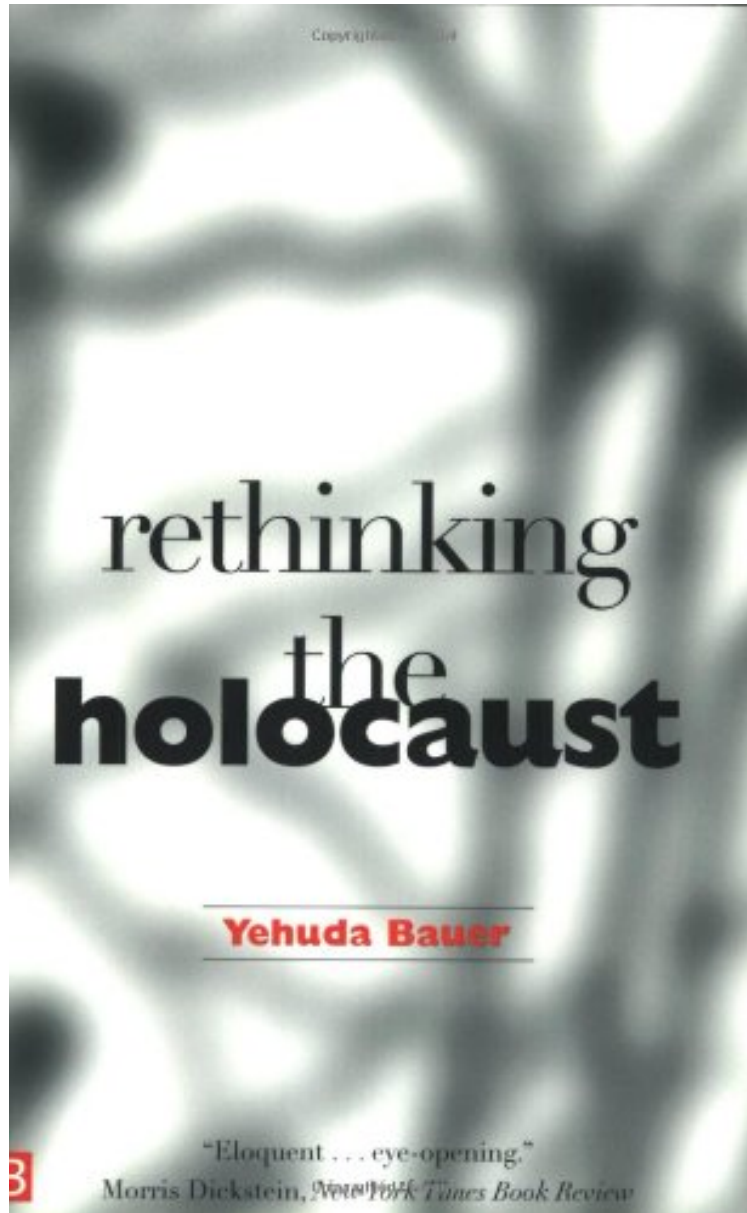


(Free read ebook) Rethinking the Holocaust

Rethinking the Holocaust

Yehuda Bauer

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Yehuda Bauer : Rethinking the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rethinking the Holocaust:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. PREVENTING DOOMSDAYBy Yehezkel DrorOn principle I do not review books by university colleagues, all the more so when dealing with a subject outside my main territory.

Therefore, on the book itself, I limit myself to the assessment that this is one of the most comprehensive and insightful treatments of the Holocaust among those I have read on this subject and on Nazi Germany and its Fuehrer. This book also serves as a good platform for exploring a fateful subject within my concerns: threats to the future of the human species, including the use of doomsday devices by fanatics. As well stated in the book The basic issue of Holocaust history is to tell it in such a way as to advance the prospect, dim though it may seem, to prevent genocides, Holocaust-like events in particular. (p. 112). As is clear from declarations by Hitler in his bunker before committing suicide (a subject outside the scope of this book), if he had a doomsday device he would have used it, preferring a world without humans over one ruled by his enemies who defeated Germany which showed itself as too weak for its mission as postulated the the Nazi global utopia. His closest followers, such as Goebbels, who killed his children before committing suicide with his wife in Hitlers bunker, would surely have helped Hitler doing away with the human species if they had a doomsday device, which luckily they did not have. But emerging science and technology is likely to provide easily available doomsday tools, such as deadly air-carried viruses mutated in kitchen laboratories. Therefore, even a small sect of fanatics committed to freeing Goya from nature-devastating humanity and ready to die in order to do so, is likely in the not very distant future to be able to kill of most if not all of humanity. They do not need, as the Nazis did, devoted elite of a few hundred and many willing cooperators, as were necessary for the Holocaust. Enough one or two dozen true believers including a few bioengineers and the continuing existence of humanity is in doubt. Therefore the three commandments which Bauer advised to add to the ten Biblical ones are inadequate. He suggests Thou shall not be a perpetrator; Thou shall not be a passive victim; and Thou most certainly shall not be a bystander (p. 67, expanded version in Speech to the German Bundestag, p. 273). There are essential but not sufficient. To protect humanity against annihilation by fanatics three more Commandments must be added: Thou shall strictly control and limit production and diffusion of knowledge and tools enabling mega-killings; Thou shall prohibit dissemination of ideologies supporting mass-killings and and all the more so elimination of humanity; and Thou shall treat all who prepare mass-killings and in particular elimination of humanity as enemies of humanity, to be globally hunted down and neutralized. This book provides one of the needed moral and intellectual foundations and empiric bases for such essential measures. Thus it is of even greater importance than intended by the author. Professor Yehezkel Dror The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Prof Bauer is a living legend in Israel and one ...By Arthur Miller Prof Bauer is a living legend in Israel and one of the most knowledgeable, recognized and respected authorities on Holocaust history. I will read anything and everything he writes. If you are a student or teacher of Holocaust studies, this is a "must read". 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Very important book By Efraim Zadoff This book presents the SHOA - the Holocaust - the genocide of the Jewish people in the Second World War, in a wide perspective of other genocides in the 20th century. Bauer presents, besides its own ideas, the opinion of some of the most prominent scholars, some of them non Jewish. He also presents a diversity of subjects and considerations in the research of the SHOA.

Yehuda Bauer, one of the worlds premier historians of the Holocaust, here presents an insightful overview and reconsideration of its history and meaning. Drawing on research he and other historians have done in recent years, he offers fresh opinions on such basic issues as how to define and explain the Holocaust; whether it can be compared with other genocides; how Jews reacted to the murder campaign against them; and what the relationship is between the Holocaust and the establishment of Israel. The Holocaust says something terribly important about humanity, says Bauer. He analyzes explanations of the Holocaust by Zygmunt Bauman, Jeffrey Herf, Goetz Aly, Daniel Goldhagen, John Weiss, and Saul Friedlander and then offers his own interpretation of how the Holocaust could occur. Providing fascinating narratives as examples, he deals with reactions of Jewish men and women during the Holocaust and tells of several attempts at rescue operations. He also explores Jewish theology of the Holocaust, arguing that our view of the Holocaust should not be clouded by mysticism: it was an action by humans against other humans and is therefore an explicable event that we can prevent from recurring.

From Publishers Weekly The title of this latest contribution from Bauer is slightly misleading; as valuable as it is, the volume is not really a rethinking of the Holocaust but rather a revisiting of the major problems and interpretations in Holocaust studies. Bauer, director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, begins with a short discussion of what exactly historians do. He quite rightly departs from standard practice when he asks such moral and "what if" questions as what could have been done? and what should have been done? Contrary to what he calls Elie Wiesel's "mystification" of the Holocaust, he insists that the catastrophe was a human invention and therefore historically and "rationally" explicable. Separate chapters deal with Jewish armed and unarmed resistance, and with rescue attempts--he examines, for instance, the case of Gisi Fleischmann, a Zionist leader who worked to get as many Jews out of Slovakia as possible, which Bauer uses to discuss issues of gender, arguing that women did not fight for the status of women separately but for collective and individual survival and for honor. Most fascinating for non-Jewish readers are the chapter on Jewish theological attempts to explain the Holocaust and Bauer's valuable synthesis and reexamination of some of the major interpretations of the Holocaust. Bauer ends by looking at how the

Holocaust is related to the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 (he rejects, for instance, the notion that "a guilt complex" on the part of Western countries led them to vote for partition of British Palestine). (Jan.)Forecast: This book will become a staple of Holocaust literature and should enjoy a long, if quiet, life in print. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Bauer insists that this is not another history of the Holocaust but rather an attempt to rethink issues arising from that watershed in human history. He starts with a definition and explanation of the Holocaust and then compares it with other genocide. He analyzes attempts by six important historians and sociologists--Zygmunt Bauman, Jeffrey Herf, Goetz Aly, Daniel J. Goldhagen, John Weiss, and Saul Friedlander--to interpret the Holocaust. Two chapters deal with Jewish reactions during the Holocaust, specifically Jewish resistance. Bauer analyzes one contemporary gender study regarding the problems that Jewish women have had to face in dealing with this catastrophe, and he examines Jewish theological explanations of the tragedy. He also discusses "the dismal chronology of rescue attempts" and considers the impact of the Holocaust on the establishment of the State of Israel. Bauer, director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, and author of *Jews for Sale?* (1994), has written a book of extraordinary scope, depth, and power. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "In this original and compelling book Bauer considers all the major issues of Holocaust historiography. Everything Bauer touches he illuminates." Michael Berenbaum "An eye-opening synthesis of the whole historiography of the Shoah... The meat of the book is a brilliant review of vexed issues like Jewish resistance (armed and unarmed), the role of the Judenrate, or Nazi-imposed Jewish Councils, and the plans to rescue Jews by buying their freedom... With the skill of a sleuth and the assiduous patience of a born scholar, Bauer reconstructs the schemes, characters and motives in a spirit of factual inquiry, keen empathy and, of all unlikely things, common sense." Morris Dickstein, *New York Times Book* "Bauer is the preeminent student of Jewish resistance and rescue efforts... Bauer's book also reaches beyond issues of rescue, offering a strong introduction to many of the analytic debates on Nazi genocide." Paul Breines, *Washington Post Book World*