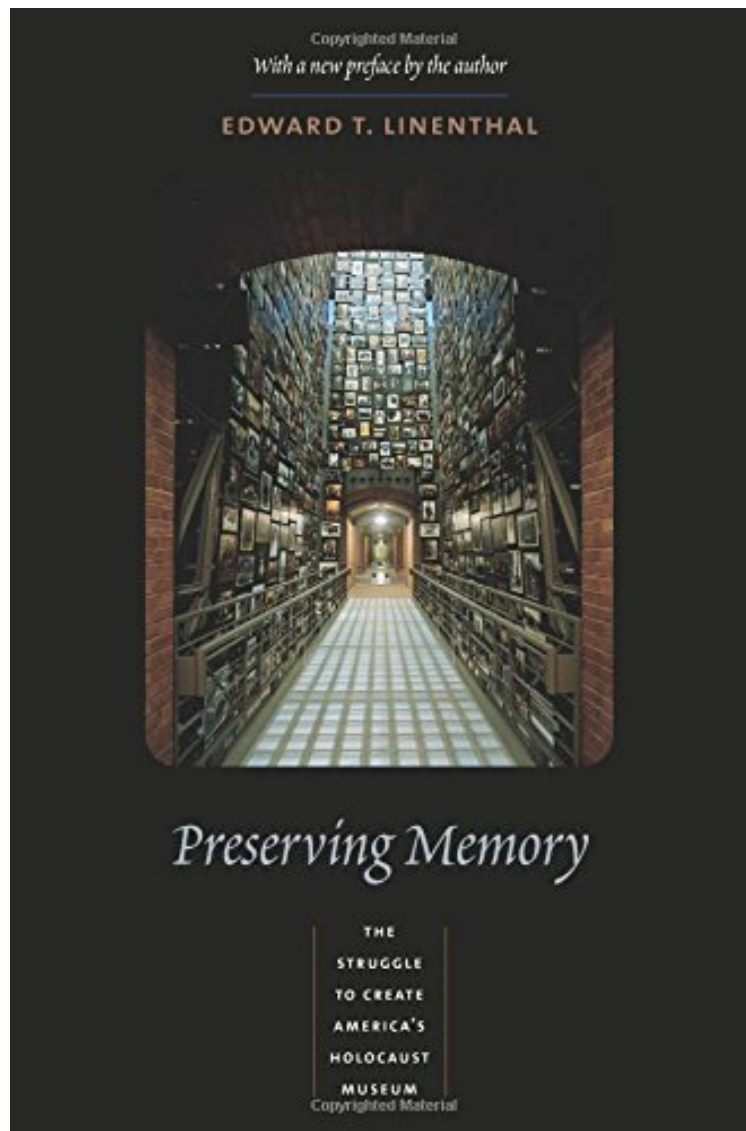


(Read free) Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum

# Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum

*Edward Linenthal*

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**Edward Linenthal : Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. MasterpieceBy Leon LamA clear and well-written guide to the planning, design and message of the Holocaust Museum. Highly readable and resourcefully researched. An excellent

example of monograph on historical memory.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must haveBy dawnThis book is about the museum and finding a place where all victims can be represented.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Preserving Memory: The Making of the United States Holocaust Memorial: Purchased at .comBy depPreserving Memory is the story of how the United States Holocaust Museum was made. After reading this book, I'm rather amazed the museum was made at all. On November 1, 1978, President Carter issued Executive Order 12093, creating the President's Commission on the Holocaust. Twelve commissioners were sworn in on February 1, 1979. Thus began the road to the Making of the United States Holocaust Museum. Some of the Commissioners were survivors of the Holocaust. With their background, some of them wanted to be very sure of what they were doing. There were many battles over almost everything to do with the museum. To further complicate things, in dealing with the White House, some things became almost political battles. The museum began to be built in the late 1980's, and was opened in April 1993. This is a great book, but it requires a lot of perseverance to read it. Some of the story tends to bog down, which is why I gave it four stars. Still, if you love history and can stick with it this is a book worth reading. A well written book that explains much about the memory of the Holocaust.

Since its first year in 1993, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has attracted more than 15 million visitors, sometimes at the rate of 10,000 a day, each of whom has walked away with an indelible impression of awe in the face of the unimaginable. This lively, honest, behind-the-scenes account details the emotionally complex fifteen-year struggle surrounding the museum's birth.

From Publishers WeeklyPassages in this discussion of the selection of artifacts?children's shoes, leg braces, bundles of women's hair?to be exhibited in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington are harrowing to read. At the same time, the bureaucratic infighting and political tugging on the President's Commission on the Holocaust and its successor, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, tend to trivialize the raison d'etre of the museum: about what sort of building to erect that would be a "good neighbor" to others on the Mall, about whether to include articles that once belonged to Gypsies and homosexuals who were also victims, about commemorating other genocides like the slaughter of the Armenians in 1915. Ultimately, Linenthal's (Sacred Ground: Americans and Their Battlefields) carefully researched account seeks to answer the vexing question of the "place" of Holocaust memory in American culture. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalLinenthal (religion and American culture, Univ. of Wisconsin, Oshkosh) describes the 15-year effort to create a national museum commemorating the Holocaust. He begins with the creation in May 1978 of the President's Commission on the Holocaust during the Carter administration. He then covers issues related to the location, design, and construction of the museum building. Linenthal's most significant contribution is the chapter on defining and representing the horror of the Holocaust. He skillfully describes the dilemmas facing the organizers of the exhibits, such as how to depict the story of mass murder and yet personalize it, how to represent the Nazis and other perpetrators of the Holocaust in the exhibit, and whether non-Jewish victims should be included. Linenthal tells the story of defining and representing America's memory of the Holocaust with sensitivity and thoroughness. For all collections.?Mark Weber, Kent State Univ. Lib., OhioCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistPresident Carter created the President's Commission on the Holocaust in 1978. It then took 15 years of bitter and emotional debate to design and build the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Linenthal, author of Sacred Grounds: Americans and Their Battlefields (1991), chronicles all that went on during those painful and acrimonious years as Holocaust survivors, politicians, museum professionals, historians, and architects struggled to define "the boundaries of Holocaust memory." Linenthal deftly summarizes all the complex issues that had to be resolved. Jews believed that they should be the focus, but members of other groups victimized by the Holocaust demanded equal representation. Some felt the memorial should be in New York; others fretted over whether Washington, D.C., was an appropriate location. And what an agonizing task it was to create a memorial that both eulogized and educated without simplifying, sensationalizing, or offending. Linenthal portrays major players, including Elie Wiesel, Yaffa Eliach, and architect James Ingo Freed, who was finally able to visualize a building "expressive of the event" after traveling to Auschwitz. A sobering, yet fascinating, testament to the value of preserving memories with respect and creativity. Donna Seaman