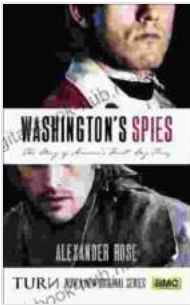


# The Story Of America First: The Espionage Ring that Aided Nazi Germany



## Washington's Spies: The Story of America's First Spy Ring by Alexander Rose

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 13311 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 402 pages



During the tumultuous years leading up to World War II, a clandestine espionage ring emerged in the heart of America, operating under the guise of the America First Committee.

The America First Committee, ostensibly a non-interventionist organization, was a hotbed of Nazi sympathizers and pro-German sentiment. Led by the charismatic Fritz Kuhn, a naturalized German citizen, the committee's true agenda was to undermine American support for the Allied cause.

## The German-American Bund: A Conduit for Nazi Propaganda

Central to the America First Spy Ring was the German-American Bund, a nationwide organization with close ties to the Nazi regime in Germany.

Founded in 1936, the Bund's mission was to promote German culture and foster a sense of solidarity among German-Americans.

However, under the leadership of Fritz Kuhn, the Bund became a covert instrument of Nazi propaganda. Kuhn used the organization's meetings and rallies to spread anti-Semitic, anti-communist, and pro-Nazi rhetoric.

### **FBI Surveillance and Infiltration**

As the America First Committee and the German-American Bund gained prominence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) became increasingly concerned about their activities. Under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI initiated a comprehensive surveillance operation to uncover the spy ring's secrets.

FBI agents infiltrated the America First Committee and the German-American Bund, attending meetings and gathering evidence of their espionage activities. They discovered a network of informants, couriers, and secret agents operating within the organizations.

### **Espionage and Sabotage**

The America First Spy Ring engaged in a wide range of espionage activities on behalf of Nazi Germany. They collected military information, intercepted Allied communications, and sabotaged industrial facilities.

One of the most notorious acts of sabotage attributed to the spy ring was the bombing of the DuPont plant in New Jersey in 1942. This act resulted in the deaths of several workers and caused significant damage to the facility.

### **Unmasking the Ring: The Trial of Fritz Kuhn**

In 1942, the FBI rounded up dozens of members of the America First Spy Ring, including Fritz Kuhn. They were charged with espionage, sedition, and other crimes.

The trial of Fritz Kuhn and his co-conspirators was a major event that captivated the nation. The evidence presented by the FBI laid bare the extent of the espionage activities conducted by the America First Spy Ring.

In the end, Kuhn was convicted of espionage and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Many other members of the spy ring received lesser sentences.

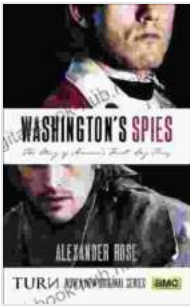
### **Legacy and Significance**

The America First Spy Ring remains a fascinating and disturbing chapter in American history. It exposed the depths to which individuals and organizations can go in their allegiance to a foreign power.

The spy ring's activities not only undermined American efforts during World War II but also sowed seeds of distrust and division within society. The legacy of the America First Spy Ring is a reminder of the importance of vigilance against foreign interference and the corrosive influence of extremist ideologies.

### **Additional Resources**

- [FBI: America First Committee and German-American Bund](#)
- [History.com: America First Committee](#)
- [NPR: How the FBI Took Down an American Nazi Spy Ring](#)

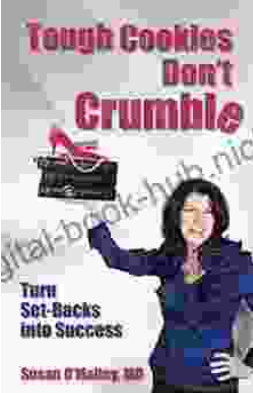


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