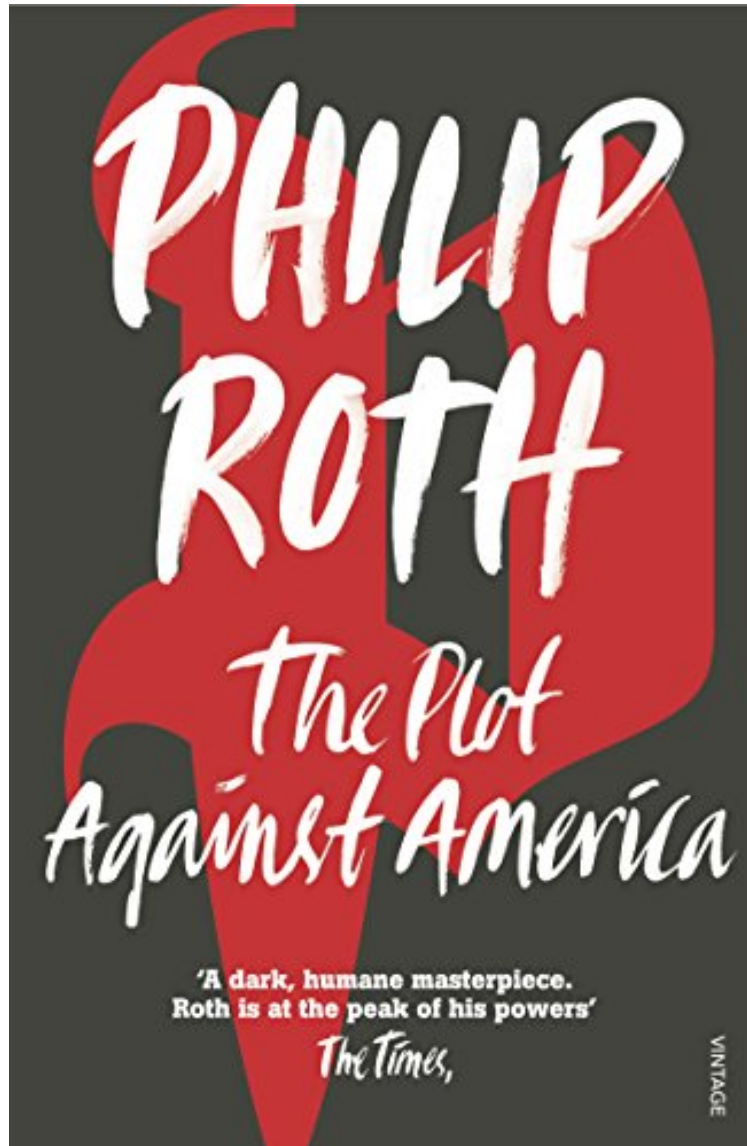


(Download pdf) The Plot Against America

The Plot Against America

Von Philip Roth

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Von Philip Roth : The Plot Against America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Plot Against America:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen11 von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein faschistisches Amerika in den 1940er Jahren?Von R.S.Das Buch:Die USA der 1940er Jahre. Der Wahlkongress der Republikaner endet mit dem Vorschlag Charles A. Lindbergh zum Prsidentschaftskandidaten zu machen. Der weltbekannte Flieger und Isolationist verspricht die USA aus dem zweiten Weltkrieg herauszuhalten und gewinnt die

Wahl gegen Franklin D. Roosevelt in einem Erdrutschsieg. In der Folge macht er sein Wahlversprechen wahr und schließt mit den Achsenmächten Pakte. Dazu trifft er sich sowohl mit Hitler als auch mit Hirohito, mit denen er schließlich auch offen sympathisiert. Die USA haben sich den Frieden mit einer faschistischen Regierung erkaufte. Ähnlich wie in Europa schlägt auch die Stimmung in den USA um, und es kommt zu Pogromen ähnlich der deutschen Reichskristallnacht. Philip Roth erzählt diese Geschichte durch die Augen des vorpubertären Philip Roth, den jüngsten Sohn einer jüdischen Familie in Newark, NY. Wie wäre seine Familie gewesen, wie hätte sie sich entwickelt, wäre dieser Weg in der Geschichte eingeschlagen worden? In prachtvollen Worten, Stützen und Abstößen erzählt er uns über seine Erlebnisse. Allerdings erzählt er nicht die Geschichte durch die Augen eines naiven Kindes, sondern Roth unterstellt, dass er heute - 60 Jahre nach den Ereignissen - die Historie nacherzählt. Es ist also eine Mischung aus kindlicher Berichterstattung und verarbeiteter Geschichte. Alles hypothetisch versteht sich - was wäre wenn? Der Kern der Erzählung (also ohne Vor- und Rückblicke) erstreckt sich über einen Zeitraum von ungefähr drei Jahren, er beginnt kurz vor der Wahl von Lindbergh zum Präsidenten und schließt mit seiner vorzeitig beendeten Amtszeit. Sprachlich und stilistisch ragt das Werk deutlich aus der Menge heraus. Die Charaktere sind absolut glaubhaft und machen auch glaubhafte Entwicklungen durch. Besonders interessant ist die Beschreibung der Auswirkungen der traumatischen Ereignisse auf das Familienleben und den Umgang miteinander innerhalb Roths Familie. Insgesamt legt Philip Roth ein wirklich gutes Werk vor. Besonders interessant erscheinen in diesem Zusammenhang aufgeworfene Fragen: Wie sehr hängt geschichtliche Entwicklung von relativen Kleinigkeiten ab? Wie fragil sind eine Gesellschaft und ihre Geschichte? Wie schnell schlagen spitzenpolitische Entwicklungen bis in das letzte Glied der Gesellschaft durch? Wie viel Schuld lastet auf dem Einzelnen? Ein Werk also, das unglaublich viele Fragen aufwirft und Stoff für unendliche Diskussion liefern kann. Die zentrale Frage lautet aber, wäre das wirklich möglich gewesen? Wenn man dieses Buch gelesen hat, wird man darauf wohl mit Ja antworten müssen. Die Darstellung ist absolut glaubhaft - und auch wenn über fiktive USA des vorigen Jahrhunderts geschrieben wird, so bietet das Buch doch auch politischen Zündstoff für das 21. Jahrhundert. Das Hörbuch: Die ungekürzte Hörbuchfassung wird von US-Schauspieler Ron Silver gelesen. Er beweist seine Vielseitigkeit indem er jeder der unterschiedlichen Personen in der direkten Rede eine eigene Stimme bzw. Art zu sprechen gibt. Für Ungeübte wird der verwendete Dialekt mancher dieser Stimmen wohl etwas gewöhnungsbedürftig sein, dennoch oder gerade deshalb kann man das Hörbuch als absolut gelungen bezeichnen. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wahrhaft bedrohliche Veränderungen kommen langsam, nahezu unbemerkt... Von Michael Dienstbier "How can this be happening in America? How can people like these be in charge of our country? If I didn't see it with my own eyes, I'd think I was having a hallucination." (196) In der Tat mögen einige Amerikaner seit der Nacht vom 8. auf den 9. November 2016 so oder so ähnlich empfinden. Doch geht Philip Roth in seiner 2004 veröffentlichten What-if-Dystopie "The Plot against America" noch einen Schritt weiter. 1940 gewinnt nicht Franklin D. Roosevelt zum historisch dritten Mal die Präsidentschaftswahlen, sondern Charles A. Lindbergh ein von Gring persönlich mit einem Orden dekoriertes Nazisympathisant -, der legendäre Flugpionier, der 1927 als erster Mensch mit einem Direktflug den Atlantik überquerte, ressiert mit einer strikt isolationistischen Kampagne und dem Versprechen, die USA aus dem Krieg in Europa herauszuhalten. Die in Newark lebende Familie Roth, Vater Herman, Mutter Bess und die Kinder Sandy und Philip, ist schockiert und erwartet das Schlimmste, hat Lindbergh aus seinem Antisemitismus und seiner Bewunderung für Hitler doch nie einen Hehl gemacht. Und die Veränderungen kommen nicht plötzlich mit einem lauten Knall, sondern Schritt für Schritt mit stets zunehmender Intensität. Es geht zu den Stricken des Romans, die Aura der sich konkretisierenden Bedrohung aus Sicht der jüdischen Familie Roth einzufangen. Verstrickt wird diese düstere Atmosphäre durch den narrativen Kniff, den Ich-Erzähler Philip, der jüngste Sohn der Familie einerseits die Geschehnisse aus den Augen seines kindlichen Ichs wiedergeben zu lassen, andererseits ihn auch zurückschauend sowohl die eigenen als auch die Empfindungen seiner Familie reflektierend zu erleben. Gegen Ende hin verliert der Roman die Familie Roth etwas aus dem Fokus und beschränkt sich auf die Beschreibung der Entwicklungen in der alternativen Realität, was den Gesamteindruck etwas trübt. Was bleibt ist ein in weiten Teilen packender Roman eines der größten amerikanischen Erzähler des 20. Jahrhunderts. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Absolutely wonderful....but not light reading! Von Mark O'Neill This is my first introduction to Philip Roth's books and I definitely wasn't disappointed. This book is wonderful and the man can sure write. Boy I wish I had his talent! But remember one thing - his writing isn't light and easy to read. Instead, it is full of heavily descriptive passages, Americana, and at times the story goes off in several different directions. If you can handle all that, then get this book and enjoy. If you prefer your books lighter and the action faster then this isn't for you. The story itself is intriguing. What if in 1940, instead of giving Franklin D. Roosevelt his historic 3rd term as president, the American people voted in a right-wing pro-Nazi president instead? A president that vows to make peace with Hitler and vows to keep the US out of World War II? What if that president then starts Nazi policies in the US, including discrimination against the Jews? That is the basis for Roth's book and reading it put a chill down my spine because it could very easily have happened.... In the book the American people, terrified of another war, vote against Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election and instead vote for Charles A Lindbergh. Within days of Lindbergh's inauguration, a "treaty of understanding" has been signed with Nazi Germany, all aid has been broken off with Britain and France, and rumours abound that Lindbergh has struck a secret deal with Hitler to eliminate the American Jews. Roth's book is narrated

through his own eyes as a boy, imagining events that could well have taken place. His father, seeing the victimisation around him due to Lindbergh policies, tries hard to stand up to the American Nazi Bund, as well as trying to hold onto his job and his sanity. His brother's son, who rebelled and ran off to Canada to join the commandos, is seriously wounded in France, losing a leg. He comes back to a Lindbergh America where his sacrifice is not appreciated and he is widely regarded as a traitor. We see Roth's aunt who becomes engaged to a Jewish Rabbi who betrays his Jewish counterparts by supporting Lindbergh. The Rabbi then recruits Roth's brother as a Lindbergh spokesman, which causes violent friction in an already strained family. Finally the boiling point - murders, pogroms, Nazi interference in US domestic policies, challenges to Lindbergh's presidency, a mentally unstable US vice-president and an ending that is totally unexpected and stunning. If you have lots of time to read, and you appreciate good writing then get this book. Totally memorable and also totally chilling....because it came close to actually happening.

Kurzbeschreibung In his 2004 novel, *The Plot Against America*, Roth precisely described the sinister and chilling nightmare in which the United States now finds itself. America has not read enough of Philip Roth. Bernard-Henri Lvy. Many passages in *The Plot Against America* echo feelings voiced today by vulnerable Americans, immigrants and minorities as alarmed by Trump's election as the Jews of Newark are frightened by Lindbergh's New Yorker. When the renowned aviation hero and rabid isolationist Charles A. Lindbergh defeats Franklin Roosevelt by a landslide in the 1940 presidential election, fear invades every Jewish household in America. Not only has Lindbergh publicly blamed the Jews for pushing America towards a pointless war with Nazi Germany, but, upon taking office as the 33rd president of the United States, he negotiates a cordial 'understanding' with Adolf Hitler, guaranteeing peaceful relations between the two nations. What then follows is the alternative America of this startling counterfactual novel by Philip Roth, who recounts what it was like for his Newark family during the menacingly anti-Semitic years of the Lindbergh presidency. Jewish families are shaken violently apart, whilst America is oblivious to its own dark metamorphosis. *The Plot Against America* is further affirmation of Philip Roth's status as one of the most revered (and accomplished) of American novelists; another in a long line of highly impressive books that makes the days when he was known only for the masturbatory humour of *Portnoy's Complaint* seem every remote indeed. The new book is an astonishingly ambitious entry in the genre known as alternative history, and its re-imagining of a fascist America is as plausible and terrifying as previous alternative visions by such writers as Len Deighton and Kingsley Amis (not to mention the countless SF novelists such as Philip K Dick, progenitors of the genre, invariably irritated that their concepts are hijacked by more 'literary' novelists). In *The Plot Against America*, the celebrated aviator Charles Lindbergh (almost as well known for his admiration for Hitler as for the famous kidnapping of his baby) becomes President of the United States, and history takes a very different course. Roosevelt soundly defeated, Lindbergh inaugurates an isolationist, anti-war regime, as radical social change ensues; not least the growth of anti-Jewish feeling, fanned by the anti-Semitic Lindbergh. Roth's Jewish protagonist, Philip, watches as his parents try to ignore the growing threat around them--initially, family holidays are ruined as hotel rooms become mysteriously unavailable, but soon deportation and worse is the order of the day. Ultimately, a fightback against the new US fascism is slowly engendered. All of this is handled with the mastery we now routinely expect from Roth, and both characterisation and plotting are structured with total assurance. All the historical detail is terrifyingly plausible, and the final sections (in which Roth reminds us what happened in the real America) seem no more persuasive than what we've just read. A visionary, turbulent work of literature. --Barry Forshaw.com "What if" scenarios are often suspect. They are sometimes thinly veiled tales of the gospel according to the author, taking on the claustrophobic air of a personal fantasia that can't be shared. Such is not the case with Philip Roth's tour de force, *The Plot Against America*. It is a credible, fully-realized picture of what could happen anywhere, at any time, if the right people and circumstances come together. *The Plot Against America* explores a wholly imagined thesis and sees it through to the end: Charles A. Lindbergh defeats FDR for the Presidency in 1940. Lindbergh, the "Lone Eagle," captured the country's imagination by his solo Atlantic crossing in 1927 in the monoplane, *Spirit of St. Louis*, then had the country's sympathy upon the kidnapping and murder of his young son. He was a true American hero: brave, modest, handsome, a patriot. According to some reliable sources, he was also a rabid isolationist, Nazi sympathizer, and a crypto-fascist. It is these latter attributes of Lindbergh that inform the novel. The story is framed in Roth's own family history: the family flat in Weequahic, the neighbors, his parents, Bess and Herman, his brother, Sandy and seven-year-old Philip. Jewishness is always the scrim through which Roth examines American contemporary culture. His detractors say that he sees persecution everywhere, that he is vigilant in "Keeping faith with the certainty of Jewish travail"; his less severe critics might cavil about his portrayal of Jewish mothers and his sexual obsession, but generally give him good marks, and his fans read every word he writes and heap honors upon him. This novel will engage and satisfy every camp. "Fear presides over these memories, a perpetual fear. Of course, no childhood is without its terrors, yet I wonder if I would have been a less frightened boy if Lindbergh hadn't been president or if I hadn't been the offspring of Jews." This is the opening paragraph of the book, which sets the stage and tone for all that follows. Fear is palpable throughout; fear of things

both real and imagined. A central event of the novel is the relocation effort made through the Office of American Absorption, a government program whereby Jews would be placed, family by family, across the nation, thereby breaking up their neighborhoods--ghettos--and removing them from each other and from any kind of ethnic solidarity. The impact this edict has on Philip and all around him is horrific and life-changing. Throughout the novel, Roth interweaves historical names such as Walter Winchell, who tries to run against Lindbergh. The twist at the end is more than surprising--it is positively ingenious. Roth has written a magnificent novel, arguably his best work in a long time. It is tempting to equate his scenario with current events, but resist, resist. Of course it is a cautionary tale, but, beyond that, it is a contribution to American letters by a man working at the top of his powers. --Valerie Ryan