



# Rethinking the Holocaust

By Yehuda Bauer

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Yehuda Bauer, one of the world's 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 Friedländer 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.

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## **Rethinking the Holocaust** By Yehuda Bauer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #934733 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2002-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.84" h x .94" w x 5.68" l, .64 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages

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## Editorial Review

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.

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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*

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## Review

"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 Review "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

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lynn Gowen:**

The book untitled Rethinking the Holocaust contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy approach. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author gives you in the new age of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice study.

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