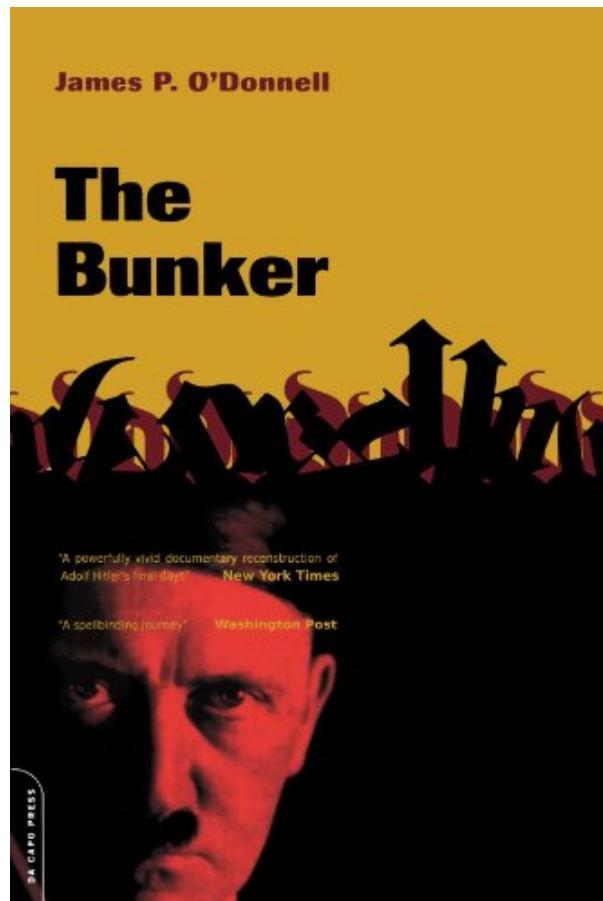


THE BUNKER BY JAMES P. O'DONNELL

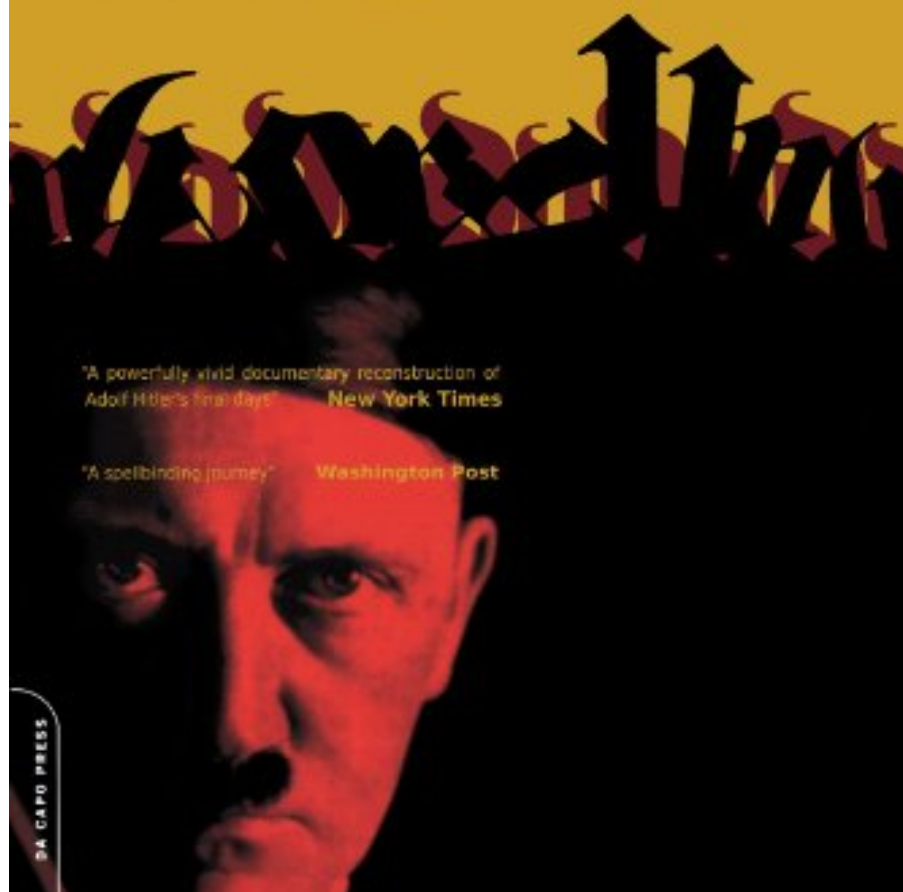


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"A powerfully vivid documentary reconstruction of Adolf Hitler's final days." -- New York Times

"A riveting, damned near incredible (but true) story." -- Gerald Green, author of Holocaust

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About the Author

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The Bunker By James P. O'Donnell. In undergoing this life, lots of people constantly attempt to do as well as obtain the ideal. New expertise, experience, session, and everything that could improve the life will certainly be done. Nevertheless, many individuals occasionally feel puzzled to obtain those points. Really feeling the restricted of experience as well as sources to be far better is among the lacks to possess. However, there is a quite basic thing that could be done. This is exactly what your instructor consistently manoeuvres you to do this. Yeah, reading is the answer. Reading a book as this *The Bunker By James P. O'Donnell* and other referrals can improve your life top quality. Just how can it be?

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THE BUNKER BY JAMES P. O'DONNELL PDF

Here is an unforgettable, graphic account of the final days in the Führer's headquarters, deep under the shattered city of Berlin as World War II in Europe drew to a close. From James P. O'Donnell's interviews with fifty eyewitnesses to the madness and carnage—everyone from Albert Speer to generals, staff officers, doctors, Hitler's personal pilot, telephone operators, and secretaries—emerges an account that historian Theodore H. White has hailed as "superb . . . quite simply the most accurate and terrifying account of the nightmare and its end I have ever read."

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Most helpful customer reviews

20 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

Living like a mole with the leader of the Third Reich

By Mannie Liscum

If you've seen the movie version (with Anthony Hopkins as Hitler) you'll have expectations - and like all books I know of you'll be disappointed by the movie! This book is easy reading and provides a lot of insight into the last month of Adolf Hitler as the leader of the "living dead" that rarely if ever left their underground

lair. All the major personalities of the Fuhrerbunker are dealt with, as well as their ultimate destinies - some escaping, some being captured and spending years in Russian prisons, and yet others - including Hitler and Goebbels - dying at or in the bunker. I found this book extremely thorough (relative to other sources on the subject) and was not disappointed. All in all a good read.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

The definitive book on the Fuhrerbunker

By J. Michael

"The Bunker" is simply the most detailed and fascinating account of the events in the Berlin Fuhrerbunker I've yet read. Written in 1978, long after the last witnesses were released from Soviet captivity, O'Donnell managed to interview almost all of the surviving actors from the Bunker tragedy. The only people he didn't meet were Johann Rattenhuber, who died in 1966, and Johanna Wolf, who never told anyone anything because she considered it a private secretary's duty to remain private. However, he spoke extensively with all the rest of the surviving people who witnessed Hitler's last days with their own eyes: Speer, Bauer, Guensche, Misch, Mohnke, Axmann, Schenk, Junge, et al. With this wealth of primary sources, their experiences are almost palpable as O'Donnell brings you down into the bunker for Hitler's last days and out onto the streets of burning Berlin for the final breakout. Though I've never read Joachim Fest's "Inside Hitler's Bunker" (which, because it was only published in 2002, after most of the witnesses were dead, I can't imagine has much new information to offer), O'Donnell's "The Bunker" is at least far superior to Trevor-Roper's revered history. I believe it is the best book written on the subject.

I really can't understand the criticisms of this book. So-called "academic" historians chide its "journalistic" approach, a term which means- I suppose- that O'Donnell actually spoke to witnesses and did original research as opposed to writing a book based completely on other historians' previously published works. Such incestuous shuffling and borrowing is actually considered a virtue in the rarified world of the court-historians' guild, where a historian's worth is judged solely by the length of his bibliography and the depth of his conformity to establishment opinion. I'll take the "journalistic" approach any day, thank you very much. David Irving earned the scorn of the court historians for much the same reason- his industriousness in digging up previously un-discovered or ignored witnesses and documents. Even though O'Donnell had a bone to pick with Irving, they both embarrassed the historians of WWII who never stepped foot out of their library and whose "research" amounted to mere regurgitation.

Similarly, I really don't understand some of the objections put forth by lay reviewers on amazon and elsewhere. It's doubtful whether some of them even read the book. For instance, O'Donnell never speculated on Bormann's survival; he stated flat-out that his body was found and positively identified. He also never said that Bauer had orders to fly Hitler to Asia, but did verify that it was technically possible. I'm also confused at these reviewers' objections to O'Donnell's account of Speer's assassination plans. O'Donnell devotes a mere 5 or 6 pages to Speer's admittedly unverifiable, but historically significant, plan to assassinate Hitler. It would have been negligent to have omitted such a claim. As for "Mata O'Hara", the fact is that there was a leak in the Hitler court. The Germans confirm it and the British confirm it. O'Donnell speculates that "Das Leck" was Fegelein's mistress, but he doesn't pretend that his theory is the final word. Who are these naysayers and what have they been smoking? It's standard practice that criticism should be based on fact. Until someone proves otherwise, this is the definitive book on the Bunker.

39 of 40 people found the following review helpful.

This is not just a book about Hitler!

By Scott Swindle

It is about the Bunker, and ALL those who lived and died there in the final days of the war. O'Donnell was a US Army officer who was released from active duty to be a reporter for Newsweek magazine: "This involved a quick shift from the rank of captain to civilian correspondent, with no time to change uniform." It

was in this capacity that he first visited the bunker, when Soviet-US relations had not yet degenerated. Along with Soviet and British sightseers, he entered the bunker on July 4, 1945, and thus got a good look around before the Soviets closed it off to Westerners in September. This evidently haunted O'Donnell, for years later he returned to Berlin, interviewing nearly every surviving member of the bunker experience. What we get here is not a historian's view, but rather that of a good investigative reporter, who uses firsthand sources whenever possible. It is impossible to write this story without some deductive reasoning, however, and O'Donnell shares his theories. He discounts some of the crackpot theories, such as Martin Bormann's survival myth. I highly recommend this book to anyone remotely interested in the Third Reich or the end of World War II. It is interesting to note that Hitler's death occurs approximately 2/3 of the way through the book. The rest of the book concerns itself with the attempted breakout of the bunker survivors, the morbid deaths of Joseph and Magda Goebbels and their six children, and the surrender of the bunker (by its coverall-wearing chief engineer to a bunch of female Russian medics--who promptly made off with the late Eva Braun's bras!)

Chapters are as follows:

1. The Caveman--details how Hitler slowly became subterranean, disdaining light and fresh air, and how he preferred to live underground and conduct all business from the bunker.
2. The Thirteenth Bunker--an outline of all the bunkers used (and not used) by Hitler throughout the Reich--in Germany, France, the Ukraine, Poland.
3. The Bunker Brutus--Albert Speer's little-known plot (as related by himself) to assassinate Hitler and the Mountain People by using poison gas in the ventilation system.
4. The Mountain People--an overview of Hitler's entourage, so called because they were the court favorites at Berchtesgaden, Hitler's mountain retreat. Included are Hans Baur, Hitler's pilot; Eva Braun; Hitler's physicians; Bormann; Erich Kempka, Hitler's chauffeur; Linge, his valet; and more SS men, secretaries, security detail, etc.
5. Farewells--It dawns on all present that Hitler has no intention of leaving the bunker and will die in Berlin.
6. Casualty Station--Dr. Schenk is treating wounded in a nearby casualty station during the Battle of Berlin when he is summoned to the bunker. He was not part of the 'inner circle' and thus his views are that of a 'normal' person on the events in the bunker.
7. The Lady Vanished--account of SS General Fegelein, Eva Braun's brother-in-law, who was seeing a lady on the side who was, in all likelihood, a spy for the Allies. She is here called 'Mata O'Hara', because of her theorized Irish origins, but she disappeared from the scene of world events during this time. Fegelein suffered the ultimate punishment because of this.
8. The Shot Nobody Heard--Details the suicides of Adolph and Eva Hitler, and the disposal of their bodies.
9. Death of the Mythmaker--The suicides of Dr. Goebbels and his family are examined in detail.
10. The Breakout--The remaining survivors attempt to escape the Soviet juggernaut and make it to the Allies or remaining German pockets of resistance.
11. The Flight That Never Was--Lays to rest the myth that Martin Bormann escaped Berlin.
12. The Double Symposium--The suicide of Hewel, Hitler's Foreign Embassy Minister (and second to von Ribbentrop).
13. Last Man Out--The only two men remaining (alive) in the bunker--SS Sergeant Rochus Misch and engineer Hentschel. Hentschel, a civilian, sends Misch packing because he doesn't want any SS around when the Soviets arrive. This chapter is almost comical, with Hentschel puttering around the bunker, making sure everything is still in working order, washing the dishes, etc. Then he is captured by the Russians (several times).

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