

LAURENCE A. RICKELS



NAZI PSYCHOANALYSIS



VOLUME TWO  
CRYPTO-FETISHISM

Laurence A. Rickels

## Nazi Psychoanalysis: Volume II. Crypto-Fetishism



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Psychoanalysis was an indicator of everything the Nazis reviled: an intellectual assault on Kultur largely perpetrated by Jews. In a richly allusive design, he writes of psychoanalysis in multifarious incarnations, of the concept and actual history of "insurance," of propaganda in theory and practice, of emotional warfare, Walt Disney, and the Frankfurt College debates—a dizzying tour of the twentieth century that assists us see how the "corridor wars" that arise in the course of theoretical, clinical, social, political, and cultural efforts to describe the human being psyche are linked to the world wars of the century within an intimate and infinitely challenging way. A sweeping, magisterial work by probably the most incisive and interesting scholars of contemporary philosophy, theory, and lifestyle, Nazi Psychoanalysis research the breadth of the phenomenon in order to clarify and deepen our understanding not only of psychoanalysis but of the twentieth century itself. Rider Haggard, and Heidegger; Rickels discovers startling conjunctions and continuities in writers as different as Adler and Adorno, Kafka and Goethe, Lacan, H. Tracing the intersections of psychoanalysis and Nazism, Laurence A. and in works as different as *Der Golem*, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, *Frankenstein*, *Faust*, and *Brave "NEW WORLD"*. It was also, as this extraordinary revisionary work shows, an inescapable sign of modernity, practiced, changed, and perpetuated by and within the Nazi regime. Though some have used its appropriation by the Nazis to brand psychoanalysis with the political odium of fascism, Rickels rather discovers an uncanny convergence—one that suggests far-reaching options for both psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic criticism. His function, with its tremendous intellectual and historical span, makes a persuasive argument that no element of modernity—not psychoanalysis any longer than Marxism or deconstruction, cultural revolutions or technical advances—can be adequately understood without a thorough thought of its Nazi component. His books are *The Vampire Lectures* (1999), *The Case of California* (2001), and the edited volume *Acting Out in Organizations* (1999), all released by Minnesota. Rickels is certainly professor of German and comparative literature at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Laurence A.



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