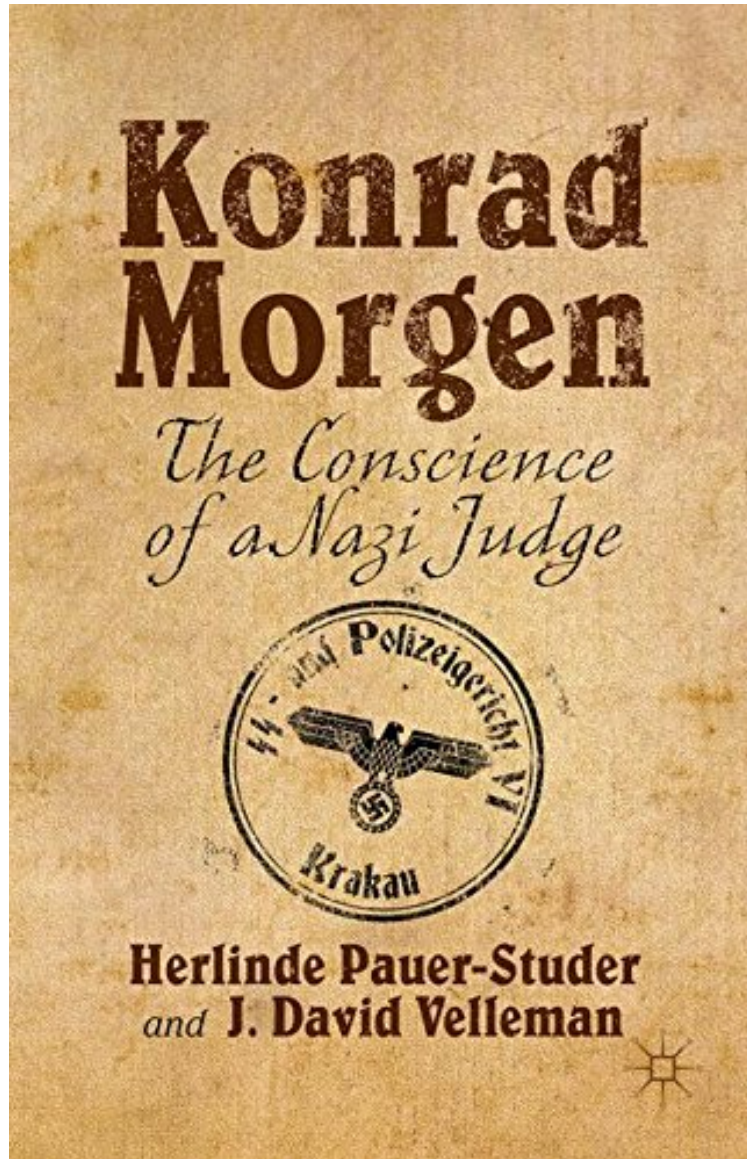


(Download free pdf) Konrad Morgen: The Conscience of a Nazi Judge

Konrad Morgen: The Conscience of a Nazi Judge

H. Pauer-Studer, J. Velleman

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#462035 in Books Herlinde Pauer Studer J David Velleman 2015-05-07 2015-05-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.52 x .71 x 6.421, .0 #File Name: 1137496940216 pagesKonrad Morgen The Conscience of a Nazi Judge | File size: 18.Mb

H. Pauer-Studer, J. Velleman : Konrad Morgen: The Conscience of a Nazi Judge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Konrad Morgen: The Conscience of a Nazi Judge:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The most extraordinary person you have never heard ofBy Joel MarksI learned about Konrad Morgen from reading John Tolands magnificent biography, Adolf Hitler. Morgen was only a bit player in that tome, but enough was said to make me ravenous to find out more about him. Lo and behold, a

book about him had just been published, and, I was particularly amazed and pleased to discover, by two philosophical ethicists (since that is also my metier). This book did not disappoint in the amazement category. Morgen is subjected to critical examination and still turns out to have been, if anything, more extraordinary than I had already thought him to be. He appears to have been a one-person anti-Holocaust crusader, yet he was a member of the Nazi administration. His impetus came from both legal principles and gut humanitarian instincts, but also from allegiance to a certain ideal of professionalism and honor as an SS judge. As such he would seem to have been a living contradiction. But the contradictory aspects, while certainly contributing to the wow factor, are the least of his story, as far as I am concerned. For me his story is that of a human being who, single-handedly, took on a monstrous institution and succeeded to a remarkable degree, motivated by noble intentions and guided by strictly rational thinking. He displayed great courage, perseverance, and competence. Morgen was a hero of humanity like few others, and his actions would make for a film ten times more compelling than Schindler's List. Morgen's experiences during the war partake of the detective genre, the war movie (he served for a time at the Russian front), the thriller. Indeed, this true story has more excitement than several best-selling fictional What if? novels I have read covering similar territory. Frankly, I am baffled why we have not heard more about him, much more. I wonder if even the fiction authors knew of his existence. Perhaps this book will provide the occasion for his wider notoriety. I credit Pauer-Studer and Velleman with performing this great service. I do, however, have one major reservation to express (hence my four stars). No doubt it comes with the territory of their (and my) field of ethical philosophy, but I found their treatment of Morgen to be heavy-handed. They appear to have taken it as their charge to arrive at a moral judgment of him. Granted they make abundant allowances for his difficult circumstances. They also provide helpful and exculpatory exegeses of a number of quotations where Morgen appears to exhibit unsympathetic sympathies. Nevertheless the authors are not content to conclude that, all things considered, Konrad Morgen was an exemplary and remarkable human being. No, being human oh so human is not good enough. Pauer-Studer and Velleman must also meticulously point out to us exactly what was good and what was bad or flawed in our hero. Their point was that his moral vision was narrow that Morgen was great at cutting down rotten trees but terrible at detecting the disease infesting the whole forest. Perhaps their general view is that all human beings are fallen and flawed in some way or other, and so we ought not to take their judgment of Morgen. Konrad Morgen was neither black nor white, but grey (p. 125) as in any way damning of him in particular. But the book simply did not read that way for me. Instead I sometimes felt I was being lectured to about a real hero in prolonged dire circumstances by condescending armchair moralists with hindsight. They conclude, His moral sentiments were strong, but their range was narrow. Perhaps he would have been equal to the moral challenges of other times, but for his own times, his moral range was certainly inadequate (p. 122). Give me a break! Konrad Morgen was the perfect person for his time and place. Anyone with an adequate moral sentiment would have been less effective or dead. All that stood in the way of Morgen's greater effectiveness was the unfortunate timing of his return to judicial duty after serving on the front. He was just a little too late to attempt to forestall the worst of the Holocaust. I think there would be more value in a psychological or biographical study of what made Morgen the admirable person he was than there is in an analytical study of his moral imperfections. John Toland would have been the right person to write such a nonjudgmental account. Still, what we've got is this book, and I am thankful for it and recommend it to everyone who would be as astounded by the discovery of this man's existence and exploits as I was. I imagine that Pauer-Studer and Velleman might reply that they were simply not writing the kind of book I would prefer, but instead a book of moral analysis. So let me speak in their (and my) language about that. They aptly allude to the thesis of our late colleague Ronald Dworkin that (to put it simply) law is properly grounded in morality. This becomes exquisitely problematic in the case of Konrad Morgen, and indeed Nazi jurisprudence, whose notion of law was precisely that. (They then, as noted, fault Morgen on the narrowness of his morality.) This is an excellent theme for a study of the nature of law. But this book is hardly a rigorous examination of that issue and is instead quite dominated by the compelling case study of Konrad Morgen. Perhaps, then, the real problem is that the book falls between two stools.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Overall a very interesting review of one person who tried ...By Annelie Purdy Overall a very interesting review of one person who tried to stand up against injustice, even though unable to bring down a murderous and horrendous regime. However writers appeared at times critical to Dr. Konrad Morgen- without considering that at that time and under that regime, any open resistance could cost a person literally their life. As it nearly did his. Here was at least was one person courageous enough who tried to fight against a corrupt regime, to the degree and within his power as was possible for him.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Although the Morgen story is amazing in that as far as I know he was ...By Customer Although the Morgen story is amazing in that as far as I know he was the only Nazi official to openly oppose the holocaust and demonstrated his opposition by prosecuting Commandant Koch and attempting to prosecute Adolph Eichman, the book was too short and superficial. After reading the book, I had many questions regarding Mr. Morgen's life which were not answered by the book. I would have been interested in knowing the reasons Mr. Morgen was detained by the allies for three years notwithstanding his attempts to stop the holocaust. I would have also liked to learn the nature of Mr. Morgen's testimony in the post war war crimes trials.

Konrad Morgen: The Conscience of a Nazi Judge is a moral biography of Georg Konrad Morgen, who prosecuted crimes committed by members of the SS in Nazi concentration camps and eventually came face-to-face with the system of industrialized murder at Auschwitz. His wartime papers and postwar testimonies yield a study in moral complexity.

Herlinde Pauer-Studer and J. David Velleman's Konrad Morgen: The Conscience of a Nazi Judge is a scrupulous and gripping account by two philosophers--an Austrian and American--of the confrontation of [the] dilemmas of moral and legal philosophy by an actual person No hypotheticals concocted by clever academics to illustrate their ruminations on these abstractions could come close to the reality recounted here in meticulous detail, verified by unarguable documentation. -- Charles Fried, *The New Rambler* About the Author Herlinde Pauer-Studer is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Vienna, Austria. She has held fellowships from the Austrian Academy of Science and Fulbright; from 2010-2015 she held an Advanced Research Grant from the European Research Council. J. David Velleman is a Professor of Philosophy and Bioethics at New York University, USA. He has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.