

Winner of the 1999 Arthur Viselhear Prize

THE NAZI WAR ON CANCER

ROBERT N. PROCTOR

Robert Proctor recently made the explosive discovery that Nazi Germany was decades ahead of other countries in promoting health reforms that we today regard as progressive and socially responsible, including anti-smoking campaigns, restrictions on asbestos, pesticides, and food dyes, and the promotion of vegetarianism. Proctor explores these findings and concludes that the Nazi's forward-looking health activism stemmed from the ideal of a racial utopia reserved exclusively for pure and healthy Germans.

"Good historical work surprises us by recovering forgotten facets of the past. Robert N. Proctor has produced a book full of surprises."
—*The New York Times*

"*The Nazi War on Cancer* is a provocative and powerful book. It presents a great deal of research in an accessible, even breezy style and makes important contributions both to the history of medicine and to our understanding of fascism's many dimensions."
—*The Times Higher Education Supplement*

"Proctor's account is astounding. . . . [He] has now brought us a concept nearly as unsettling [as Hannah Arendt's 'banality of evil']—the 'banality of good.'"
—*Washington Post Book World*

"Well documented and highly readable. . . . This is an important book which will encourage the reader to reflect on the ways in which medical science was conducted and used in the twentieth century."
—*Nature*

ROBERT N. PROCTOR is Professor of the History of Science at Pennsylvania State University. He is the author of *Cancer Wars: How Politics Shapes What We Know and Don't Know about Cancer*, *Racial Hygiene: Medicine under the Nazis*, and *Value-Free Science? Purity and Power in Modern Knowledge*.

Cover illustration: The Nazi party barred smoking in many public spaces. From *Auf der Wacht* 58 (1941):24.

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ISBN 0-691-07051-2



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