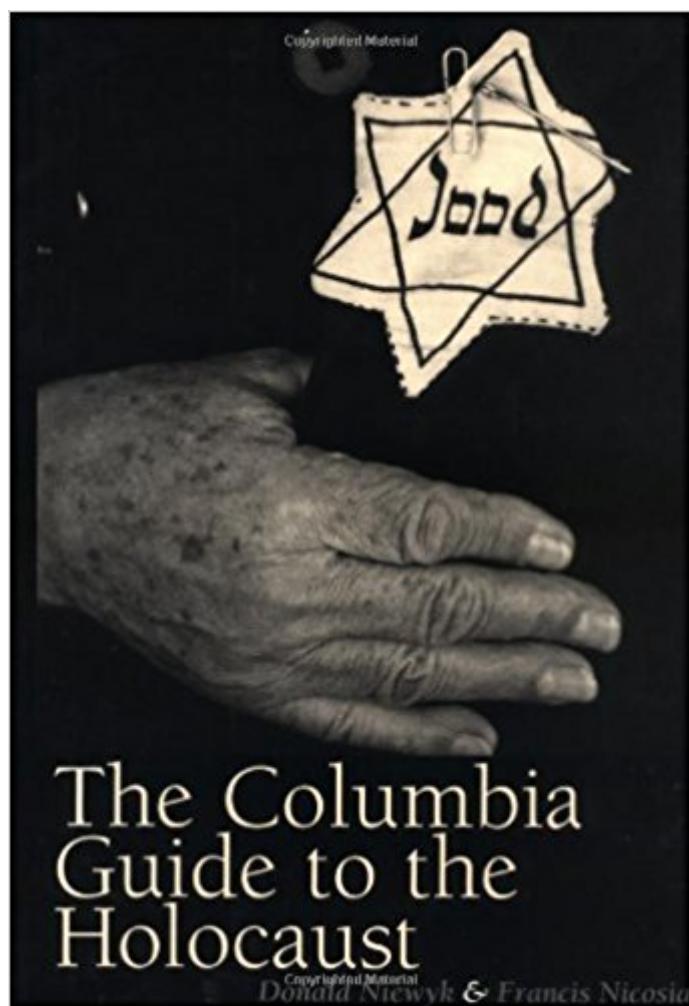


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The Columbia Guide To The Holocaust



Synopsis

Offering a multidimensional approach to one of the most important episodes of the twentieth century, The Columbia Guide to the Holocaust offers readers and researchers a general history of the Holocaust while delving into the core issues and debates in the study of the Holocaust today. Each of the book's five distinct parts stands on its own as valuable research aids; together, they constitute an integrated whole. Part I provides a narrative overview of the Holocaust, placing it within the larger context of Nazi Germany and World War II. Part II examines eight critical issues or controversies in the study of the Holocaust, including the following questions: Were the Jews the sole targets of Nazi genocide, or must other groups, such as homosexuals, the handicapped, Gypsies, and political dissenters, also be included? What are the historical roots of the Holocaust? How and why did the "Final Solution" come about? Why did bystanders extend or withhold aid? Part III consists of a concise chronology of major events and developments that took place surrounding the Holocaust, including the armistice ending World War I, the opening of the first major concentration camp at Dachau, Germany's invasion of Poland, the failed assassination attempt against Hitler, and the formation of Israel. Part IV contains short descriptive articles on more than two hundred key people, places, terms, and institutions central to a thorough understanding of the Holocaust. Entries include Adolf Eichmann, Anne Frank, the Warsaw Ghetto, Aryanization, the SS, Kristallnacht, and the Catholic Church. Part V presents an annotated guide to the best print, video, electronic, and institutional resources in English for further study. Armed with the tools contained in this volume, students or researchers investigating this vast and complicated topic will gain an informed understanding of one of the greatest tragedies in world history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Niewyk (history, Southern Methodist Univ.) and Nicosia (history, Saint Michael's Coll.) have compiled one of the most useful portable Holocaust reference works published in the last few years. What makes this work so interesting is that it is structured so differently from most other one-volume works on the topic. For example, Rochelle Millen's *New Perspectives on the Holocaust: A Guide for Teachers and Scholars* is made up of two dozen pedagogical articles, while Ronnie S. Landau's *Studying the Holocaust: Issues, Readings, and Documents* assumes considerable knowledge while offering little analytical text. The Columbia Guide is divided into five parts: "Historical Overview

"One of the most useful portable Holocaust reference works published in the last few years. What makes this work so interesting is that it is structured so differently from most other one-volume works on the topic....Recommended for all libraries." -- Library Journal"An impressive volume, and the authors have succeeded in providing a handy one-volume, multipurpose guide to the Holocaust." -- John A. Drobnicki, American Reference Books Annual"Very helpful and useful." -- Center for Holocaust Studies"A valuable work of reference. It is superbly organized and its quality is uniform throughout. Succinct, lucid, and informative, this compact volume is also up-to-date. It fills a broad need." -- Raul Hilberg

Quite educational. Tremendously depressing to me because of how much truth has been withheld from the public here in the USA regarding the Holocaust. If you want a dose of eye opening facts this is a book for you.

The guide is so concise in its treatment of all the diverse historical currents that contributed to anti-Jewish anti-Semitism and the holocaust that it would be impossible to achieve such insight without months/years of study. We will not repeat the same mistake. This guide is one of the reasons why.

Niewyk and Nicosia have given us an indispensable addition to the vast literature on the Holocaust. Due to legally required Holocaust education in some states, many people whose specialty is not

Holocaust studies are required to teach about the Holocaust. The biggest worry in this is the serious possibility of the Holocaust being presented in a way that is kitschy, usually with no more important lesson than Santayana's trite witticism about repeating history. What *The Columbia Guide to the Holocaust* provides is a wonderful overview of the Holocaust especially designed for non-experts. While the text is concise and readable, the best parts of the book are outside the normal text. Niewyk and Nicosia provide several sections that make this book ideal for beginners in Holocaust studies and educators that must teach about the Holocaust: biographies of many important individuals, "location" biographies of the major death camps, ghettos and other important sites (such as Babi Yar), and an enormous annotated bibliography of books, music, museums, documentaries and movies, and internet sites. While there is not much here for the established scholar (though even they may find the extensive bibliography useful), for beginning students and especially for educators, there is no better source to have by your side when studying, discussing or teaching the Holocaust.

This book is the result of intense research and thorough assimilation of source documents. The resulting text provides a factual context for other histories, reporting, art, drama, and all other representations and studies of the Holocaust. The facts are appalling. The implications are many faceted for our times and for all time. The journey of learning about the Holocaust is a vital one for each of us at every age.

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