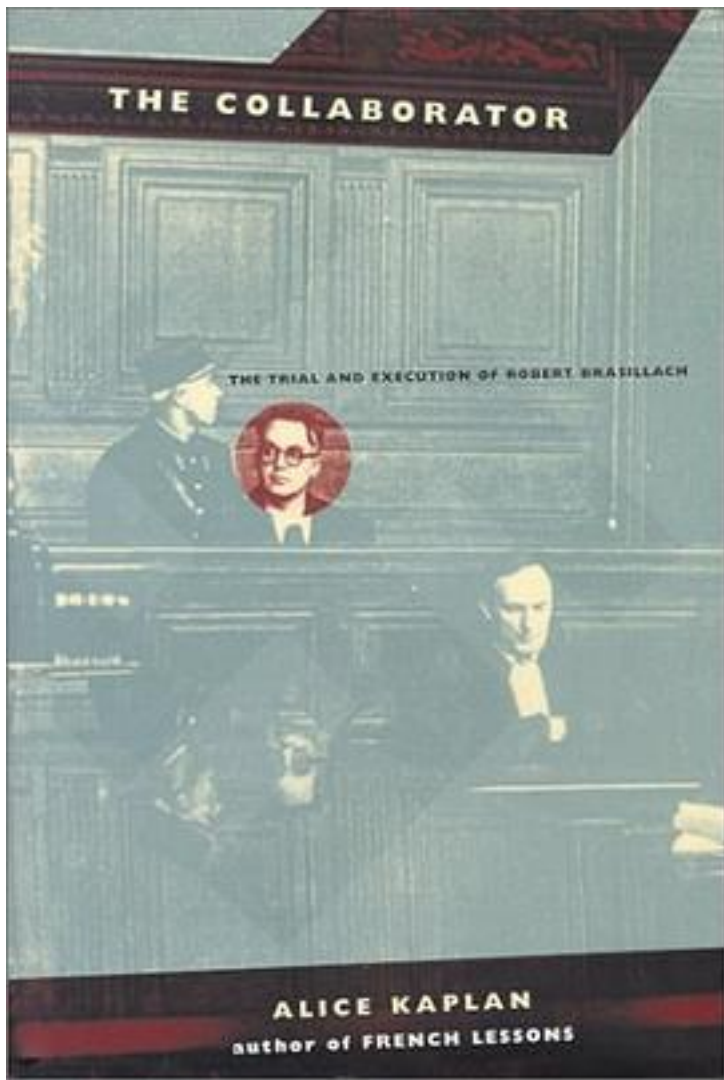


The Collaborator



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出版者:University Of Chicago Press

出版时间:2000-4-20

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780226424149

On February 6, 1945, a 35-year-old French writer and newspaper editor named Robert Brasillach was executed for treason by a French firing squad. He was the only writer of any distinction to be put to death by the French Liberation government during the violent days of score-settling known as the Purge. In this book, Alice Kaplan, author of the memoir "French Lessons" tells the story of Brasillach's rise and fall: his emergence as the golden boy of literary fascism during the 1930s, his wartime collaboration with the Nazis, his dramatic trial and his afterlife as a martyr for French rightists and Holocaust revisionists. A prolific novelist and critic, Brasillach was a witty, flamboyant product of France's prestigious Ecole Normale Supérieure. He was also an anti-Semite, an acerbic opponent of French democracy, and the editor in chief of France's infamous fascist weekly "Je Suis Partout". His trial and execution, carefully reconstructed in "The Collaborator", remain one of the most controversial episodes in the history of 20th-century France. In the charged days of January 1945 - with Paris liberated but France still at war - a monumental courtroom drama pitted a fierce government prosecutor against a florid defence lawyer for what each considered justice on both a personal and a national scale. Paris in 1945 is also the venue for Kaplan's ethical examination of the questions raised by Brasillach's trial. Was he in fact guilty of treason? Was he condemned for his denunciations of the resistance or singled out as a suspected homosexual? Was it right that he was executed when others who were directly responsible for the murder of thousands were set free? The verdict on these momentous issues was left to four jurors from the working-class suburbs of Paris, whose stories Kaplan presents here for the first time. In recreating the trial, she also uncovers more material never before published: damaging writings by Brasillach omitted from his "Complete Works", and the file that Charles de Gaulle used to reach his decision not to pardon the writer. In its historical revelations, its beautifully wrought prose, and its rich ambiguities, "The Collaborator" is an example of what the present can offer to the understanding of the past. A detective story, a cautionary tale and a meditation on the disturbing workings of justice and memory, "The Collaborator" will stand as the definitive account of Robert Brasillach's crime and punishment.

作者介绍:

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标签

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维希政权

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法国史

叛国者

评论

Alice Kaplan能够将失踪的整一盒的AN档案慢慢拼接起来的努力（也有一点运气成分），真的挺让人佩服的。不过，我们能够因为Brasillach身后会被极右团体尊为烈士，就去赦免Brasillach的死刑吗？这在道理上是讲不通的。再说了，正如Paxton所言，假如戴高乐当时就放过了Brasillach以及其他的一些“叛国者”，法国很可能就要陷入内战了。讲什么共产主义者和犹太人的耦合，那可真是xjb说了。

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书评

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