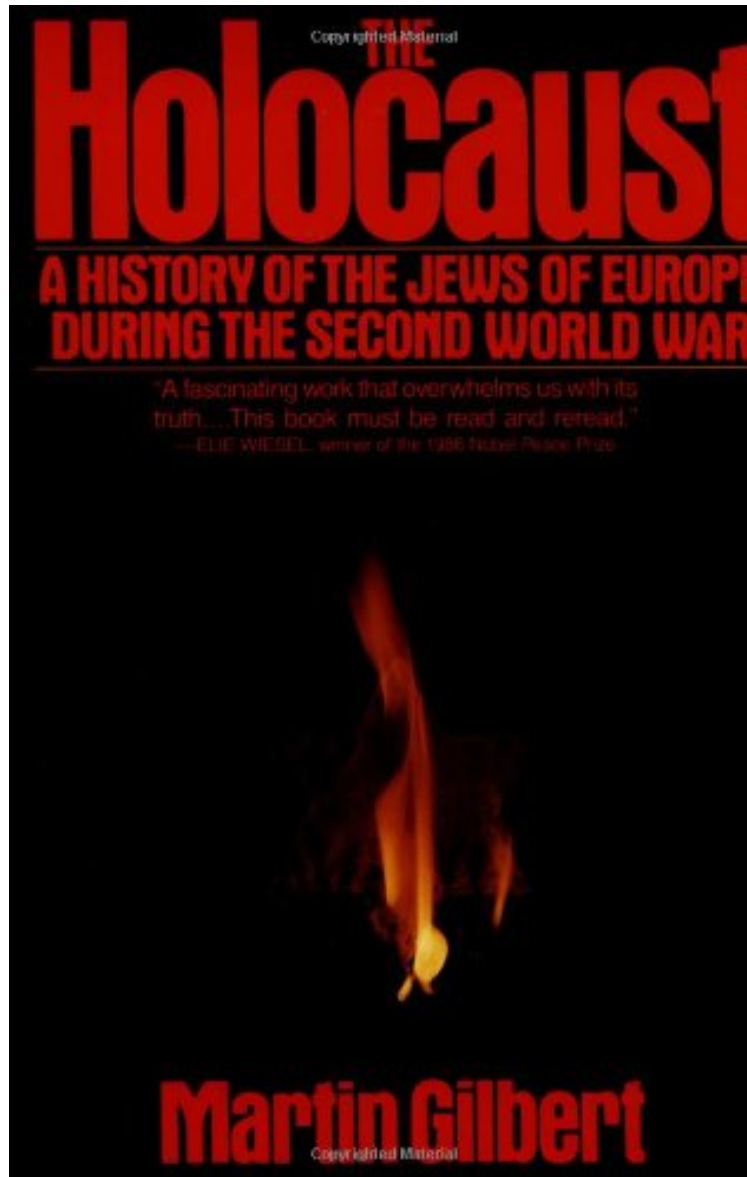


# The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War

*Martin Gilbert*

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**Martin Gilbert : The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Finally, this outstanding book in electronic form!By The Book

BanditSir Martin Gilbert is one of my favourite authors for a reason: he is brilliant. I teach the Holocaust at a museum, and this book in particular has been one of the most helpful and useful books in all the years of my study on the topic. The Holocaust is a huge subject, and therefore no one book could address everything about it, but this tome does an excellent job at covering such a wide range of aspects of the Shoah, using firsthand accounts and vast amounts of other evidence to support and explain what is covered. I teach this subject because I believe it is essential that it never be forgotten, not only to honour the victims, survivors, rescuers and allies, but so that people learn from past mistakes and, hopefully, avoid the world repeating them. Sir Gilbert's book goes a great way to opening people's eyes sufficiently to just what went on. Where many sources gloss over the horrors, Gilbert does not shy away, but still presents the evidence in a way that honours those who suffered. For someone who is detail-orientated like I am, this book is a must in any collection about the Holocaust. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Painful. Excruciatingly painful. By Tom Wright Never have I read a book so well researched, so scathing truthful, so full of pain, wretchedness, and cruelty. I read quickly, usually. This 850+ page book is not read quickly. I would read a chapter, maybe two or three, and then could not read any further for perhaps a week. Sometimes longer. The significance of this document cannot be understated. If you are a history student, particularly WW4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Beautifully Written Book About an Ugly Event By Epistem Quest While I have read a few books written by Holocaust survivors, I wanted to read a comprehensive history of the Holocaust which was written by a respected historian. I achieved that goal by reading Martin Gilbert's, "The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War." He starts the book by showing that hatred of the Jewish people has a long history in Europe. The idea of the Jews as "Christ killers" has been around for centuries. He quotes some ugly words penned by Martin Luther, which certainly fostered a hatred of the Jews. In fact, if I didn't know it was Luther who wrote those words, I would have assumed it was Hitler. After this first chapter of background information, he puts the year at the top of each page so the reader understands the order of events. Every imaginable evil that the mind of a human being can conceive is listed in this book: confiscation of wealth, herding individuals in trains and depriving them of water and sanitation, gassing, torturing, cruel jokes, keeping people in various ghettos, killing babies in front of their mothers, throwing babies out of hospital windows, starvation, shootings, whippings, beatings, to name a few. Understandably, the entire book is one horrendous story after another. However, it also shows some acts of bravery and compassion performed by Jew and Gentile alike. When various camps were liberated, the liberators could hardly believe their eyes. Concerning one such camp outside Orhdurf, Gilbert says of General Eisenhower that he "...was so shocked that he at once telephoned Churchill to describe what he had seen, and then sent photographs of the dead prisoners to Churchill, who circulated them to each member of the British Cabinet." Liberation did not mean the Jews were free of molestation. On the contrary, in Poland in 1945, over 350 Jews were killed by Jew-hating Poles after the Germans were defeated. Finally, here are a few more things I liked about the book. First, Martin Gilbert's writing is easy to follow. He is an excellent writer. Second, there is a comprehensive list of sources at the back of the book, along with a very good index. Third, there are some black and white photos, as well as black and white maps in the book. In short, if you want to read a comprehensive history of the Holocaust, then this book will fulfill that desire.

Deftly weaving together historical research and survivors' testimonies, The Holocaust is Gilbert's acclaimed and definitive history of the European Jews, from Hitler's rise to power to Germany's surrender to the liberation of the prisoners of the concentration camps.

.com A compelling book on an ugly subject, The Holocaust may be the finest book available for those who want a general understanding of how the rise of the Nazis in Germany impacted the Jewish people--as well as those who want to learn exactly what was at stake in the Second World War. When The Holocaust was first published in 1986, Elie Wiesel gave it a glowing review, writing, "This book must be read and reread." It occasionally seems like a numbing catalog of unspeakable horrors, but how else does one write a comprehensive history of such a great tragedy? Gilbert is an accomplished author with a frighteningly long list of books to his credit; this is among his best. From Publishers Weekly A poignant introduction by the author (official biographer of Winston Churchill) is followed by his instructive analysis of anti-Semitism in Europe, from Martin Luther's venomous fulminations against Jews to the motivating power of anti-Semitism in the National Socialist movement. Hitler's "final solution" began formally within hours of the German invasion of Russia, a campaign that, as Gilbert shows, provided an opportunity for genocide hitherto lacking. With a relentless accumulation of detail and eyewitness accounts, he writes of the systematic efficiency of the Nazi attempt to destroy European Jewry and the widespread disbelief that such could be happening. Though the figure of Adolf Hitler remains in the background, such executives as Himmler, Eichmann and Mengele are very much in evidence throughout the gripping narrative (there is new material on the latter's labors at Auschwitz). An element in the historical tragedy that Gilbert stresses is the deliberate destruction of children one of Mengele's principal interests which the author calls "the new barbarism." The narrative reaches its dreadful climax with the convergence on the death camps of the Allied and Soviet armies, a time when "rescue and slaughter marched hand in hand." A particularly disturbing section deals with outbreaks of anti-Semitism after the German surrender. On July 4, 1946, for

instance more than a year after V-E Day 42 Jews were massacred by Poles in the town of Kielce. Gilbert brings within the pages of this volume all the major substantiated evidence of Jewish resistance throughout the war, plus many examples of Gentiles risking their lives to protect Hitler's prey. Photos. Major ad/promo. January Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA Gilbert, a noted historian and the official biographer of Winston Churchill, has written an extremely well- documented account of the plight of the Jews in Europe from 1933 to 1945. He gives historical background of Germany's economic troubles after World War I and shows how Hitler came to power. He cites the sanctions and laws promulgated against the Jews in minute detail. The epilogue is a summary of events after 1945 and includes the actions and feelings of the survivors up to the present day. Included in the text are a few black-and-white newspaper photographs of events of this time period. The 65-page bibliography cites mainly primary sources. This is a moving and detailed study, written in a factual and controlled manner, which serves to underscore the devastation of these terrible events. Pat Royal, Prince George's County Public School System, Md. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.