Danish Reactions to German Occupation

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FOR FIVE YEARS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, Denmark was occupied by Germany. While the Danish reaction to this period of its history has been extensively discussed in Danish-language publications, it has not until now received a thorough treatment in English. Set in the context of modern Danish foreign relations, and tracing the country’s responses to successive crises and wars in the region, Danish Reactions to German Occupation brings a full overview of the occupation to an English-speaking audience. Holbraad carefully dissects the motivations and ideologies driving conduct during the occupation, and his authoritative coverage of the preceding century provides a crucial link to understanding the forces behind Danish foreign policy divisions.

Analysing the conduct of a traumatized and strategically exposed small state bordering on an aggressive great power, the book traces a development from reluctant cooperation to active resistance. Holbraad goes on to survey and examine the subsequent, and not yet quite finished, debate among historians about this contested period. That debate is between those still siding with the resistance and a majority more inclined to justify limited cooperation with the occupiers – and sometimes even condone various acts of collaboration.

CARSTEN HOLBRAAD studied at the LSE with a Leverhulme undergraduate scholarship, and gained a DPhil at the University of Sussex in the field of European history of ideas. He has held research and teaching positions at the Institute of Advanced Studies of the ANU in Canberra, Carleton University and Queen’s University in Canada, El Colegio de Mexico and at LSE and UCL. His previous books include Internationalism and Nationalism in European Political Thought (2003) and Danish Neutrality (1991).