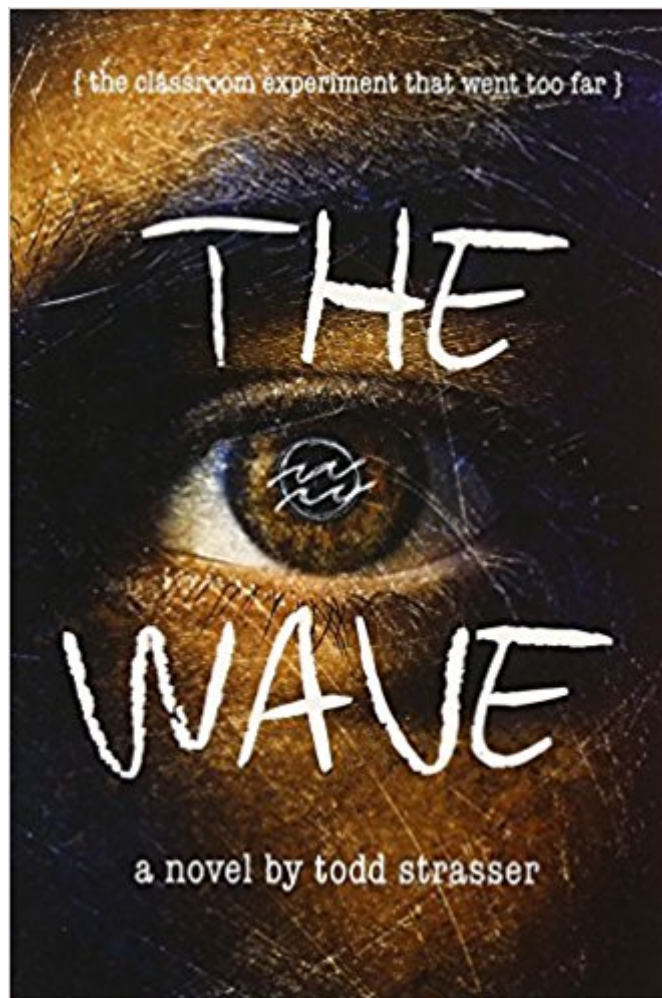


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# The Wave



## Synopsis

This novel dramatizes an incident that took place in a California school in 1969. A teacher creates an experimental movement in his class to help students understand how people could have followed Hitler. The results are astounding. The highly disciplined group, modeled on the principles of the Hitler Youth, has its own salute, chants, and special ways of acting as a unit and sweeps beyond the class and throughout the school, evolving into a society willing to give up freedom for regimentation and blind obedience to their leader. All will learn a lesson that will never be forgotten.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Wave is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969. The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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I read this book because it is required summer reading for my daughter going into seventh grade. I have a degree in history and grew up in Europe. This is a powerful story that has an important lesson about human interactions with others and ourselves. I couldn't put it down and read it in a matter of hours. If you've ever questioned how a minority political party could so easily rise to power, please read. The Wave shows just how easily it could happen again.

This should be required reading everywhere now in light of the presidential election in the USA.. This is a novel based on a factual social experiment done in a high school in California in the late 60's.. It is a terrifying read.. We could easily slip into a fascist government when conditions are right.. It was proven how easy it was to do.....

I had an exceptional dinner with a German couple who now live in America and love it here. In the interest of learning I asked them their thoughts about Germany post war and how they feel about the history. It was a difficult question for them to answer but both referred me to this book and mentioned that it is required reading in about the 6th grade in Germany. So with that as a background, I felt it important to read this book. I can't say I was disappointed but this is clearly meant for a younger audience. The book does a great job of detailing a specific example of "group think", both the positives and negatives. What I didn't know until I revisited the product site was this was based in a true story. I would never have guessed as this read like fiction. This is a very fast, short book with a message. It's worth your time and for me specifically in the context within which I read it, I was very pleased.

An absolutely incredible text. Without giving away the plot, it is a worthy read for anyone.

I never read this book in high school, although in my World History class, we watched the TV movie adaptation. I finally read this book when I began a career in psychology. This book was also particularly interesting because it actually based on events that happened in the town I lived in, and

has since been etched into the town's history. Regardless of where the story takes place, it paints a painfully important lesson. It shows us how incredibly easy we could fall into a fascist society. No matter how much we talk about how ugly and appalling the Nazi movement was, it could easily be us. This story is also a prime example of why history is such an important lesson. It's not just for the knowledge of facts, but more importantly a lesson of how we should or should not lead our lives to avoid the same mistakes our forerunners made.

I think this book provides the best explanation to a question that had bothered me for years. How could so many be controlled by so few to do unspeakable horrors to their fellow man? I fear more than ever that our society has become so entrenched in public welfare that our leaders do not lead; our children do not think; and Christian values of faith, hope and charity have been replaced by greed and dishonesty. I can only hope that there are still some people who have the conscience to act on their convictions and effect some change in the world as we know it.

After reading an article about this experiment, I was intrigued to read this novel based on the same true story. It's scary how quickly the kids followed orders. I think it confirms what good parents and teachers know: kids need/want discipline. This is obviously not the correct way to give them the boundaries they need, but it certainly shows that humans were created to follow a leader; just be careful which leader you choose. This is an easy read my middle school students will devour quickly after having studying the Holocaust and having the same questions these students had about why there wasn't more resistance.

This book should be required reading in schools. The road to fascism is paved with reasonable-sounding goals that perfectly rational and compassionate people can find appealing at first. But those very aspirations can also be used to rationalize the most destructive acts when people are convinced that the ends justify the means. Stories like this help people develop a better understanding and awareness of what it is like to be in such a fascist movement and hopefully learn how to recognize and avoid such groups and behaviors. If you like this book you might be interested in research that has been done in regards to peoples' willingness to follow authority figures check out the Milgram experiments - *Obedience to Authority: An Experimental View* (Perennial Classics) and the Stanford Prison Experiment - *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*

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