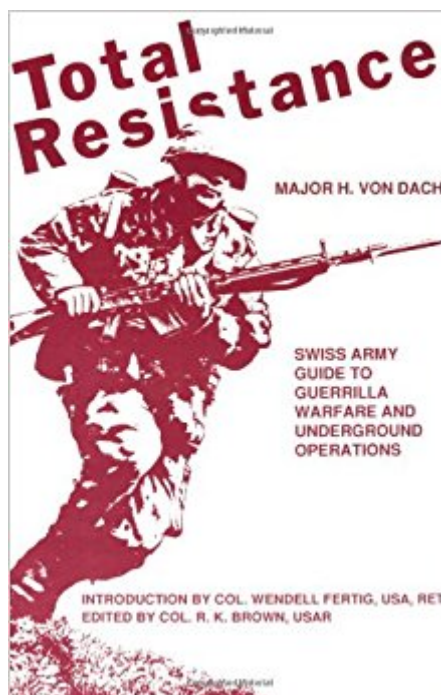


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# Total Resistance



## Synopsis

This is a legendary work by the famed Swiss expert on guerrilla warfare, Major H. von Dach. Survivalists have rediscovered this important study on resistance and underground operations, some making it the keystone of their libraries. Well-written and illustrated with easy-to-understand drawings, Total Resistance analyzes and overviews the techniques needed to overcome an invading force, formation of guerrilla units, weapons, food and medical considerations, ambushes, sabotage and much more.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

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## Customer Reviews

The good:+ this book benefits from an excellent introduction by Wendell W. Fertig.+ the book emphasizes coordinated resistance between military/militia units and the civilian population+ this is a good practical manual for civilian sabotage and roadblocks.+ this outlines the structure of how civilians coordinate action while keeping op-sec.+ when the technology is gone, this book's methods will continue to be useful  
The bad:- This is a scanned reprint and difficult to read, though not impossible.- either the author is too protective of civilians, or he undervalues what civilians can accomplish- The list on page 135 of the enemy's goals with regard to educating the young is, sadly, almost complete  
Great, great book. It stays on my shelf. There may come a time when we need to implement some plans against our would-be leftist conquerors. Von Dach knew how necessary it is to resist the communists. Anything is better than being enslaved by the left.  
For a fictionalized guerilla war story, set in America and applying Von Dach's approach, try "Indian Country" by Kurt Schlichter.

Much of the minutiae may not be as useful anymore, for example how to take down phone lines, and there are other facets which simply did not exist in the author's time, for example drones or digitized electronic warfare. Other facets are too specific to the Swiss military (e.g. instruction for specific mines, grenades) and the author assumes his audience (which were Swiss military and Swiss citizens who had undergone requisite military training) is already versed in basic fire-and-movement, weapons handling, patrolling, etc. Nonetheless, the book is still highly relevant to the modern, American reader. The general strategies, maxims and insights still hold true. As a book on the mindset and process behind guerrilla warfare, I have yet to read anything superior. Additionally, the author spends a great deal of time on 3 things that are almost always absent from other treatises: 1) the methods of the enemy to psychologically and socially disrupt resistance to its occupation; 2) how to form and grow secure social organization which will allow for resistance and guerrilla groups to form and survive; 3) the implications and issues of establishing PR, propaganda, finance, etc. for the resistance. Even the classics on guerrilla warfare, such as Mao's and Che's books, avoid these topics almost entirely and focus more upon a general notion of 'spirit of resistance' or on tactical considerations. Dach's book spends good time on the issues related to guerrilla field operations, but he also equally covers the civilian resistance aspect (i.e. non combat/interdiction related) and the enemy's methods of organizing and conducting himself. There are also various maps/illustrations in the book that initially appear quaint or simple, but will illustrate the various concepts well without a lot of "clutter" that you might find in a book that was too specialized. Invaluable are photographs or illustrations that illustrate, for example, the best spot to hang explosives on a railroad tank car, or how to best and most expediently sabotage a bridge. These sorts of illustrations are also consistently lacking in most of the literature on this subject. In the end it's an excellent source, especially considering it's brevity and cheap price; tremendous value.

Written in 1958, then translated and issued in English in 1965. Interesting that there is an introduction by Col. Wendell Fertig US Army Retired. Fertig was in the Army in the Philippines and was trapped on Mindanao in WW II when he organized the Philippines into a resistance. Fertig awarded himself a higher rank in WW II to better work with the natives, unfortunately, this annoyed Gen McArthur, and he was very cool to Fertig in WW II. The book is obviously dated as it was written in 1958, which is now 56 years ago. The book is written around a condition like WW II, where Switzerland would be attacked and overrun in part or in whole, and the war continued, and the Swiss could expect some relief at some time in the future. He talks about guns, and points out that

almost all Swiss homes have guns, and that the people would give them to a resistance as the occupier would confiscate them all, or kill people found with guns. It should be noted that the Swiss now and for decades have their army guns at home if in the reserve, or there former army guns if they have retired from the reserves. The Army rifles would be the equivalent of the US M-16, with a fully automatic capability. This is about what they could do to discomfort the enemy. I liked the way he finished the book: "We must and will win this battle since each Swiss male and female in particular believe in the innermost part of their hearts - even if they are too shy and sober in everyday life to admit or even to speak about it - in the old and yet very up-to-date saying: "Death rather than slavery!" Anyone interested in guerilla warfare by a European country may find this book interesting.

Major H. Von Dach's "Total Resistance" is a 175-page instruction book filled with information on setting up and operating an insurgency. The copyright is 1965, but is built on an earlier work from 1958. Almost all other works on insurgency deal with handling thwarting them when the danger is to you, your unit or your country. Total Resistance however, details the building of an insurgency, from the nuts and bolts of creating an insurgent unit, its security techniques, along with general instructions on some types of saboteur actions against an enemy. In a long-ago life, I trained insurgents for military operations against some of America's enemies at the time. Von Dach book by no means covers it all, but it gives the reader many of the ground work starting points to building a successful insurgency operation. H. Rossi USMCR

Okay, but there are better out there, such as some of the US Army FM's on Special Forces

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