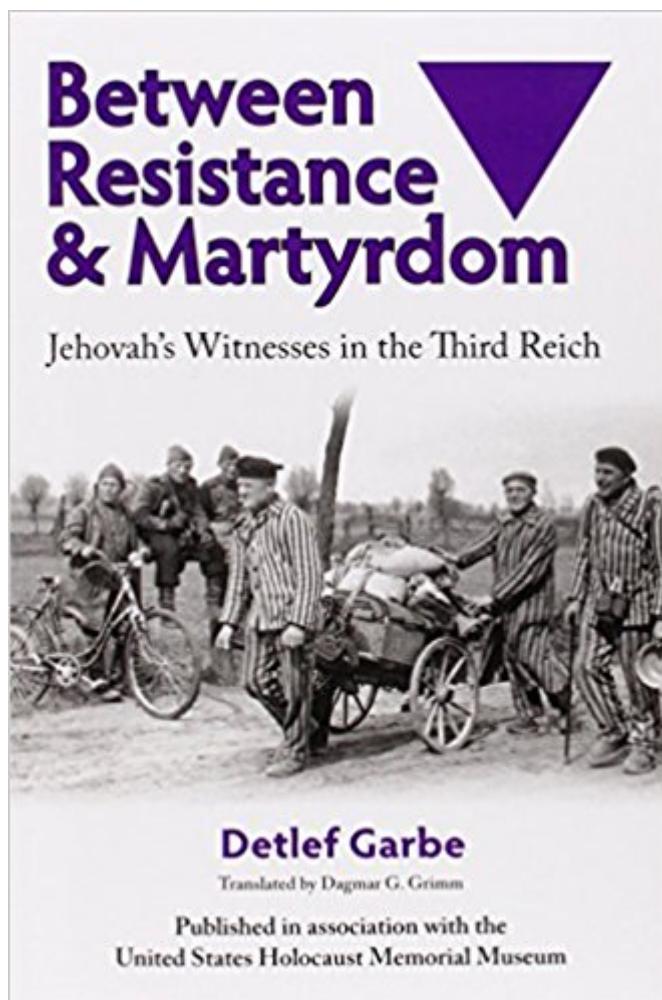


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# Between Resistance And Martyrdom: Jehovah's Witnesses In The Third Reich



## **Synopsis**

'Between Resistance and Martyrdom' is a comprehensive historical study of the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses during the Holocaust era."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

" "Between Resistance and Martyrdom" is a strong book that tells a compelling and deeply important, understudied story." -- Michael Berenbaum, author of "A Promise to Remember: The Holocaust in the Words and Voices of Its Survivors"" The persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany under National Socialism is not a new subject, but Detlef Garbe's book takes historical scholarship to new levels of subtlety and sophistication. His insights into the moral and legal resistance mounted by the Witnesses against the Nazis both inside and outside concentration camps are path-breaking and provocative. All students of persecuted religious minorities are greatly in his debt for bringing to light so much fresh evidence concerning the role of Jehovah's Witnesses in resisting National Socialism. This is historical investigation of the highest importance and quality."

-- James A. Beckford, University of Warwick""Between Resistance and Martyrdom" is a strong book that tells a compelling and deeply important, understudied story."--Michael Berenbaum, author of "A Promise to Remember: The Holocaust in the Words and Voices of Its Survivors""The persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany under National Socialism is not a new subject, but Detlef Garbe's book takes historical scholarship to new levels of subtlety and sophistication. His insights into the moral and legal resistance mounted by the Witnesses against the Nazis both inside and outside concentration camps are path-breaking and provocative. All students of persecuted religious

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Detlef Garbe is director of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial in Hamburg, Germany. He is the author of numerous publications about the history of the concentration camps, Jehovah's Witnesses and other marginal victim groups, military justice, and Germany's postwar confrontations with the National Socialist past. He is also the editor of *Beitrage zur Geschichte der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung in Norddeutschland*. Dagmar G. Grimm is a native of Bremen, Germany, who now lives in the United States. Her work as a translator and editor includes other works on the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses under the Hitler regime as well as under communist rule in East Germany.

German scholar Detlef Garbe, now director of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, produced the first comprehensive historical account of the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses by the Nazi regime. Garbe went to great lengths to produce as accurate account as possible. (There are 210 pages of footnotes and a 40 page bibliography.) He researched a wide range of resources: Nazi government archives, newspaper archives, private documents, unpublished reports, concentration camp memorial archives, Watch Tower Society publications (in English and German), personal interviews of participants, memoirs of non-Witnesses prisoners that were imprisoned with

Jehovah's Witnesses, accounts written by former Witnesses, ect. All to get as many verified facts as possible. This resulted in what is now considered the standard scholarly account about the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses under National Socialism. It must be said that this book is not an easy read. It's not a novel. It's a scholar writing a book for other scholars. There are many footnotes and abbreviations. Garbe always uses the correct terminology to refer to people, places, and ideas. But still this book is a fascinating read. You just can't help but wonder why the Nazis spent so much time and effort to try to get this small minority (about 25,000 out of 65,000,000 Germans in 1933) to conform to Nazi standards. Yet the Nazis were never able to completely shatter the core of this group. As Garbe says in the preface, page xvii: "This book reports about religious people who refused to conform to the Third Reich but whose faith in God and trust in his biblical promises gave them the strength to preserve their respect for life, even during those difficult times." This book is a translation based on the 1999 4th German edition of Detlef Garbe's *Zwischen Widerstand und Martyrium: Die Zeugen Jehovas im "Dritten Reich"*.

Interesting read. Having been an ardent student of history, and the Bible, it is much like what my Omi stated happened during her incarceration in Sachsenhausen/ Stutthoff. She also had much insight into what happened to the different groups, including Jehovah's Witnesses. As I have been reading about the history related, my Omi only told us 'the half of it.' How horrendous. Proverbs states that man has dominated man to his injury. Evil men will do whatever they can imagine for wealth and power, as long as they do not have to work for it.

This Book is ---- well it tells how it was. It was not written by the Witnesses. Every one should read this book.

In the book *Between Resistance and Martyrdom* the courage and faith of Jehovah's Witnesses is examined. Not just a personal narrative it shows through documented evidence and through personal testimonies that Jehovah's Witnesses were the only religion in Germany that actively opposed Hitler's Third Reich. Interestingly, Jehovah's Witnesses were the only religion that had its own identifying classification, the Purple Triangle. All other Christian religious prisoners who were interned in the camps for active resistance were given a Red Triangle, which identified them as political prisoners. The book also exposes the clergy as the force behind the persecution of these resistors. The treatment of the Witnesses as a danger to the government is shown to be without logical support. It shows that their persecution was from those who had hatred for a group who

exposed the churches for their wholehearted support for Hitler and his National Socialists organization. The book is not something you would read for light hearted enjoyment but more for those who are studying the Third Reich and those who were standing up in opposition to its evil. It is the first unbiased examination of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the stand they took in the face of extreme peril and suffering.

## SCHOLARLY, WELL RESEARCHED, AND EXHAUSTIVE WORK

It is amazing what these people went through with the demonic Nazi's. They held to their convictions and faith on the True God, Jehovah. These people worldwide, show us the way we are to treat each other, and for this they are shunned, accused, wrongly, and lied about. Take the time to find out what these people are about, and why their faith is so strong, that even death will not allow them to stray from it.

A careful and thorough detailed document. After reading this report I found the clue to the question: Is it possible to resist to evil? Purple Triangle prisoners unveil the secret to stick to goodness in face of the folly of war and fanatic patriotism. There are but a few of them still alive and we can learn from their words. Detlef Garbe's monumental masterpiece opens a large window to meet these persons.

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