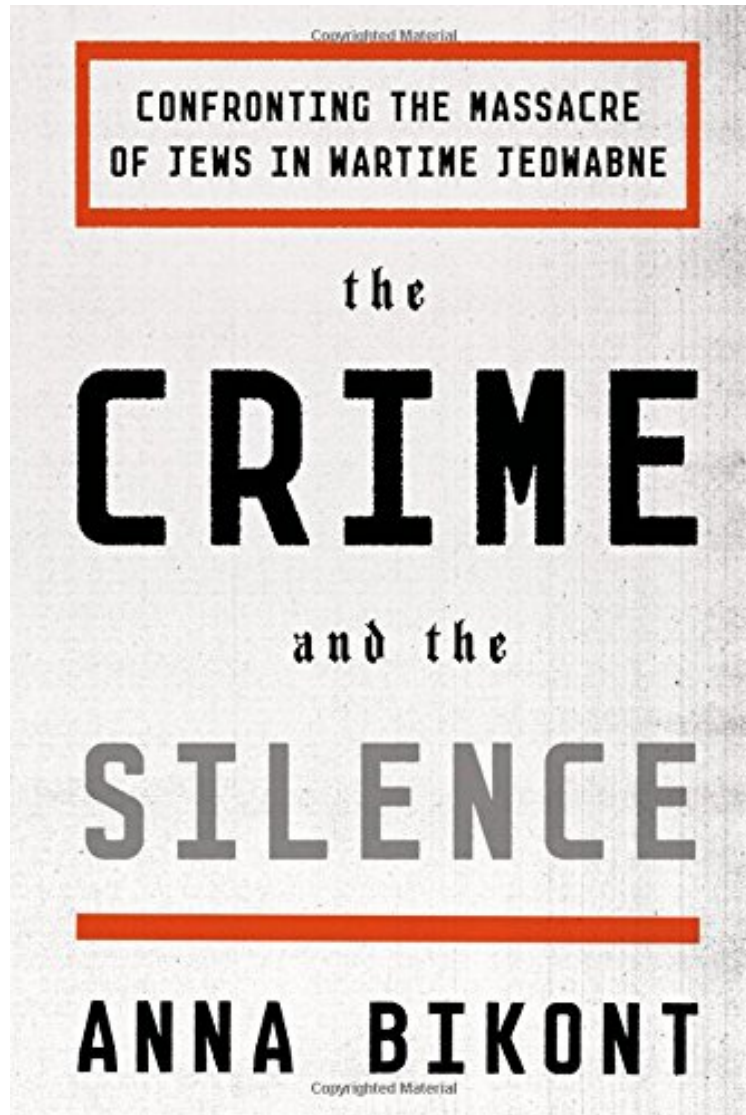


The Crime and the Silence: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne

Anna Bikont

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#362908 in Books Anna Bikont 2015-09-15 2015-09-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.16 x 1.71 x 6.381, 1.00 #File Name: 0374178798560 pages The Crime and the Silence Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne | File size: 36.Mb

Anna Bikont : The Crime and the Silence: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crime and the Silence: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne:

12 of 14 people found the following review helpful. ... for the Gazeta Wyborcza is drawn to revisit in amazing depth

the book "Neighbors" by Jan Gross which was ...By Bernard . Pucker Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne Anna Bikont reporter for the Gazeta Wyborcza is drawn to revisit in amazing depth the book "Neighbors" by Jan Gross which was published in 2001. He claimed that the Poles killed their neighbors the Jews with little participation of the occupying Germans. 10 July 1941 was the date and the horrific events are recounted based on various testimonies and earlier trials. The book created a furor of criticism so much so that Bikont began to investigate the events and takes the reader on a detail and painful journey through the killers, their children, the Jews and the few survivors and their children as well as the local authorities and the leaders of the Catholic church. She records an immense reservoir of anti semitism inflamed alongside deep anti Soviet hatred. As I read I continued to look for deeds of kindness and courage which are sprinkled throughout but the enormity of the burning of some hundreds of "neighbors" plus the bestial killings along the way made it ever so depressing. If this tale is a reflection of one aspect of the human capacity for cruelty and inhumanity we all have much work to do make even a small difference. It is not clear if this fine book will help us face history and improve our behavior. This book is only for the tenacious and deeply drawn to trying to better understanding human or inhuman behavior. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I have not yet finished it but it is amazing work dealing with a very painful topic By Moshe KMI have not yet finished it but it is amazing work dealing with a very painful topic. Having read hundreds of Holocaust books I still find this one very difficult as it deals with crimes committed by ordinary people and the lies that cover up the crime. Very painful but the author deals with this very well. I admire her for her patience and wisdom. 12 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Is anyone's religion his or her nationality? By Gilbert C. Brown A very dad, but fully researched chronicle of what Hannah Arendt termed "the banality of evil." Any of us, however liberal we may think we are, however accepting, however tolerant, can be turned into a killer of our neighbors under the proper stimulus. As the author pointed out, in all of our communities people, and leaders, live who command this stimulus and have their fingers on the magic button whenever they wish to push it. There is a scene in the documentary film, "Watermarks," about the teen-age swimming team of the old Hakoah Club, the traditional Jewish club when Jews could not belong to other clubs in Vienna in which, post war, a now elderly former member of pre-war championship swimming teams of the club returns to Vienna at the invitation of the film maker. She is photographed in a taxi going to a commemorative luncheon. The driver asks her how she knows the city so well. She responds that she was born in Vienna, grew up there, but had to leave in 1938. The driver then asks, as Bikont points out among the Poles, "But you're not Austrian?" She protests her birth and upbringing, but again he says, knowing who left Austria at the time of the 'anschluss,' "BUT YOU'RE NOT AUSTRIAN!" I am fortunate to live in country where I can declare my American nationality, my religion and my Hungarian roots. Bikont hit me hard with her analysis that one can't be a Pole and Jewish at the same time, as in Austria with the swimmer, just as my parents, immigrants to the US in 1919 at the end of WW I, could never feel that they were Hungarians, although my father served and was wounded in the Austro-Hungarian army. Bikont's book is a lesson to all of us, even more poignantly driven home in 2015 when many feel that a Syrian refugee can never become an American but, in their minds, will always remain a terrorist.

Winner of the National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category A monumental work of nonfiction on a wartime atrocity, its sixty-year denial, and the impact of its truth Jan Gross's hugely controversial Neighbors was a historian's disclosure of the events in the small Polish town of Jedwabne on July 10, 1941, when the citizens rounded up the Jewish population and burned them alive in a barn. The massacre was a shocking secret that had been suppressed for more than sixty years, and it provoked the most important public debate in Poland since 1989. From the outset, Anna Bikont reported on the town, combing through archives and interviewing residents who survived the war period. Her writing became a crucial part of the debate and she herself an actor in a national drama. Part history, part memoir, The Crime and the Silence is the journalist's account of these events: both the story of the massacre told through oral histories of survivors and witnesses, and a portrait of a Polish town coming to terms with its dark past. Including the perspectives of both heroes and perpetrators, Bikont chronicles the sources of the hatred that exploded against Jews and asks what myths grow on hidden memories, what destruction they cause, and what happens to a society that refuses to accept a horrific truth. A profoundly moving exploration of being Jewish in modern Poland that Julian Barnes called "one of the most chilling books," The Crime and the Silence is a vital contribution to Holocaust history and a fascinating story of a town coming to terms with its dark past.

"The Crime and the Silence is an astonishing act of investigation and documentation . . . A terrifying and necessary book, unsparing in its detail, but deeply heartening as an act of historical reclamation." ?Julian Barnes "Bikont combines the persistence and energy of a journalist with the humanity and care of a poet." ?Timothy Snyder "A daring exposure . . . Bikont's fearless research-she even confronted the brothers known to have led the Jedwabne murders-makes this a fantastic book. It was first published in Poland in 2004, and the European Book Prize it won in 2011 (for the French version) should be only the first of many awards for this significant work." ?Kirkus s (starred review) "Bikont has performed an extraordinary journalistic feat in documenting this terrible, historically contested atrocity." ?Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Bikont's unflinching assessment of the anti-Semitism that is endemic

even now in Poland will appeal not only to those with an interest in Polish-Jewish relations but anyone curious about the difficult process of a country coming to terms with its history of violence against a minority.” ?Library Journal“*The quality of [Bikont’s] journalism is something very special. An extraordinary interviewer, she developed relationships with the most unlikely cast of characters.*” ?Marci Shore, *The Wall Street Journal*About the AuthorAnna Bikont is a journalist for the *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Poland’s main newspaper, which she helped found in 1989. For her articles on the crimes in Jedwabne and nearby Radzilów, she was honored with several awards, including the Press Prize for reportage in 2001 and the Polityka Prize for historical writing. In 2011 she received the European Book Prize for the French edition of *The Crime and the Silence*. In 2008–2009, Bikont was a fellow at the Cullman Center of the New York Public Library. Alissa Valles is the author of *Orphan Fire* and the editor and cotranslator of Zbigniew Herbert’s *Collected Poems 1956–1998* and *Collected Prose 1948–1998*.