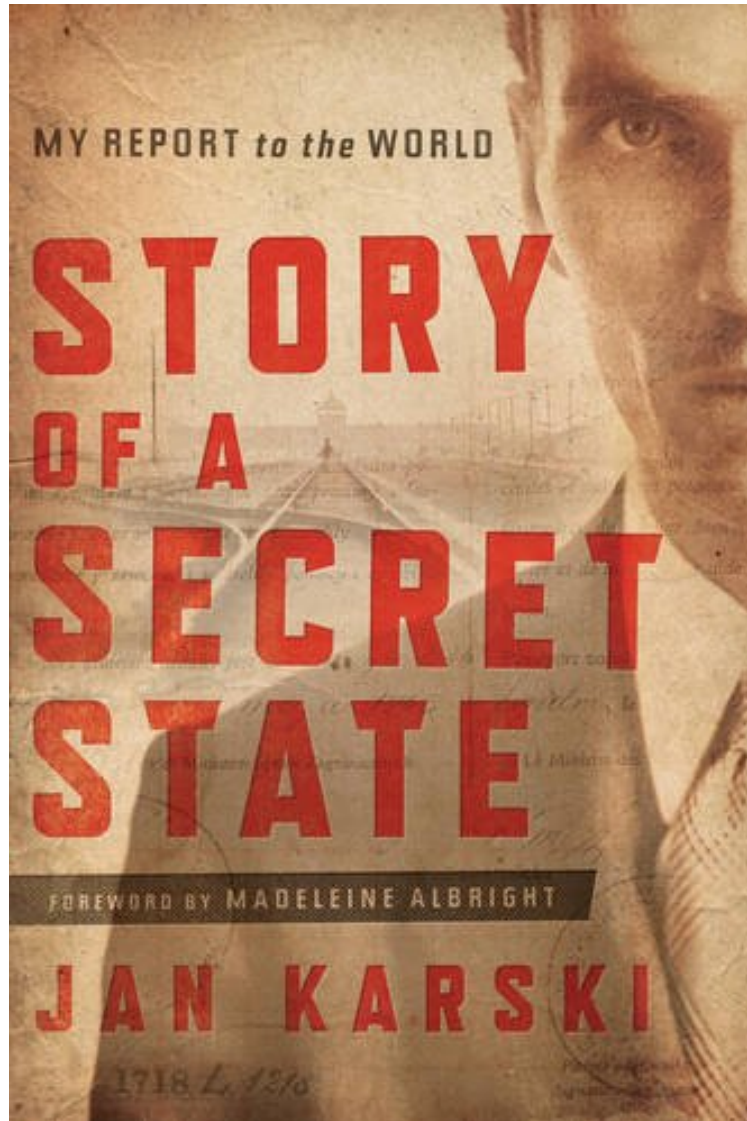


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Story of a Secret State: My Report to the World

Jan Karski

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Jan Karski : Story of a Secret State: My Report to the World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Story of a Secret State: My Report to the World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating book. Insights into the Polish Underground. The ...By M. Walsh Fascinating book. Insights into the Polish Underground. The risks these individuals took and many of them did not survive. As a Dispensational Christian Zionist, I can see why the Jewish Broadcasting Service dedicated an hour to his Jan Karski's memory and his efforts for saving Jews in the early 1940s. 0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. Must read! By Daughter and grandmother of American Vets All should read this account of the Polish holocaust. I heard about this book from a literature teacher from my high school alma mater. He said that many Catholic high schools are offering classes in the Holocaust and use this book as the text. We must never forget, especially in the current resurgence of anti semitism. The book is well written and engrossing. I have a new hero. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Polish Underground Officer's true story. By Margaret This is an incredible true story of a very brave man from Poland who saw with his own eyes the horror of what Hitler was doing. It is an unbelievable book to read and one that you will never forget. It should be required reading for all High School Students!!

Jan Karski's *Story of a Secret State* stands as one of the most poignant and inspiring memoirs of World War II and the Holocaust. With elements of a spy thriller, documenting his experiences in the Polish Underground, and as one of the first accounts of the systematic slaughter of the Jews by the German Nazis, this volume is a remarkable testimony of one man's courage and a nation's struggle for resistance against overwhelming oppression. Karski was a brilliant young diplomat when war broke out in 1939 with Hitler's invasion of Poland. Taken prisoner by the Soviet Red Army, which had simultaneously invaded from the East, Karski narrowly escaped the subsequent Katyn Forest Massacre. He became a member of the Polish Underground, the most significant resistance movement in occupied Europe, acting as a liaison and courier between the Underground and the Polish government-in-exile. He was twice smuggled into the Warsaw Ghetto, and entered the Nazi's Izbica transit camp disguised as a guard, witnessing first-hand the horrors of the Holocaust. Karski's courage and testimony, conveyed in a breathtaking manner in *Story of a Secret State*, offer the narrative of one of the world's greatest eyewitnesses and an inspiration for all of humanity, emboldening each of us to rise to the challenge of standing up against evil and for human rights. This definitive edition which includes a foreword by Madeleine Albright, a biographical essay by Yale historian Timothy Snyder, an afterword by Zbigniew Brzezinski, previously unpublished photos, notes, further reading, and a glossary is an apt legacy for this hero of conscience during the most fraught and fragile moment in modern history.

From Booklist Those who fear they have been desensitized by the sheer volume of information chronicling Nazi brutality in occupied Europe must read this memoir. During WWII, Karski lived an adventurous but harrowing existence, which included time and torture in a Gestapo prison and work in the Polish underground, where he witnessed and reported to Allied officials the first news of the genocide of Jews. His accounts of his activities and the atrocities he witnessed were compiled as they happened, which gives his story shattering impact. There are episodes of high tension as he and his colleagues seek to avoid capture. Other stories are horrific as he conveys the sadism of Nazi overlords allowed to exercise virtually unlimited power over helpless people. Even more shocking was the apparent disbelief or indifference of some Allied officials to his reports, either because they suspected exaggeration or because the truth was too monstrous to accept. This is an exciting but often painful recounting of one man's witness to terror and tragedy. --Jay Freeman "Briskly paced, this is a gripping and immediate account of Nazi brutality from a brave leader of the resistance. (Starred)" Publishers Weekly, 01/07/2013 "A disturbing, unique, invaluable record of Poland's suffering and heroism during World War II. A well-deserved revival of the author's 1944 best-seller. (Starred)" Kirkus, 01/15/2013 "Those who fear they have been desensitized by the sheer volume of information chronicling Nazi brutality in occupied Europe must read this memoir. . . . This is an exciting but often painful recounting of one man's witness to terror and tragedy." Booklist, 02/20/2013 "The story has all the characteristics of a spy-thriller: concealed film and suicide capsules, capture, interrogation, the drama of train travel and border checkpoints, the mysteries of those met, and countless convoluted escapes (a specialty of his)" The Vienna "Secret State is an indispensable and compelling historical document of World War II and the Holocaust, written by a supremely courageous humanitarian." Tampa Bay Times "Jan Karski's brave account of the Nazi's horrific crimes and one man's heroic resistance strikes our collective conscience as strongly today as when he first published it over six decades ago. Today, millions around the world continue to thank and honor him for exposing the evil that was perpetuated throughout concentration camps. When President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Jan Karski the Medal of Freedom he recognized that Karski's story is one of courage as much as compassion. This book is a stirring reminder that our world depends on both." Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, City of Chicago "The notion that one person can make a difference is personified by Jan Karski, who I was privileged to have as my professor and guiding light at Georgetown School of Foreign Service. Karski's *Story of a Secret State* offers a glimpse into a time and place ruled by Nazi terror: Poland in the early 1940s. Karski risked his life to bear witness to Nazi atrocities against Jews, Catholics, and Polish dissidents. In disguise, he snuck into the Warsaw Ghetto and a Nazi transfer camp, then reported his terrifying observations directly to British leaders and President Franklin Roosevelt, among the first reports of the holocaust to the civilized world. Georgetown's edition of *Story of a Secret State* gives a new generation of readers the portrait of a genuine hero who truly made a difference." Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois; Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, 1971 "The Anti-Defamation League is proud to have named its Jan Karski Courage to Care award for an extraordinary man, who put conscience to action and his own life at risk to reveal the Holocaust to the West. Read his story and be inspired by

Karski's will, his spirit, and his commitment to humanity."Abraham H. Foxman, national director, Anti-Defamation League"Within Jan Karski's stirring account of selfless heroism to expose the Holocaust, lie two compelling messages: It is possible for one man to bring to the world's attention unimaginable political evil. The harder and still relevant question raised by Karski's story is: How does one get the civilized world to respond?"Daniel Henninger, Wall Street Journal"A decade before Professor Karski began his remarkable tenure at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, he was already teaching by the power of example with lessons of heroism, resilience, and uncompromising leadership. All freedom-seeking people around the world should know Karski's story."President Bill Clinton"Jan Karski is well known as the 'courier from Poland who exposed the Holocaust,' but his work in the service of the underground Polish state, which flourished under the noses of the Nazis, equally deserves to find the limelight. Unlike its counterparts in other countries, The Polish Resistance Movement did not confine itself to military activities; it created a huge network of clandestine organizations, which functioned in the fields of culture, education, propaganda, justice and economics, and which undermined the social control of the German forces of occupation. Karski's book on this subject is a classic, providing an unmatched account of the wartime realities in a country that lay at the epicenter of the conflict."Norman Davies, St. Antony's College, Oxford, Jagiellonian University, Krakow"This gripping book gives a comprehensive account of the Nazi occupation of Poland by a young courier in the Polish Underground, who sought to bring home to Western statesmen the tragic fate of his country and of his Jewish fellow-citizens. It is essential reading for all those interested in the Second World War."Antony Polonsky, Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies, Brandeis University"I have been blessed to know many distinguished people, great artists, musicians, scholars, philosophers, political leaders and activists. Yet I have only known one man, whom I would truly call noble, my late colleague, Jan Karski. Story of a Secret State is both his most important book and his most failed book; important, because as a messenger from Poland, Karski tried to tell the world of what was happening in his native land to the Jews whose pleas he carried forth to the West. It was a warning issued while there was still time to act, still an opportunity to rescue or at least to protest. His most failed book though it was widely read and well received when published because we did not listen attentively enough to what this great man had to say. We must listen now even though it is too late."Michael Berenbaum, Director, Sigi Ziering Institute; Professor of Jewish Studies, American Jewish University