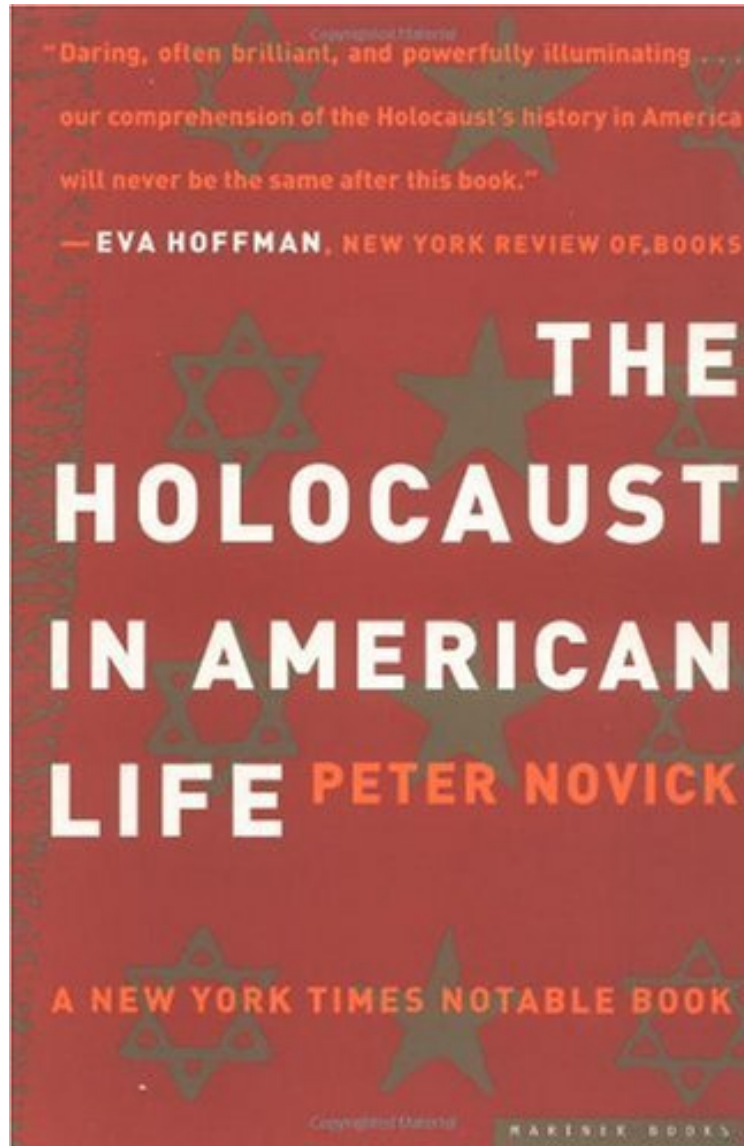


[Read now] The Holocaust in American Life

The Holocaust in American Life

Von Peter Novick

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Von Peter Novick : The Holocaust in American Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Holocaust in American Life:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A thought-provoking intellectual history, well presentedVon Richard E. HegnerThis is one of the most intellectually stimulating books I have ever encountered. While few people with probably agree with everything the author has to say, he has written a thoughtful, thoroughly researched examination of how the idea of the Holocaust--and popular

thinking about that tragedy among both Jewish and Gentile Americans--has evolved over the 60 years since the outbreak of World War II. He also has the courage to challenge conventional thinking as well as the beliefs of generally revered leaders like David Ben Gurion and Elie Wiesel. The book does an excellent job of linking popular thinking about the Holocaust with concurrent historical trends and developments, including the more intense American focus on the Pacific as opposed to the European theatre for much of the war, the lack of appreciation during and immediately after the war for the immensity of the Jewish genocide, the emergence of the Cold War (together with the "discovery" of common totalitarian threads between Nazism and Stalinism), the "rehabilitation" of Germany after Stalin took over Eastern Europe, changing views about "victimization" in American popular culture, the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem and Hannah Arendt's controversial analysis of it, the Arab-Israeli Wars of 1967 and 1973, as well as the decline in American anti-semitism in general at the same time that radical black activists were employing anti-Jewish rhetoric. One of the most important contributions of the book is its discussion of the alleged "uniqueness" of the Holocaust, which the author shows to be both historically inaccurate and dangerous in leading down the slippery slope where any other more recent catastrophes and disasters are minimized in comparison. Rich with example and documentation--the footnotes and endnotes should be read, too--the book is one I expect to return to in the future. Broad in its scope and well-written, it is generally quite persuasive in the arguments it advances. I would concur with those critics who fault the author's occasionally overly colloquial style, especially when he is discussing Holocaust deniers. His dismissal of them as "kooks" and "nut cases" detracts from the generally strong case he makes against them.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Jewish racialism leads to a Holocaust religion Von Matt Nuenke This book is a fascinating look at how Jews in America, who for the most part have become secular and have given up their religious convictions, are trying to find a way to stay racially separate from the rest of humanity. The Holocaust has given them such a tool, that is, a new religion to replace the old. Along with Israel, Judaism today is not wrapped in the cloak of religion but in the dogma of racist purity. The book explains how the Holocaust was forgotten until the '67 war in Israel brought it back into public debate. Since then, there has been an effort to make the six million Jews killed by the Nazis "unique" from all other atrocities. There have been over 170 million people killed by governments in this century, not including military combatants, and many of those suffered far worse than the Jews of Nazi concentration camps. And yet, many Jewish scholars want us to only remember the six million Jews who died. The Jewish need for victimization even went so far as to "conjure up" a number of other Holocaust casualties, conveniently a number less than six million, and arbitrarily set at five million. In fact the official number, according to Rummel who is the recognized academic who has looked at how many people died under different regimes, (see the book "Death by Government" or his web site) is a total of twenty million dead under the Nazis. And strangely enough, ten million of them were Slavs. That's right, the Jews paled in comparison of human suffering next to the hated Slavs. But that has never been discussed or brought out into the open, because the Jews in Hollywood, according to this book, are only interested in "Jewish" victimization. This well written and easy to read book, by a Jew, sheds a lot of light on how the Holocaust is the new Jewish religion that can supplant God in keeping young Jewish kids from that most terrible of sins -- interbreeding with other races, or what Jews call "The Silent Holocaust."

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Lucid but deeply disturbing Von Arvo Lannus Peter Novick has written a lucid and deeply disturbing book. There is much in the book to agree with, but one is also struck time and time again by the cynicism and meretriciousness of various groups and organizations that have manipulated this tragic event for their own political ends--including the support of a foreign power, sometimes in direct opposition to American foreign policy and her national interests. There emerge, of course, the expected number of kooks who, in spite of copious evidence, still deny the actuality of the murders of European Jews (as well as communists, Poles, Ukrainians, Russians, Balts, Gypsies and many others). But even on the victims' side, the prevailing attitude is that noble ends justify any and all means, including manipulating politicians through "greed and fear." There is a Deborah Lipstadt, emerging victorious from the David Irving libel suit (where the latter was judged to have twisted historical truth), who-- when told that the memoir of a suffering Swiss-Jewish family (now thought to have been fabricated) that she used in her lectures--believes it's still "powerful . . . [although] it might complicate matters somewhat." And what is one to think of an Elie Wiesel--the personification of the concentration camp survivor to most television-watching Americans--or survivor Henryck Grynspan in whose eyes a gentile corpse is apparently less worthy of memorialization with public funds? Nor is Mr. Novick beyond a few ignoble swipes of his own, such as the statement that the nearly two million displaced persons left in Germany after the war and the initial wave of repatriation were " . . . Volksdeutsch [ethnic Germans] who had been expelled from Eastern Europe, Baltic and Ukrainian German auxiliaries, and various others . . ." Were one to claim that "the East European Jews who sought refuge against the attacking Nazi forces behind Soviet lines were mostly communists or collaborators and their families," one would rightfully recognize it as a gratuitous smear. There are a few other rash judgements about Christian refugees offered without documentary support. While, on balance, I recommend reading this book, one should also read Albert Lindemann's "Esau's Tears."

Kurzbeschreibung Prize-winning historian Peter Novick illuminates the reasons Americans ignored the Holocaust for so long -- how dwelling on German crimes interfered with Cold War mobilization; how American Jews, not wanting to be thought of as victims, avoided the subject. He explores in absorbing detail the decisions that later moved the Holocaust to the center of American life: Jewish leaders invoking its memory to muster support for Israel and to come out on top in a sordid competition over what group had suffered most; politicians using it to score points with Jewish voters. With insight and sensitivity, Novick raises searching questions about these developments. Have American Jews, by making the Holocaust the emblematic Jewish experience, given Hitler a posthumous victory, tacitly endorsing his definition of Jews as despised pariahs? Does the Holocaust really teach useful lessons and sensitize us to atrocities, or, by making the Holocaust the measure, does it make lesser crimes seem "not so bad"? What are we to make of the fact that while Americans spend hundreds of millions of dollars for museums recording a European crime, there is no museum of American slavery?