The Kaiser Wilhelm Society under National Socialism

During the first part of the twentieth century, German science led the world. The most important scientific institution in Germany was the Kaiser Wilhelm Society, including institutes devoted to different fields of scientific research. These researchers were not burdened by teaching obligations and enjoyed excellent financial and material support. When the National Socialists came to power in Germany, all of German society, including science, was affected. The picture that previously dominated our understanding of science under National Socialism from the end of the Second World War to the recent past - a picture of leading Nazis ignorant and unappreciative of modern science and of scientists struggling to resist the Nazis - needs to be revised. This book surveys the history of Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes under Hitler, illustrating definitively the cooperation, if not collaboration, between scientists and National Socialists in order to further the goals of autarky, racial hygiene, war, and genocide.

Reviews

"There are important lessons to be learned from studying this elegant historiography of science in society. Highly recommended." -Choice
Features

- Includes topics of intrinsic interest, including nuclear weapons, human experimentation and Nazi history
- A wide range of scientific topics are covered, and should be of interest to people from all fields of science, including medicine and engineering
- An extensive bibliography; ideal as a text for specialized undergraduate courses as well as libraries and academics

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