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0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

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## THE WORLD HITLER NEVER MADE

What if the Nazis had triumphed in World War II? What if Adolf Hitler had escaped Berlin for the jungles of Latin America in 1945? What if Hitler had become a successful artist instead of a politician? Gavriel D. Rosenfeld's pioneering study explores why such counterfactual questions on the subject of Nazism have proliferated in recent years within Western popular culture. Examining a wide range of novels, short stories, films, television programs, plays, comic books, and scholarly essays that have appeared in Great Britain, the United States, and Germany since 1945, Rosenfeld shows how the portrayal of historical events that *never* happened reflects the evolving memory of the Third Reich's real historical legacy. He concludes that the shifting representation of Nazism in works of alternate history, as well as the popular reactions to them, highlights their subversive role in promoting the normalization of the Nazi past in Western memory.

GAVRIEL D. ROSENFELD is Associate Professor of History at Fairfield University (Connecticut). He is a specialist in the history and memory of the Third Reich and the Holocaust. His previous publications include *Munich and Memory: Architecture, Monuments, and the Legacy of the Third Reich* (2000).

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Frontmatter

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*Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism*

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Cambridge University Press

0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>		ix
Introduction		I
PART I THE NAZIS WIN WORLD WAR II		
Comparative overview		29
1. Great Britain defeated: between resistance and collaboration		34
2. The United States and the dilemmas of military intervention		95
3. Germany's wartime triumph: from dystopia to normalcy		161
4. Other nations: a dissenting view		187
Comparative conclusions		195
PART II ALTERNATE HITLERS		
5. The fugitive Führer and the search for justice		199
6. The world without Hitler: better or worse?		271

Cambridge University Press

0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

*Contents*

## PART III HYPOTHETICAL HOLOCAUSTS

7. Hypothetical Holocausts and the mistrust of memory	333
Conclusion	374
<i>Notes</i>	398
<i>Bibliography</i>	492
<i>Appendix: Alternate histories by theme, era, nation, and medium</i>	510
<i>Index</i>	519

Cambridge University Press

0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of illustrations*

1. Scene from the 1947 play *Peace in Our Time*. (Source: John Knowles, the Noël Coward Society). 43
2. *TV Times* cover featuring the 1964 film *The Other Man*.  
Used by permission of IPC tx Limited. 53
3. Still from the 1964 film *It Happened Here*. Used by permission  
of Kevin Brownlow. 56
4. Page from *Britain Invaded* (1990). Used by permission of The  
Trustees of the Imperial War Museum, London (negative  
number HU36121). 73
5. Cover of *Fatherland* by Robert Harris (© 1992 by Random House,  
Inc.). Used by permission of Random House, Inc. 78
6. Illustration of Hitler in Washington D.C. from the 1940 novel  
*Lightning in the Night* by Fred Allhoff. © Liberty Library  
Corporation. 98
7. Cover of *The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick (© 1962  
by Philip K. Dick). Used by permission of G. P. Putnam's Sons,  
a division of Penguin Group (USA) Inc. 105
8. Cover of *Justice League of America* Nr. 107 © 1973 DC Comics.  
All Rights Reserved. Used with permission. 114
9. Still from the *Saturday Night Live* television skit,  
"What If: Überman" (1979). 136
10. Image taken from *The Philadelphia Experiment II* provided  
through the courtesy of Lions Gate Entertainment. 141
11. Still from the 1994 film *Fatherland*. 143
12. Cover of *The Plot against America: A Novel* by Philip Roth.  
© Philip Roth. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin  
Company. All rights reserved. 153

Cambridge University Press

0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

*List of illustrations*

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 13. Cover of <i>Wenn Adolf Hitler den Krieg nicht gewonnen hätte</i> (1979) by Helmut Heissenbüttel. Cover design by Heinz Edelmann. Used by permission of Verlag Klett-Cotta.   | 167 |
| 14. Page from <i>Strange Adventures</i> Nr. 3 © 1950 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.   | 204 |
| 15. Cover of <i>T-Man</i> , issue Nr. 34 (1956).   | 206 |
| 16. Still from the television episode “The Master Plan of Dr. Fu Manchu” (1956). Used by permission of Alpha Video.  | 210 |
| 17. Still from the <i>Twilight Zone</i> episode “He’s Alive!” (1963). Courtesy of CBS Broadcasting Inc.  | 215 |
| 18. Cover of <i>Who Will Watch the Watchers?</i> by Edwin J. Fadiman (1970). Used by permission of Little, Brown.  | 222 |
| 19. Cover of <i>The Portage to San Cristóbal of A.H.</i> (1981). Reprinted with the permission of Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group from THE PORTAGE TO SAN CRISTÓBAL OF A.H. by George Steiner. Copyright © 1981 by George Steiner. | 228 |
| 20. Still from the 1996 film <i>The Empty Mirror</i> . Used with permission of Walden Woods Film Company.  | 255 |
| 21. Page from the comic book <i>Adolf die Nazi-Sau</i> (1998–99). © Eichborn Verlag AG, Frankfurt am Main, Mai 1998.   | 260 |
| 22. Cover of <i>Elleander Morning</i> (1984).  | 275 |
| 23. Cover of <i>The Iron Dream</i> (1972).   | 288 |
| 24. Cover of <i>Making History</i> by Stephen Fry (© 1996 by Random House, Inc.). Used by permission of Random House, Inc.   | 299 |
| 25. Still from the <i>Twilight Zone</i> episode “Cradle of Darkness” (2002).   | 306 |
| 26. Cover of issue Nr. 292 of the comic book <i>The Fantastic Four</i> (1986).   | 323 |
| 27. Cover of <i>After Dachau</i> by Daniel Quinn (2001).   | 337 |
| 28. Cover of <i>Die Stimmen der Nacht</i> by Thomas Ziegler (1984).  | 347 |

Cambridge University Press

0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

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Cambridge University Press

0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

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Cambridge University Press

0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

xi

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Cambridge University Press

0521847060 - The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism

Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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