazi hierarchy were indeed desperate to survive. Craven and cringing, they dissembled with their captors, attempting to sacrifice each other to escape inescapable guilt.

As historian Richard Overy (*Russia's War*) points out, though there was never any doubt of the criminality of the Nazi regime, subjecting that regime to judicial process was very risky: if the case were not proven, the accused might actually go free.

Overy's work presents excerpts of the pretrial interrogations that provided the Allies with much of the information they needed to convict those responsible for the war and its atrocities. The interrogations and the illuminating commentary that accompanies each paint a picture of the leaders of the "master race" as weak-willed cowards. It was typical for the primary defendants to deny responsibility for barbarity that occurred right under their noses or to feign incredulity that such fantastic cruelty could even occur.

Copiously annotated and supported by an extensive bibliography, *Interrogations* is highly recommended, especially for academic libraries with a strong emphasis on twentieth century or military history.

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