

# AMERICAN Rifleman

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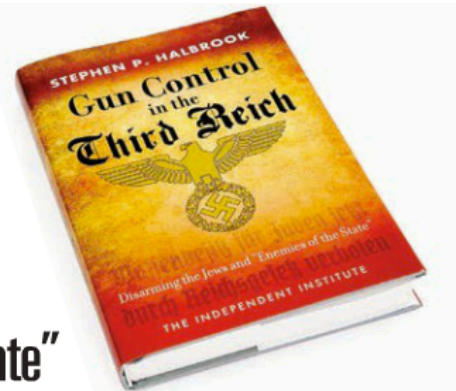
## BOOKS IN BRIEF

### Gun Control In The Third Reich: Disarming The Jews And “Enemies Of The State”

Last year, author, attorney and prominent Second Amendment scholar Stephen P. Halbrook released a book that documents with painstaking detail perhaps the most diabolical gun control effort of the 20th Century. Based on newly discovered secret documents from German archives, diaries and newspapers of the time, *Gun Control In The Third Reich* presents the definitive, yet hidden history of how the Nazi regime made use of gun control to disarm and repress its enemies and consolidate power. While voluminous scholarship has documented the Third Reich and the Holocaust, this is the first thorough examination of the laws restricting firearm ownership that rendered Hitler's political opponents,

as well as the Jews, defenseless. It also makes a compelling case that the National Socialist regime considered suppression of firearm ownership by disfavored groups a critical element of achieving its objectives.

*Gun Control In The Third Reich* spans the two decades from the birth of the Weimar Republic in 1918, through *Kristallnacht* in 1938. The book then presents a panorama of pertinent events during World War II regarding the effects of the disarmament policies. And even though in the occupied countries the Nazis decreed the death penalty for possession of a firearm, there developed instances of heroic armed resistance by Jews, particularly the Warsaw ghetto uprising.



While the United States remains free and prosperous after its pivotal role in defeating Nazi Germany in World War II, it cannot take for granted the safeguards built into its constitutional system to deter the rise of unchecked power. Even if the threats to liberty that contemporary Americans face are different from those posed by the Third Reich, the lessons of history remain instructive. Not every person who seeks disarmament is a dictator, but without question, dictators abhor an armed populace. Hardcover, 280 pp. Price: \$20. Contact: *The Independent Institute* (Dept. AR), 100 Swan Way, Oakland, CA 94621; (510) 632-1366; [independent.org](http://independent.org).

—NRA STAFF