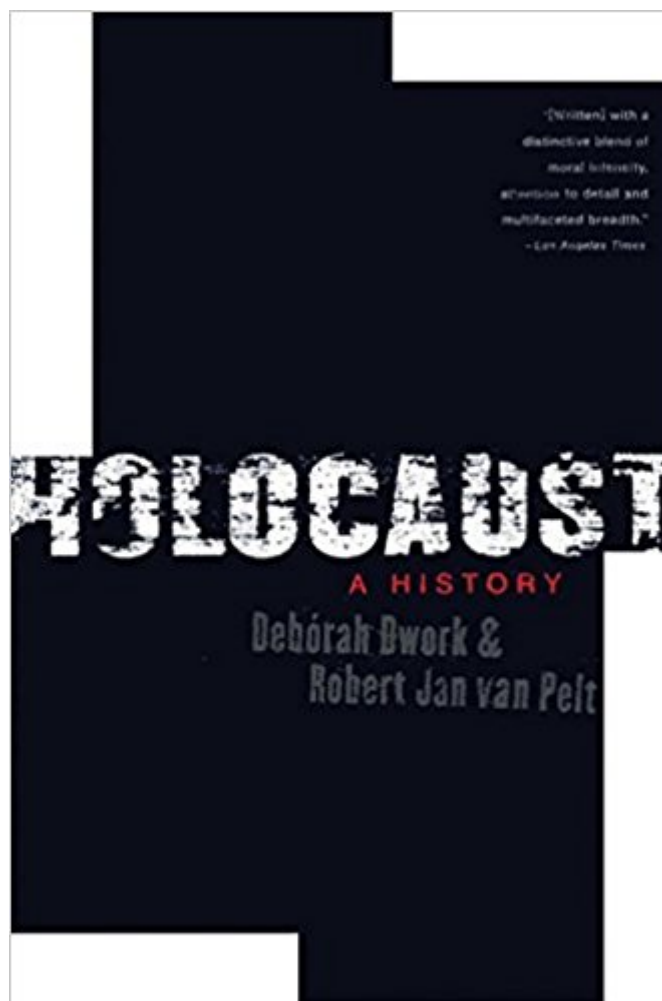


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Holocaust: A History



Synopsis

A magisterial, dramatic account that reshapes the way we think and talk about the greatest crime in history. Unrivaled in reach and scope, *Holocaust* illuminates the long march of events, from the Middle Ages to the modern era, which led to this great atrocity. It is a story of all Europe, of Nazis and their allies, the experience of wartime occupation, the suffering and strategies of marked victims, the failure of international rescue, and the success of individual rescuers. It alone in Holocaust literature negotiates the chasm between the two histories, that of the perpetrators and of the victims and their families, shining new light on German actions and Jewish reactions. No other book in any language has so embraced this multifaceted story. *Holocaust* uniquely makes use of oral histories recorded by the authors over fifteen years across Europe and the United States, as well as never-before-analyzed archival documents, letters, and diaries; it contains in addition seventy-five illustrations and sixteen original maps, each accompanied by an extended caption. This book is an original analysis of a defining event. 14 maps, 75 illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

During the past half-century Holocaust studies have perhaps become the most vital area of historical research. Yet books with the significance of this new history of the Holocaust are rare it is exhaustive as well as consistently insightful. From the opening chapters in which the authors, contradicting popular wisdom, argue that the direct eliminationist roots of the Holocaust are found not so much in the centuries-old European anti-Semitic legal regulations, but in the Inquisition's intention of social purification, the Terror of the French Revolution and the massacre of 1.5 million

Armenians by the Turks in 1915 Dwork and van Pelt challenge and provoke. Rather than viewing the Holocaust as a distinct historical phenomenon, the authors do their best to integrate it into a wide range of historical, cultural and social conditions. In discussing the German subjugation of Poland, for example, they focus on how gentile Poles saw the extermination of Jews as a precursor to their own fate; in their discussion of how Jews coped with ghetto life, the authors examine in detail the underground schooling systems that benefited both students and teachers. They also place the history of rescue efforts (usually based on personalities such as Oskar Schindler and Raoul Wallenberg) in a broader and more complicated geographic and social perspective. The book is also filled with fascinating details that challenge our preconceptions for instance, it is a myth, they note, that King Christian of Denmark wore a yellow star in sympathy with his country's Jews, since no Nazi order was ever given for Danish Jews to be so identified. Like their important earlier work *Auschwitz* (winner of a National Jewish Book Award), this is beautifully and lucidly written, presenting complex and important information in a highly accessible manner. 75 illus., 16 maps. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This thoroughgoing work does not treat the Holocaust as an addendum to World War II but as a separate event deserving its own account. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is highly recommended by me (especially for those interested in the Holocaust). It is very well written, thought provoking, interesting, and difficult to put down. As another reviewer mentioned, the book is certainly not a 'light read'. It is gut wrenching to read about the suffering of so many during the years of the Holocaust. If you purchase "Holocaust: A History", you will absolutely not be disappointed. This book also goes into the holocausts history as a whole.

Starting with the origins found in World War I and including the Armenian Genocide, this book goes forward to discuss, in depth, the history of the Holocaust. It is a must-have for any student of History.

Purchased for a college class. Good information and comprehensive.

A colleague recommended this to me and I am very glad I got it. It lays out the history of the Holocaust and all its tragedies (and, dare I say, INSANITIES?!?!) in a very accessible fashion, and

does help with understanding this horrific historical period. Reading this makes me even more disheartened at today's similar events: when did "Never again!" come to mean, "Well, maybe sometimes..."???

Very well written history of a terrible point in human history. Highly recommended for anyone that has a mild to a major interest in this subject

I bought this text for a History of the Holocaust class, but we ended up referencing it very little throughout the course. Instead, what started with a cursory glance through the pages led to hours poring over and rereading passages. Dwork and van Pelt write history in a way that is not only accessible and fluid to students but also the casual reader. If you also love history and want to understand how in the world it was possible for the Holocaust to happen underneath all our noses, start here. You won't regret it.

This book almost more a history of anti-semitism, the main focus being anti-semitism during the Holocaust. It deals more with why the Holocaust happened, what the conditions were in Europe that led to it, and what attitudes were like toward the Jews. It explores what conditions were like in occupied countries and how the non-Jews were treated by the Germans. This treatment by the Nazis would often reflect on whether or not the country helped the Nazis in their efforts against the Jews. Many countries would collaborate if the general population was being treated well, but then again many would collaborate if they were being treated harshly and blame the Jews as the cause. The book also deals with the various plans the Nazis came up with in their effort to find the "perfect" plan to dispose of the Jews. There is only one rather short chapter on concentration camps, the rest covers quite a lot of new ground that I haven't read before in books dealing with the Holocaust. I gave it four stars because a few times it seemed to be getting away from the main topic of the book, but all in all it's an exactly source.

This is a superb, hard-to-put-down book. I found it to be well written, well organized, and, as a previous reviewer noted, meticulously footnoted. Consequently, I was surprised at what I found when I checked the source of one of the footnotes. On page 301 of the hardcover edition, the authors, critical of America's skepticism of Nazi atrocities in German-occupied Poland, state that "Time (Magazine) mockingly called the news from Poland the atrocity story of the week." Knowing that Time has an archive website and curious about this charge, I checked the footnoted source, the

September 18, 1939 edition of Time (Footnote 54). What Time mocked was not allegations of Nazi atrocities but rather a United Press correspondent and German officers who had claimed that hundreds of German civilians had been killed and mutilated by retreating Poles. I don't doubt that there were some in America back then who doubted Nazi atrocities. Indeed, unfortunately a few still do. But the Time Magazine article does not support the authors' case. I had no interest in checking additional citations and I hope this was an isolated error in an otherwise outstanding book.

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