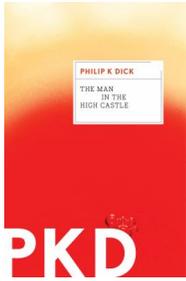


# Books by the Stack



## ***The Man In the High Castle by Phillip K. Dick***

It's America in 1962. Slavery is legal once again. The few Jews who still survive hide under assumed names. In San Francisco, the I Ching is as common as the Yellow Pages. All because some 20 years earlier the United States lost a war – and is now occupied jointly by Nazi Germany and Japan.

**Why you'll like it:** *Alternative history, atmospheric, thought-provoking.*

**About the Author:** Phillip Kindred Dick was an American science fiction writer best known for his psychological portrayals of characters trapped in illusory environments. His first novel, *Solar Lottery*, was published in 1955. In 1963, Dick won the Hugo Award for his novel, *The Man in the High Castle*. He also wrote a series of futuristic tales; most notably of these was *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, which was later adapted into film as *Blade Runner*. He died of a stroke in Santa Ana, California, in 1982. (Bowker Author Biography)

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. How much actual history do you need to know to get this story?
2. What questions does the book raise for our understanding of World War II? Or of totalitarianism? What comments does the book make about the world that “really” happened, the one we know from our history books?
3. What impact has the war had on San Francisco? How is San Francisco changed? How is it the same? How has the rest of the United States changed? Compare San Francisco to Colorado. How are they different? How are they the same? If you lived in this new United States, where would you chose to live?
4. Do you think that alternate history is interesting or useful? If you had to write an alternate history, what would be your “what if...” question?
5. If you took the I Ching out, how would that change the book? What if Hawthorne Abendsen wrote a book that had our history? And what would you think if he wrote that book without the I Ching?
6. What role does the I Ching play?
7. Why do you think Dick wrote the book? How does it fit into his other writings?
8. Which character changes the most? Who gains the most? Who loses the most?
9. Who is the protagonist in this book? Why do you think so?

**10.** Do you think this book has a happy ending or a sad ending? Do you feel the book's ending was exciting or did it lack something?

*(Questions provided by bookrags.com, shoomp.com, and personal.psu.edu)*



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