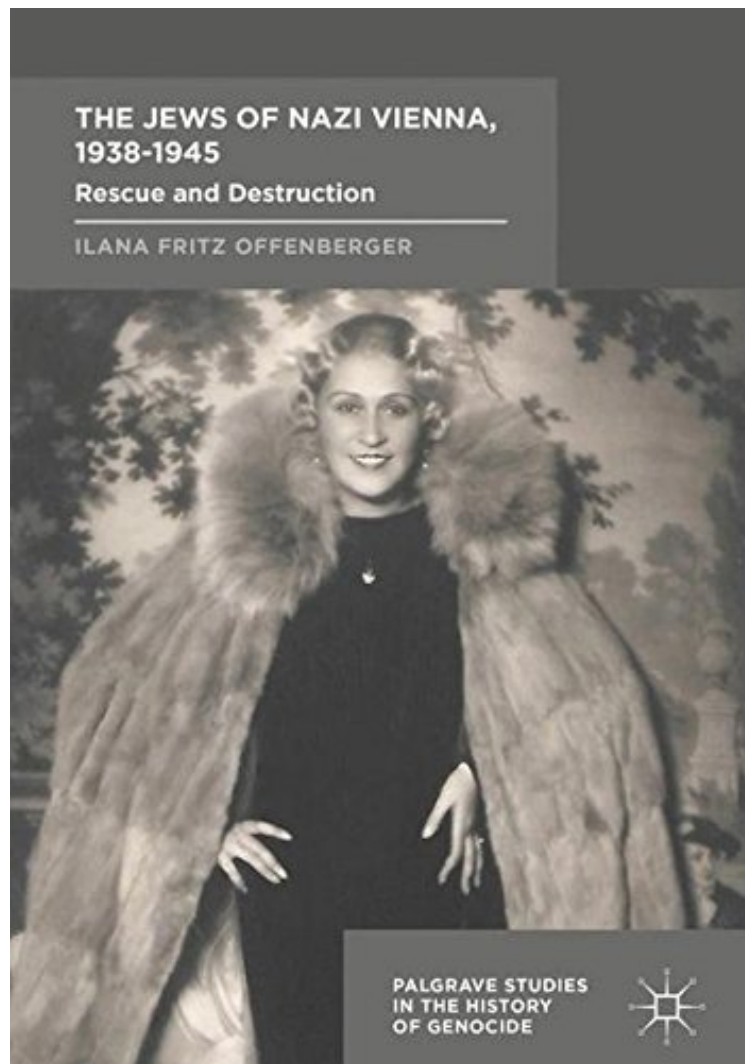


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The Jews of Nazi Vienna, 1938-1945: Rescue and Destruction (Palgrave Studies in the History of Genocide)

Ilana Fritz Offenberger

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Ilana Fritz Offenberger : The Jews of Nazi Vienna, 1938-1945: Rescue and Destruction (Palgrave Studies in the History of Genocide) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jews of Nazi Vienna, 1938-1945: Rescue and Destruction (Palgrave Studies in the History of Genocide):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing insights By Thomas F. Anders Dr. Offenberger has given us a well documented, in-depth view of life for Jews in Vienna from 1938-1945. She has provided a longitudinal framework that follows the course of gradual Nazi tightening from forced emigration, to internment, to deportation

and finally to extermination; all told from a personal/family perspective resulting from her thorough research into archives, video libraries and personal interviews. The bibliography and footnotes are extensive. Devastation affected all the Jews: murdered victims, emigres to safety in foreign lands, the few who survived in Vienna and the subsequent generations wherever they may be. But this is not only a tale of devastation, it is also a story of strength, ingenuity and community. Thank you Dr. Offenberger for this easy-to-read (yet painful) description of an era that can never be forgotten.

This book examines Jewish life in Vienna just after the Nazi-takeover in 1938. Who were Viennas Jews, how did they react and respond to Nazism, and why? Drawing upon the voices of the individuals and families who lived during this time, together with new archival documentation, Ilana Offenberger reconstructs the daily lives of Viennas Jews from Anschluss in March 1938 through the entire Nazi occupation and the eventual dissolution of the Jewish community of Vienna. Offenberger explains how and why over two-thirds of the Jewish community emigrated from the country, while one-third remained trapped. A vivid picture emerges of the co-dependent relationship this community developed with their German masters, and the false hope they maintained until the bitter end. The Germans murdered close to one third of Viennas Jewish population in the final solution and their family members who escaped the Reich before 1941 chose never to return; they remained dispersed across the world. This is not a triumphant history. Although the overwhelming majority survived the Holocaust, the Jewish community that once existed was destroyed.

In her groundbreaking study, Offenberger tells the history of the Jews of Vienna (who accounted for 90 percent of all Austrian Jews) as they negotiated and endured the onslaught of Nazi policy after the Anschluss. Showing how the mechanism for emigration shaded into a machinery for deportation, she keeps our focus on the Jews, on individual and communal decisions and choices. (Debrah Dwork, Clark University, USA) Offenberger reconstructs the everyday life of Viennese Jews after the Nazi takeover of Austria by raising a much larger question of if and how the descendants of genocide victims can overcome the suffering of a permanent loss. (Kateina Krlov, Charles University, Czech Republic) Dr. Offenberger is very skilled at putting the reader into the position of the Jews of Vienna and asking the key questions: what were they thinking, what could they have done, that is, what would you have done? (Martin Dean, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, USA)From the Back CoverThis book examines Jewish life in Vienna just after the Nazi-takeover in 1938. Who were Viennas Jews, how did they react and respond to Nazism, and why? Drawing upon the voices of the individuals and families who lived during this time, together with new archival documentation, Ilana Offenberger reconstructs the daily lives of Viennas Jews from Anschluss in March 1938 through the entire Nazi occupation and the eventual dissolution of the Jewish community of Vienna. Offenberger explains how and why over two-thirds of the Jewish community emigrated from the country, while one-third remained trapped. A vivid picture emerges of the co-dependent relationship this community developed with their German masters, and the false hope they maintained until the bitter end. The Germans murdered close to one third of Viennas Jewish population in the final solution and their family members who escaped the Reich before 1941 chose never to return; they remained dispersed across the world. This is not a triumphant history. Although the overwhelming majority survived the Holocaust, the Jewish community that once existed was destroyed.About the AuthorIlana F. Offenberger is Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, USA. Her early research on Viennese Jewry was awarded the first annual Radomir Luza Prize for an outstanding work in Austrian and/or Czechoslovak history in 2012.