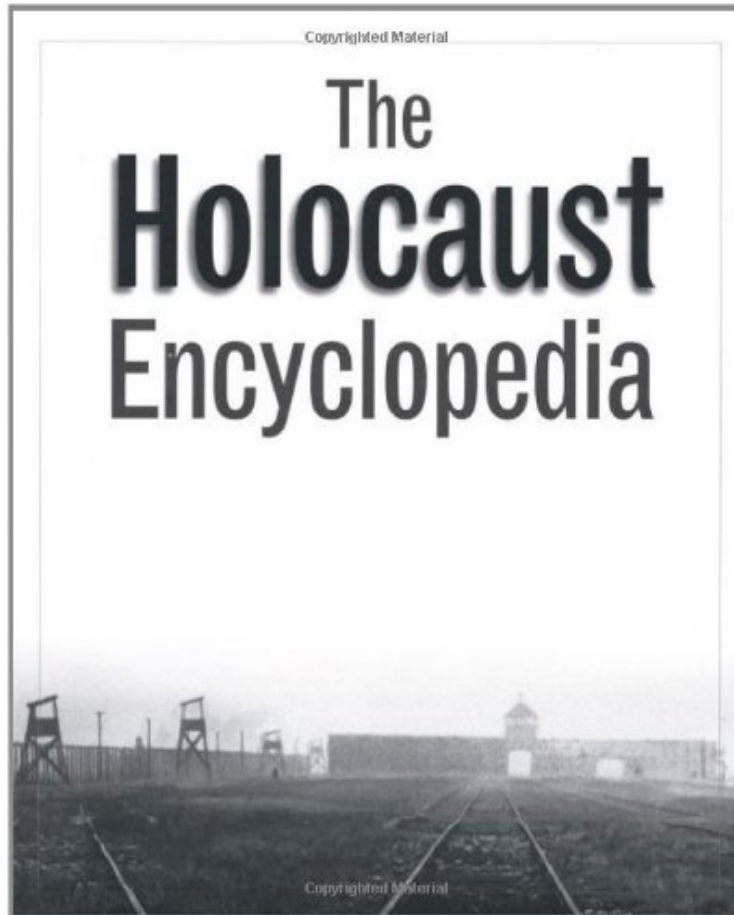


The Holocaust Encyclopedia

Judith Tydor Baumel

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Judith Tydor Baumel : The Holocaust Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Holocaust Encyclopedia:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very great bookBy BangkhenThe Holocaust , a bone chilling account but filled with valuable information, not my first choice, maybe my 2nd. Please read.1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. for the WWII historianBy MethosBook is a must have.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well written coverage of a dark dark timeBy Doc T.There is not much I can say about THE HOLOCAUST ENCYCLOPEDIA. It is a massive collection of data and information on one of mans darkest times in history, covering so many known and little known facts and figures on this abomination foisted upon the world by Adolph Hitler, and his totally evil sociopathic SS hierarchy, and lower ranking members. One can learn a great deal about the operations of the death camps, the horrific reasons behind which made it even possible to occur.I have visited the HOLOCAUST MUSEUM in Washington D.C. It left a deep lasting impression on me. And it is mentioned in detail in this book.

The Holocaust has been the subject of countless books, works of art, and memorials. Fifty-five years after the fact the world still ponders the enormity of this disaster. The Holocaust Encyclopedia is the only comprehensive single-volume work of reference providing both a reflective overview of the subject and abundant detail concerning major events, policy decisions, cities, and individuals. Up-to-date and designed for easy access, the encyclopedia presents information on the major aspects of the Holocaust in essays by scholars from eleven countries who draw on a number of sources including recently uncovered evidence from the former Soviet bloc to provide in-depth studies on the political, social, religious, and moral issues of the Holocaust as well as short entries identifying events, sites, and individuals. The book also has more than 250 photographs, many of them rare, and 19 maps. The volume includes: Raul Hilberg on concentration camps and Gypsies Ruth Bondy, Israel Gutman, and Dina Porat on major ghettos Roger Greenspun on the Holocaust in cinema and television Richard Breitman on American policy Michael Berenbaum on theological and philosophical responses Saul Friedlander on Nazi policy Michael Hagemeister on the Protocols of the Elders of Zion Michael R. Marrus on historiography Christopher R. Browning on the Madagascar Plan Robert S. Wistrich on Holocaust denial James E. Young on Holocaust literature

Although most libraries now contain many shelves of books describing various aspects of the Holocaust, comprehensive one-volume histories or reference books on the subject are rare. Thus, The Holocaust Encyclopedia, edited by Walter Lacquer (a modern European historian who has taught at Harvard, Brandeis, and Tel Aviv University, among others), fills an important gap in existing Holocaust literature. His book gathers accessible articles by many of the world's leading Holocaust scholars on the full range of people and places involved, from Adolph Hitler and Gypsies to Russia and the Soviet Union. The articles are complemented by a comprehensive chronology and an excellent bibliographical essay, and by almost 300 illustrations, including maps and photographs. The photographs, by Adam Kaczkowski, are particularly well chosen and designed. Photography's importance in the act of Holocaust remembrance is poignantly understated by Roger Greenspun in his entry on "Cinema and Television," in which he writes, "This was the first great human catastrophe to have so many pictures taken of it." The Holocaust Encyclopedia will become the first stop in the library for high school students wishing to learn about the Holocaust. It will also provide college students and adults with a reliable, authoritative, big-picture perspective on aspects of a genocide that, no matter how fully it is known, will never fully be understood. -- Michael Joseph Gross From Publishers Weekly

The last two decades of the 20th century witnessed a veritable explosion of Holocaust scholarship. We have endowed university chairs devoted to Holocaust studies, and museums and monuments to the Shoah bloom. Yet the public at large is no closer to an understanding of those momentous events today than we were two generations ago. Now comes a book that can at least partly remedy that situation. Editor Laqueur, a notable Holocaust historian (Generation Exodus, Forecasts, Feb. 19), has done a masterful job of bringing together more than 100 contributors from nearly a dozen countries, including such leading scholars in their fields as James Young, Stanley Payne, Michael R. Marrus, Raul Hilberg, Israel Gutman, Saul Friedlander, David Cesarani, Daniel Carpi and Christopher Browning. The result is a comprehensive one is tempted to say exhaustive, but the subject can never be exhausted volume. Of particular value are a 17-page chronology of events; the bibliographical essay by Robert Rozett, director of the Yad Vashem Library in Jerusalem; and Adam Kaczkowski's haunting and powerful photographs. These are joined by approximately 250 illustrations that cover all aspects of the Nazi extermination program but also offer intimate portraits of the culture of Jewish life in Nazi-occupied Europe. Entries range in length from a few sentences to a dozen pages on Hitler, anti-Semitism and Auschwitz. Laqueur asks, "Is it possible now, more than fifty years after the Holocaust, to write about it with authority?" The encyclopedia itself is authoritative, and Laqueur argues that "it is most unlikely... that any future revelations will necessitate a radical revision of the present picture." Finally, Laqueur is eloquent and humble in acknowledging the epistemological shortcomings of this (or any) work on the subject: "Documents cannot possibly tell the full story; they do not smell, they do not starve or freeze, they are not afraid." But this is no ordinary reference work; in it we can indeed see and even smell the horrors of the Final Solution, and yes, we are afraid. (Apr. 19) Forecast: There will undoubtedly be much media attention paid to this momentous book, aided by its publication on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal

Cochair of the International Research Council of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, Laqueur has assembled a virtual "Who's Who" of Holocaust scholars to provide both brief and detailed entries on the major players, events, concepts, and themes in contemporary Holocaust studies. Although the encyclopedia provides only brief articles on individuals, with the exception of figures such as Adolf Hitler, it refers readers to more detailed analyses in thematic articles, where these individuals receive their due. Fortunately, these longer entries do not come at the expense of information on individuals but treat their topics thoroughly. The encyclopedia also contains articles of contemporary relevance, such as "Holocaust Denial" and "Cinema and Television." Bibliographic references are not included, even with longer entries, although there is a bibliographic essay at the end of the volume. While Donald Niewyk and Francis Nicosia's recent The Columbia Guide to the Holocaust (LJ 3/15/01) is more a research tool for those doing in-depth investigation, the Laqueur volume is a wonderful compendium of state-of-the-art research and an easy reference for readers on all levels who need factual and conceptual information. Jointly, the two works cover

most of the topics that should be addressed. Recommended for all libraries. Frederic Krome, Jacob Rader Marcus Ctr. of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.