

AMERICANS WHO REMEMBER WORLD WAR II reminisce about how it brought the country together. The less popular truth behind this warm nostalgia: until the attack on Pearl Harbor, the nation was deeply, dangerously divided.

In *Hitler's American Friends*, Bradley W. Hart uncovers the homegrown groups who sought to protect and promote Hitler, leave Europeans (and especially European Jews) to fend for themselves, and elevate the Nazi regime.

Some of these "friends" were Americans of German heritage who joined the Bund, whose leadership dreamed of installing a stateside Führer. Some were as bizarre and hair-raising as the Silver Legion, run by an eccentric who claimed that Hitler fulfilled a religious prophecy. Some were Midwestern Catholics like Father Charles Coughlin, an early right-wing radio star who broadcast anti-Semitic tirades.

Some were even members of Congress, who used their franking privilege—sending mail at cost to American taxpayers—to distribute German propaganda. And celebrity pilot Charles Lindbergh ended up speaking for them all at the America First Committee.

We try to tell ourselves it couldn't happen here, but Americans are not immune to the lure of fascism. *Hitler's American Friends* is a powerful look at how the forces of evil manipulate ordinary people—and how we stepped back from the ledge.

BRADLEY W. HART is an assistant professor at California State University, Fresno. He is the author of *George Pitt-Rivers and the Nazis* and the co-author of *The Global 1920s: Politics, Economics and Society*.

READ BY CHRIS CIULLA



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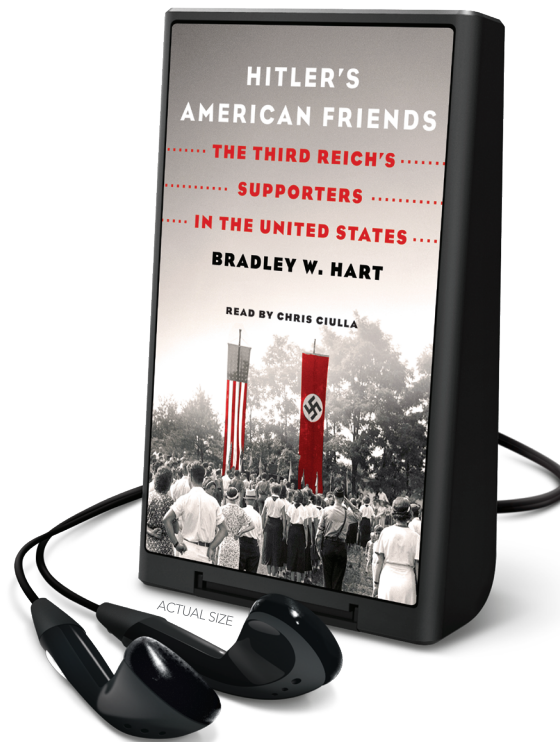
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