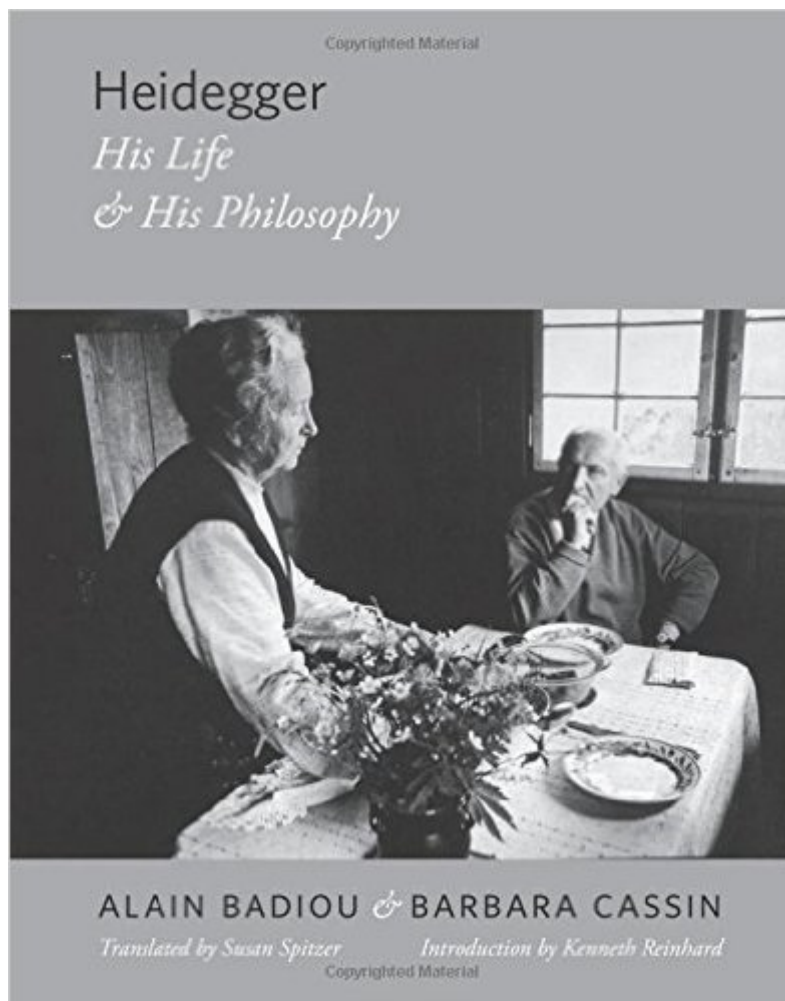


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# Heidegger: His Life And His Philosophy (Insurrections: Critical Studies In Religion, Politics, And Culture)



## Synopsis

Martin Heidegger was an ordinary Nazi and a loyal member of the provincial petty bourgeoisie. He was also a seminal thinker of the Continental tradition and one of the twentieth century's most important philosophers. How are we to make sense of this dual life? Should we factor Heidegger's domestic and political associations into our understanding of his thought, or should we treat his intellectual work independently of his abhorrent politics? How does any thinker reconcile the mundane with the ideal or the pursuit of philosophical inquiry with the demands of civic engagement? In Heidegger, Alain Badiou and Barbara Cassin immerse themselves in the philosopher's correspondence with his wife Elfride to answer these questions as they relate to Heidegger and all thinkers vulnerable to the politics of their times. They focus on Heidegger's tormented relationship with his wife, with Hannah Arendt, and with numerous other women, bringing an unusual level of intimacy to his personal and intellectual worlds.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Columbia University Press has issued a mediocre translation of a suppressed introduction of a French translation of (some of) Heidegger's letters to his wife, redacted by his granddaughter. The advertising says 120 pp. The text is about 20 regular size pages of text cutely presented in tiny, well-leaded, heavily margined format, surrounded by front matter, an Introduction to this introduction, and another, brief introduction by the introducers to their rejected introduction. The

back end is notes, a bibliography and advertising for the series in which this bit of journalism appears: Insurrections. You see, Mr Badiou is a man and Ms Cassin is a woman. The actual title of their introduction is Heidegger. Le Nazisme, les Femmes, et les philosophes (Nazism, women and philosophers). The cover shows Heidegger, who was a man, and his wife, who was a woman about to eat lunch in Todnauberg. Gender Studies meets professional philosophy. And what Nazism has to do with this is hard to determine, except that it is a hot topic in French Heidegger studies and Ms Cassin is a Jewish lady who attended late seminars by Heidegger hosted in France by Rene Char and reports having observed a French "peasant" spit in Heidegger's direction. Times must be rough at Columbia University Press. The cloth edition is \$60. The paperback is \$20. The grand title is a thoroughgoing misrepresentation. Caveat emptor. A good example of what passes for Critical Studies in Religion, Politics and Culture (the series subtitle).

Clear and open discussion about Heidegger and his political "Sein und Zeit"

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