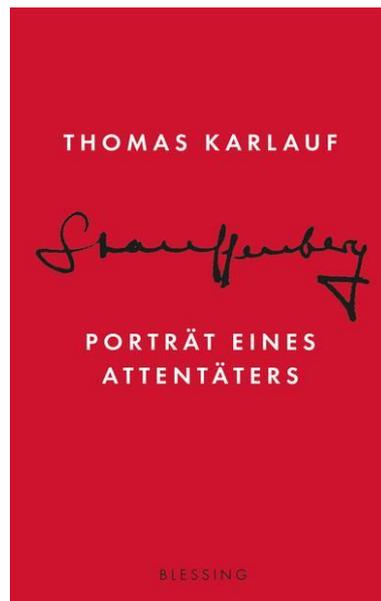


A completely new view of the man who wanted to kill Hitler



Thomas Karlauf
Stauffenberg
[Stauffenberg]
Portrait of an Assassin

Blessing
368 pages
1 b/w illustrations
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Thomas Karlauf, born in Frankfurt/Main in 1955, went to Amsterdam after graduating from high school and worked for the "Castrum Peregrini" Stefan George journal for ten years. He was an editor at Siedler and Rowohlt from 1984 until 1996, and since then has been running a writers' agency in Berlin. 2007 saw the publication of his highly acclaimed biography *Stefan George – The Invention of Charisma*.

Who was Claus von Stauffenberg? The figure of the army officer who, at midday of July 20, 1944, set off the bomb that was meant to kill Hitler, has always been a hazy one in literature. We know the long path of the opposition that finally led to the attempted assassination, but even today we have no convincing picture of the assassin's personality.

This new Stauffenberg biography is based on the latest research, takes hitherto unknown sources into account and is an attempt to reconstruct the assassin's world of ideas. The standards influencing Stauffenberg's thoughts and deeds were compatible for him with Hitler's policies for a long time. It was not until the summer of 1942 that he began to have second thoughts and place an officer's political responsibility over and above duty and discipline. When two years later he took action he felt let down by most of his fellow conspirators.

"An extremely impressive and convincing analysis of Stauffenberg's ideas and views; one that avoids moralising and strongly emphasises the largely political and military responsibility that finally led to Stauffenberg's courageous act on July 20, 1944." *Ian Kershaw*

"A gripping and exciting book and virtually unputdownable. It is also a courageous book, largely because it tries to understand Stauffenberg out of his time, and I have learned a lot from it." *Volker Rühle, former German defence minister*

Press

"Abstaining from any moral evaluation, very impressive and compelling analysis of Stauffenberg's world of ideas." *Ian Kershaw*

"A suspenseful, thrilling, courageous book." *Volker Rühle, Bundesverteidigungsminister a.D.*

"This biography is sure to set off new discussions about the role and motives of the conspirators of July 20, 1944 ... it will be interesting to see what happens." *dpa*