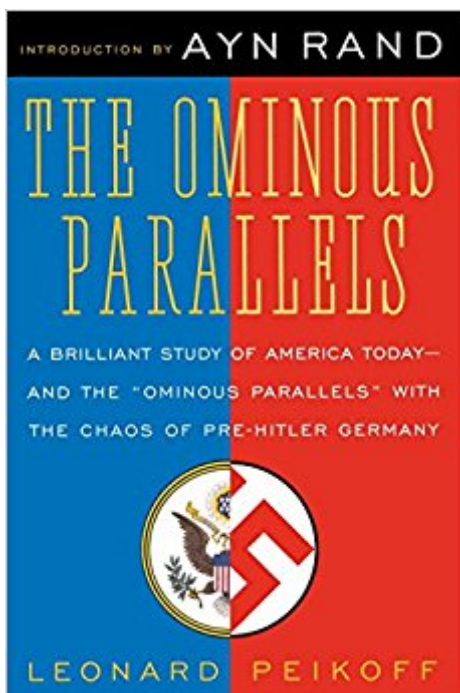


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# The Ominous Parallels: The End Of Freedom In America



## Synopsis

Ayn Rand chose Leonard Peikoff to be her successor as the spokesman for Objectivism. And in this brilliantly reasoned, thought-provoking work we learn why, as he demonstrates how far America has been detoured from its original path and led down the same road that Germany followed to Nazism. Self-sacrifice, Oriental mysticism, racial "truth," the public good, doing one's duty—these are among the seductive catch-phrases that Leonard Peikoff dissects, examining the kind of philosophy they symbolize, the type of thinking that lured Germany to its doom and that he says is now prevalent in the United States. Here is a frightening look at where America may be heading, a clarion call for all who are concerned about preserving our right to individual freedom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Leonard Peikoff — "Offers a truly revolutionary idea" | The book is clear, tight, disciplined, beautifully structured, and brilliantly reasoned. Its style is clear and hard as crystal—and as sparkling. As to my personal reaction, I can express it best by paraphrasing a line from Atlas Shrugged: "It's so wonderful to see a great, new, crucial achievement which is not mine!" — Ayn Rand — "Extraordinarily perceptive" | "frightening insights" | "Everyone concerned with the collectivist trend in today's world should read this book." — Alan Greenspan — "A fascinating weave of German history, philosophic determinism, and Objectivist polemic." — "Chicago Tribune" — "A revelation...Peikoff is an extraordinary

communicator...He brings the most difficult intellectual ideas within the grasp of the general reader. —*Detroit Free Press*

Leonard Peikoff is the preeminent Ayn Rand scholar writing today. He worked closely with Rand in New York City for thirty years and was designated by her as heir to her estate. He has taught philosophy at several places, including Hunter College and New York University. Dr. Peikoff is the author of *The DIM Hypothesis: Why the Lights of the West Are Going Out* and *The Cause of Hitler's Germany*. He grew up in Western Canada and now lives in Southern California. He also hosted the national radio talk show "Philosophy: Who Needs It."

The single most important book on the cause of Nazism and the only book that identifies the cause at the deepest level: philosophy. A brilliant analysis of the ideas that led to Nazism. Superficial thinkers will complain that, for example, Kant was not a Nazi. True but this misses the point. Kant destroyed both reason and values, including the morality of loving oneself. The assault on reason set up the Nazi worship of the irrational will. The assault on the self set up the Nazi demand that the self is of no importance and that man must sacrifice for the state (volk). Kant's apparent defense of rights in politics is meaningless since his epistemology and ethics destroyed the foundation of rights. Peikoff weaves in the ideas of Kant and other philosophers and ties it all into pre-Nazi culture and the philosophies of the contending political parties into an integrated whole. A brilliant piece of philosophical detection and integration.

I read OP about ten years ago when I was looking for more-contemporary ideas from the Objectivist philosophy. I really enjoyed re-reading it on my Kindle, and I recommend it to anyone interested in hearing a Objectivist viewpoint of the rise of Nazi Germany. I've read Shirer, and Peikoff adds in the fundamental things missing: Why? Shirer explains the details of what happened, but has no explanation of how it came to pass. Peikoff provides these answers, starting with the concept that a nation's philosophy is what guides its actions and its results. If you want to understand why Nazi Germany came about, *Ominous Parallels* is the only consistent explanation. If you want to understand the current trends in the United States, *Ominous Parallels* is definitively *Ominous*.

Stripping the very content from a previous work, "The Ominous Parallels," which would help the reader make important correlations to the current ending of freedom in America today, followed by an inflammatory re-titling is an ominous indication of the objective of this book. My initial inclination

was to say, "Shame on you, Leonard Peikoff (whom I've admired, met personally and traveled with)," but I see he tactfully distanced himself (somewhat) from this work with the following: "For this reason, I agreed with the suggestion of Dr. Michael Berliner that I bring out this reduced version of my book. It was Dr. Berliner who first thought of such a possibility, who initiated the project, and who oversaw the development of its various stages. He wanted a book that would focus only on the Nazi aspects: on their intellectual origins in German philosophy, and then on their manifestations in Weimar culture and, as a result, in the world of Hitler." "Yes, let's avoid any inadvertent parallels being made, which is the "Ayn Rand Institute's" modus operandi. Don't buy this book, find a used or library copy of "The Ominous Parallels," read it if you can, then visit "ARLwatch" website for a more complete understanding of what "The Cause of Hitler's Germany" was.

I bought this book having read it years ago. It was prophetic then and more so now. Kind of scary and more chilling than a Stephen King novel.

every one should be aware of this it is a must the media won't like but they can stick it

I sure hope Peikoff is wrong but he certainly does present a well reasoned argument for revitalizing America's culture.

This is Dr. Peikoff's first Objectivistic book of note. The great novelist, Ayn Rand, recommended it without philosophical reservation --and so do I. It continues to resonate in our present world, unfortunately. Certainly, the Jobbik party of present day Hungary has taken Hitler-like schemes that this courageous book exposes to the brilliant, clean light of reason. Yes, I think it is as sparkling as crystal. Purchase it and you'll understand the tragedy that continues to plague present day Europe--the Islamic world as well. Thank you, Dr. Peikoff for this rational, insightful work.

Best book around

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