Annotated Bibliography of Holocaust Resources: Courtesy of www.remember.org

1. General History

Berenbaum, Michael, ed. A Mosaic of Victims: Non-Jews Persecuted and Murdered by the Nazis. New York: New York University Press, 1990. This collection of essays includes entries by a number of noted Holocaust scholars including Berenbaum himself. The subjects of the essays includes entries by a number of noted Holocaust scholars, such as homosexuals and Gypsies, Serbs, Slavs, and pacifists.

Berenson, Michael. The World Must Know: A History of the Holocaust as Told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Boston: Little Brown, 1993. As indicated by the title, the book tells the story of the Holocaust as presented in the museum. It includes over 200 photos from the museum's archives and artifact collections. The three parts of the book, which correspond to the accounts from the main exhibition floors, cover the rise of the Nazis to power; the ghettos and camps; and rescue, resistance, and the post-war period.

Dawidowicz, Lucy. The War Against the Jews 1933-1945. New York: Bantam, 1986. Dawidowicz raises three questions: How was it possible for a modern state to carry out the systematic murder of a people for no reason other than that they were Jewish? How did European Jewry allow itself to be destroyed? How could the world stand by without halting this destruction? In Dawidowicz's view, World War II was the direct result of Hitler's antisemitism; she believes the war was waged to allow the Nazis to implement the Final Solution. Her work is a major exposition of the intentionalist school of Holocaust historiography. According to Dawidowicz, the annihilation of the Jews was central to Hitler's thoughts and plans from 1919 onward.

Dawidowicz, Lucy. A Holocaust Reader. West Orange, NJ: Behrman House, 1976. A companion to the historical work cited above, here Dawidowicz presents documentation to support the history. Both German and Jewish documents are provided, including reports, letters, and diaries. The general introduction to studying Holocaust documents, and the introductions to each section of documents are extremely helpful.

Gilbert, Martin. The Holocaust: A History of the Jews in Europe during the Second World War. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1986. Gilbert effectively combines the results of historical research with personal narratives of survivors. Although the book is long, it is readable and extremely well-indexed, making it an invaluable tool for providing supplementary material on almost any aspect of the Holocaust. What it may lack by way of analysis, it more than makes up in texture and its conveyance of the emotional power of the Holocaust.

Hayes, Peter, ed. Lessons and Legacies: The Meaning of the Holocaust in a Changing World. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1991. In this useful collection thoughtfully introduced by Hayes, various aspects of the Holocaust are examined by sixteen leading scholars including Raul Hilberg, Saul Friedlander, Yehuda Bauer, Michael Marrus, Christopher Browning, and Lawrence Langer. Also included is a critical essay by Alvin Rosenfeld on the popularization of Anne Frank.

Hilberg, Raul. The Destruction of the European Jews. [3 vols.] New York: Holmes and Meier, 1985. This authoritative reconstruction of the Holocaust remains the standard text to which all others are compared. Hilberg's primary focus is on the methods of the Nazi murder process, including the organizational and bureaucratic machinery of destruction. Hilberg's explanation of the role of Jews themselves in their destruction and of the lack of resistance has been criticized.

Hilberg, Raul. The Destruction of the European Jews. [Student text]. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1985. This edition of Hilberg's classic work is an abridgement of the original three-volume edition. The focus here is on the perpetrators and the destruction process from expropriation of the Jews property to the camps.

Hilberg, Raul. Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe, 1933-1945. New York: Harper Collins, 1992. In his most recent work, Hilberg expands his focus from the study of the perpetrator alone, to include, as the title indicates, victims and bystanders. He also includes rescuers and Jewish resisters, groups which he ignored in his earlier work; however, the attention he gives to these groups is minimal. His main focus continues to be on the destruction and those responsible for it. Hitler's role is more central here than in the earlier work. This is Hilberg's most accessible book.

Levin, Nora. The Holocaust: The Nazi Destruction of European Jewry, 1933-1945. Melbourne, Fl: Krieger Publishing Company, 1990. Levin was one of the first writers to use the term Holocaust for the destruction of the Jews of Europe during World War II. The first part of this historical account, arranged chronologically, details the Nazi plan and implementation of the Final Solution. The second half, arranged geographically, shows how the Nazi program was affected by individual governments and by degrees of antisemitism. Levin emphasizes the resistance of the Jews and rejects the notion that they went to their deaths like sheep to the slaughter.

Reitlinger, Gerald. The Final Solution. Norvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1988. Updated since first being published in 1953, this work is remarkable for the early understanding it provided of the Holocaust. Much of what Reitlinger wrote less than a decade after the Holocaust has been confirmed by subsequent research.

Yahil, Leni. The Holocaust: The Fate of European Jewry, 1932-1945. New York Oxford, 1991. This is one of the most comprehensive histories of the Holocaust. Written by a fine scholar late in her career, it is built on the strong foundation of her earlier two works and a generation of solid research. Yahil demonstrates how the Nazis used the anti-Jewish program from the beginning to reinforce their power. Before the war, their deliberate violence against the Jews of Germany helped to terrorize the rest of the country, and during the war, their anti-Jewish policies were used as an excuse for taking control of the governments of satellites and occupied countries.

2. History, Specialized

Allen, William S. The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1922-1945. Revised edition. New York: Franklin Watts, 1984. Norhein, a small town of medieval origins in the center of prewar Germany, is the setting for this absorbing study of the impact of Nazism on a single community. As one of the only detailed local studies of Nazi Germany available in English. This book is an invaluable complement to histories of Nazism from the national perspective.

Bartoszewski, Wladyslaw T. The Warsaw Ghetto: A Christian's Testimony. Boston: Beacon Press, 1988. The author is a Polish historian and journalist, born in Warsaw in 1922, now a retired professor of Catholic University in Lublin. He returned to Warsaw from Auschwitz in 1941 and served as liaison between the Polish underground and Jewish ghetto leadership. In this work he intermingles his personal story with primary source material from Nazi, resistance, and ghetto documents.
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Bauer, Yehuda and Nathan Rotenstreich, eds. The Holocaust as Historical Experience. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1981. This collection of essays was specifically designed for teacher. It is divided into three sections, dealing with background, case studies and witnesses, and responses by Jews. The essays cover a variety of ways of approaching the Holocaust, and the work helps to set a framework for historical research.

Bridenthal, Renate, et. al. When Biology Became Destiny: Women in Weimar and Nazi Germany. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1984. Claudia Koonz and Sybil Milton are among the authors included in this collection of essays dealing with a variety of topics and issues relating to women and families in Germany in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. Politics, feminism, and antisemitism are among the subjects addressed.

Browning, Christopher. Ordinary Men: Reserve Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland. New York: Harper Collins, 1992. In this compelling, pioneering social history, Browning attempts to explain how ordinary, middle-aged men became mass murderers, personally shooting thousands of men, women, and children in occupied Poland where the reservists served as members of the German Order Police. The author draws on the judicial interrogations of 210 men who provided testimony in the 1960s, regarding their participation in the massacres and roundups of Jews in 1942 and 1943.

Burleigh, Michael and Wolfgang Wipperman. The Racial State: Germany 1933-1945. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991. Between 1933 and 1945 the Nazi regime tried to restructure German society along racial lines. This important, scholarly study shows how the Nazis plan to annihilate European Jewry derived from racial and population policies which also targeted the Sinti and Roma (Gypsies), the mentally and physically handicapped, the asocial, and homosexuals.

Conot, Robert E. Justice at Nuremberg. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1984. In addition to the detailed history of the Nuremberg Trials, Conot discusses the preparations for the trials. He also goes beyond the events of the trials themselves to discuss the difficulties involved in creating and implementing an international legal entity.

Des Pres, Terrence. The Survivor: An Anatomy of Life in the Death Camps. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976. Des Pres studies survivors of the death camps in an attempt to determine what enabled people to survive. His conclusions are controversial and are unlike those of Bettelheim (The Informed Heart), Frankl (Man's Search for Meaning), and other Holocaust scholars.


Dwork, Deborah. Children with a Star: Jewish Youth in Nazi Europe. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1991. This detailed study of Jewish children during the Holocaust is based on archival material and survivor interviews. Focusing on the daily life of children, the book includes a variety of experiences: children at home, in hiding, and in transit camps, ghettos, forced labor camps, and killing centers.

Engelman, Bernt. In Hitler's Germany. New York: Schocken, 1988. Engelmann, a German raised in an anti-Nazi home, tells his own story here along with those of other Germans, both for and against the Nazis. He also includes those who resisted and those who were indifferent to or unaware of the events around them. This is a social history, focusing on everyday life.

Epstein, Helen. Children of the Holocaust. New York: Viking Penguin, 1988. Epstein, who is a daughter of survivors, interviewed many other children of survivors and presents here a wide range of their responses. She integrates her own story into the text and deals with the issues raised by both parents and children.

Evans, Richard. In Hitler's Shadow: West German Historians and the Attempt to Escape from the Nazi Past. New York: Pantheon, 1989. This noted British historian examines the world of West German historians and the controversial attempts to diminish Germany's responsibility for the Holocaust. Some of their arguments resemble those used by the Nazis themselves. Evans distinguishes between individual and collective guilt, and

discusses President Ronald Reagan and the Bitburg Cemetery visit.

Fein, Helen. Accounting for Genocide: National Responses and Jewish Victimization during the Holocaust. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984. After examining the nature and causes of genocide and the history of antisemitism, Fein addresses the varying patterns of genocide in countries during the Holocaust and the way those differences were influenced by each nation's history and culture. After looking at these events from the broad historical perspective, she takes a second look from the perspective of the victim.

Feingold, Henry. The Politics of Rescue: The Roosevelt Administration and the Holocaust, 1938-1945. New York: Schocken, 1980. This evenhanded, scholarly study examines the reaction of the Roosevelt Administration to the Holocaust. Feingold attempts to move beyond a moral condemnation of American inaction to examine the political context which shaped the American response. The main focus is on American and international refugee policy from the Evian Conference in 1938 to the creation of the War Refugee Board in 1944.

Gellately, Robert. The Gestapo and German Society: Enforcing Racial Policy. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992. In this original, scholarly study of the Nazi secret police, Gellately combines administrative and social history. He draws extensively on Gestapo case files to show that the key factor in the enforcement of Nazi racial policy designed to isolate Jews was the willingness of German citizens to provide the authorities with information about suspected criminality. The author includes a chapter on racial policy aimed at Polish foreign workers.


Horwitz, Gordon. In the Shadow of Death: Living Outside the Gates of Mauthausen. New York: The Free Press, 1990. How much did people living near the camps know about what was going on? How did they cope with this knowledge? How did they find out? These and similar
The term American apathy, which Morse uses in his title refers less to the American public than to the United States government. Using primary source materials, Morse details the process by which the government responded, or failed to respond, to the Nazi genocide.


Mosse, George. Nazi Culture: A Documentary History. New York: Schocken, 1981. While primarily an anthology of original source material, Mosse includes a lengthy personal introduction, as well as introductions to each section and selection. Selections include material taken from speeches, newspapers, contemporary literature, and diaries.

Noakes, J. and G. Pridham, eds. Nazism: A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts, 1919-1945 [2 vols.] New York: Schocken, 1990. This comprehensive work includes a wide range of official, government and party documents, newspapers, speeches, memoirs, letters and diaries. The first volume covers the Nazis rise to power and the domestic aspects of their regime from 1933 to 1939. Volume two examines foreign policy in the pre-war and war periods, the occupation of Poland, the euthanasia program, and the implementation of the genocide policies.

Plant, Richard. The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War against Homosexuals. 1st ed. New York: Henry Holt, 1986. The Nazis condemned homosexuals as socially aberrant. Soon after Hitler came to power in 1933, Storm Troopers raided nightclubs and other places where homosexuals met. About 10,000 people were arrested as homosexuals, and many of them perished in concentration camps. In the camps, homosexuals uniforms sometimes bore a pink triangular badge as an identifying mark. In this volume, Plant examines the ideological motivations for the Nazi persecution of homosexuals and the history of the implementation of Nazi policies.

Roth, John K. and Michael Berenbaum, eds. The Holocaust: Religious and Philosophical Implications. New York: Paragon House, 1989. In this useful collection of over twenty, previously published essays by many of the leading Holocaust scholars, the writers offer a range of responses to difficult questions concerning the uniqueness of the Holocaust and the impact of the catastrophe on Jewish religious beliefs.

Rubenstein, Richard L., and John Roth. Approaches to Auschwitz. Atlanta: John Knox, 1987. A Multidisciplinary study of the Holocaust combining history and political science, sociology, psychology, literature, and theology. This work is both comprehensive and insightful, a fine introduction for a beginning student of the Holocaust.

Tec, Nechama. When Light Pierced the Darkness: Christian Rescue of Jews in Nazi-Occupied Poland. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. Tec studied those who risked their lives to save Jews in an attempt to find a sociological pattern, to determine what characteristics these people had in common, whether they were related by class, religion, or other factors.

Telford, Taylor. The Anatomy of the Nuremberg Trials: A Personal Memoir. New York: Knopf, 1992. Telford Taylor was a member of the American prosecution staff at the Nuremberg trials and eventually became chief counsel. This is a detailed, fascinating account of the inner workings of the trials and the behavior of the defendants and many other participants, both inside and outside the courtroom.

Wyman, David S. The Abandonment of the Jews. New York: Pantheon, 1986. Wyman asks and answers the basic questions about how much was known in America about the Final Solution. In addition to his criticism of the official response from the United States government, in general, and from President Roosevelt, in particular, Wyman also indict some of the American Zionist leaders.

3. Biography

Baker, Leonard. Days of Sorrow and Pain: Leo Baeck and the Berlin Jews. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. Leo Baeck was the leading rabbi in Berlin when Hitler came to power, and he assumed a main role in helping Berlin Jews, first to emigrate, and when that was no longer possible, to resist through underground activities. Refusing to leave Germany himself, he eventually was sent to Theresienstadt.

Breitman, Richard. The Architect of Genocide: Himmler and the Final Solution. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. This is not a biography of Himmler in the traditional sense that it chronicles the life of the man from birth to death. Rather, it focuses on his years as a Nazi, his relationship with Hitler, and his role in mastering the Final Solution. Other Nazi leaders, like Goering and Goebbels, are discussed at length.

Briitman, Richard and Walter Lanqueur. Breaking the Silence. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986. Eduard Schulte was a major German industrialist who abhorred Hitler and Nazism. He is the man credited with passing on to the Allies news, not only of troop movements and weapon programs, but revelation of the Nazi plans for genocide. This biography relates Schulte’s story from his childhood to his postwar years. The authors also describe the responses of Allied governments to the information he passed on to them.

Bullock, Alan. Hitler: A Study in Tyranny. New York: HarperCollings, 1991. The focus of this study is less on Hitler himself than on his position within the Nazi Party. Bullock explores the connection between Hitler and Nazism and places both in historical context. In addition, he traces the roots of Nazism back to the Weimar Republic.

Keneally, Thomas. Schindler’s List. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992. Oskar Schindler was an influential German industrialist with high-level connections in Nazi Germany. He used his position to protect many Jews. Keneally’s absorbing biography is based on interviews with many of those helped by Schindler.

Sereny, Gitta. Into that Darkness. New York: Random House, 1983. Franz Stagl, a convicted Nazi war criminal, was interviewed in prison by the author. These interviews are supplemented by testimony from witnesses. Stagl was Commandant of the camps at both Sobibor and Treblinka. His testimony, as told to Sereny, is revealing and chilling.

4. Fiction


Begley, Louis. Wartime Lies. New York: David McKay, 1991. Begley, himself a child caught up in the Holocaust, has written a first-person novel about a young Jewish boy and his aunt who survive only due to a pattern of denial and compromise that leaves its own scars.

Borowski, Tadeusz. This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen. New York: Viking Penguin, 1992. Through this collection of remarkable short stories, Borowski describes his experiences in Auschwitz and Dachau. His focus is on the atmosphere of the camps and its effect on the inner being. He probes the minds of both victims and perpetrators.

Fink, Ida. A Scrap of Time. New York: Schocken, 1989. The title story in this collection of short stories concerns the way time was measured by Holocaust victims. Other stories describe people in a variety of normal human situations distorted by the circumstances of the times.

Friedlander, Albert. Out of the Whirlwind. New York: Schocken, 1989. Not all of the entries in this anthology are fiction; excerpts are also included from historical works and personal narrative. The book is arranged thematically, making it especially helpful for a teacher looking for material to support specific aspects of a curriculum.

Glatstein, Jacob. Anthology of Holocaust Literature. New York: Macmillan, 1973. Chapters in this collection cover life in the ghettos, children, the camps, resistance, and non-Jewish victims. Excerpts are included from both works of fiction and primary source materials such as diaries, memoirs, and ghetto documents. Man of these pieces can be especially useful if teachers provide additional background information on the authors and context of the writings.

Kosinski, Jerzy. The Painted Bird. New York: Random House, 1993. In this autobiographical novel, Kosinski chronicles the horrors visited upon a six-year-old boy wandering through Europe during the Holocaust. This is without doubt the most graphic and brutal Holocaust material in existence.

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Yorker, the first, very brief, title story tells of a mother witnessing her baby's death at the hands of camp guards. The second story, Rose, describes that some mother, 30 years later, still haunted by that event. This is Holocaust fiction at its best, brief but unforgettable.

Schwarz-Bart, Andre. The Last of the Just. Cambridge, MA: R. Bently, 1981. Based on the Talmudic legend of thirty-six men of each generation upon whose virtue the existence of the world depends, this novel traces the history of the Levy family from medieval time to Emrie Levy, the last of the just, who died at Auschwitz.

Wiesel, Elie. The Town Beyond the Wall. New York: Schocken, 1982. In this post-Holocaust novel, a survivor returns to his home town seeking to understand and confront those who stood by and watched his deportation. Wiesel probes the issue of survivors coming to terms with the Holocaust experience.

5. Memoirs
Anatoli, A. Babi Yar: A Document in the Form of Novel. Cambridge, MA: Robert Bentley, 1979. As a Russian boy of twelve, A. Anatoli used to play in the and was in earshot of the machine gun fire that signaled the massacre by Nazi mobile killing units of more than 33,000 Jews on Sep-tember 29 and 30, 1941. Long regarded as one of the greatest Soviet novels of World War II, Babi Yar is an unforgettable account of the years of German occupation.

Delbo, Charlotte. None of Us Will Survive. Boston: Beacon Press, 1968. Delbo is one of the most eloquent of Holocaust writers. She writes of her experiences at Auschwitz in prose so powerful that the reader seems to become a part of the experience. Through the poetic use of language rather than graphic descriptions of atrocities, she creates unforgettable images.

Donat, Alexander. The Holocaust Kingdom. New York: Anti-Defamation League, 1963. The author, a Polish Jew whose Holocaust experiences included the Warsaw ghetto, Majdanek, and Dachau, was separated from his wife and son at Majdanek but reunited with them after the war. He tells his own story and the stories of others with whom he came in contact. His wife describes her own experiences in the final section of the book.


Frankl, Viktor. Man's Search for Meaning: An Introduction to Logotherapy. New York: Pocket Books, 1984. A psychiatrist as well as a concentration camp survivor, Frankl's work is only secondarily a personal memoir. Primarily, it is an attempt to understand and explain the psychology of camp victims through Frankl's own experiences and observations.


Leitner, Isabella. Fragments of Isabella: A Memoir of Auschwitz. New York: Dell, 1983. A survivor of Auschwitz recounts the ordeal of holding her family together after their mother is killed in the camp. This slim volume is an eloquent account of survival in the midst of chaos and destruction. A glossary of camp language is a valuable addition. Leitner's story is continued in Saving the Fragments.

Levi, Primo. Survival in Auschwitz. New York: Macmillan, 1987. Levi was an Italian Jew captured in 1943 and still at Auschwitz at the time of liberation. He not only chronicles the daily activities in the camp, but his inner reactions to it, and the destruction of the inner as well as the outer self. This memoir is one of the most important books on the Holocaust.

Mead, Vladka. On Both Sides of the Wall. New York: Holocaust Publications, 1979. This is an informative memoir of the Warsaw ghetto by one of the young smugglers who maintained contact between the ghetto and the Aryan side of the city. Working for the Jewish Combat Organization (ZOB), Vladka Meed helped smuggle weapons

Nir, Yehuda. The Lost Childhood. San Diego: Harcourt Publications, 1979. This compelling memoir chronicles six extraordinary years in the life of a Polish Jewish boy, his mother, and his sister, who all survived the Holocaust by obtaining false papers and posing as Catholics. Yehuda Nir lost almost everything, including his father, his possessions, his youth and innocence, and his identity, but he managed to live with the help of chance, personal resourcefulness, and the support of his family.

Szwajger, Adina B. I Remember Nothing More: The Warsaw Children's Hospital and the Jewish Resistance. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992. The author was beginning her last year of medical school when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. From that time until January 1943, she worked in the Children's Hospital of the Warsaw Ghetto. When the hospital was closed after the first armed Jewish resistance, she left the ghetto with false papers, and from then until the liberation, worked as a courier for the resistance.

Wiesel, Elie. Night. New York: Bantam, 1960. Wiesel is one of the most eloquent writers of the Holocaust, and this book is his best known work. This compelling narrative describes his own experience in Auschwitz. His account of his entrance into Auschwitz and his first night in the camp is extraordinary. This narrative is often considered required reading for students of the Holocaust.

Yoors, Jan. Crossing: A Journal of Survival and Resistance in World War II. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1971. Every summer during his teen years, Yoors left his comfortable, upper middle class family life in Belgium to travel around Europe with a Rom (Gypsy) family. This beautifully written journal focuses on the participation of Yoors and his fondly remembered Rom friends in resistance activities during World War II.

6. Diaries
Frank, Anne. The Diary of Anne Frank: The Critical Edition. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1989. This edition of the internationally acclaimed diary includes three different versions: the portion that was originally found, the revisions made by Anne herself, and the version edited by her father. In addition, there is extensive commentary on each version.

Hilberg, Raul, et. al., eds. The Warsaw Diary of Adam Czerniakow. Lanham, MD: Madison Books, 1982. Czerniakow was chairman of the Nazi-appointed Jewish
Council in Warsaw from the German invasion in 1939 until his suicide in 1942. His diaries record the history of the period as well as his personal involvement with the Germans.

Ringelblum, Emmanuel. Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto: The Journal of Emmanuel Ringelblum. New York: Schocken, 1974. The official archivist of the Warsaw ghetto, Ringelblum's training as an historian made him uniquely qualified to understand the importance of documenting events inside the ghetto. He carefully collected and hid documentary evidence and personal notes.

Tory, Avraham. Surviving the Holocaust: The Kovno Ghetto Diary. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990. Tory, a ghetto inmate and secretary of the Jewish Council, wrote this account under conditions of extreme danger. This remarkable, detailed chronicle documents life and death in the Jewish ghetto of Kovno, Lithuania, from June 1941 to January 1944. Translated from the Yiddish, the book includes a valuable collection of photos and sketches by artists in the ghetto.

7. Poetry, Drama, and Art

Fuchs, Elinor, ed. Plays of the Holocaust: An International Anthology. New York: Theater Communications Group, 1987. This represents the only major anthology of Holocaust drama from a variety of nations in a number of literary styles. In addition to the plays themselves, the book includes a bibliography of Holocaust drama.

Heyen, William. Erika: Poems of the Holocaust. St. Louis, MO: Time Being Books, 1991. Heyen and his immediate family emigrated to the United States from Germany before the war, but he had two uncles who remained there and died serving Germany. Heyen's poems reflect his unique perspective and his ambivalent feelings about his family's painful history. Earlier editions were published under the title Swastika Poems.

Hinz, Berthold. Art in the Third Reich. New York: Pantheon, 1979. The art and architecture produced during the Third Reich is examined not only for its content and technique, but for the role it played in Nazi politics and philosophy. Numerous reproductions supplement the text.

Hyett, Barbara Helfgott. In Evidence: Poems of the Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1986. Part of a team that interviewed American liberators of concentration camps, Hyett translated their words into these poems. The selections are brief and the language is spare and stark reflecting the difficulty these men had in articulating the horrors they witnessed.

8. Literary Criticism

Aaron, Frieda W. Bearing the Unbearable: Yiddish and Polish Poetry in the Ghettos and Concentration Camps. Albany, NY: State University of New York, 1990. Aaron, herself a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto and Majdanek concentration camp, has undertaken the first study of Yiddish and Polish camp poetry. She emphasizes the distinction between contemporary writings and works written after the experience, the latter typical of most Holocaust literature.

Ezrachi, Sidra D. By Words Alone: The Holocaust in Literature. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982. This literary history of the Holocaust discusses a number of specific works, including works in American literature. The author also focuses on the language of the Holocaust and the ways in which different writers interpret the same facts.


Heinemann, Marlene E. Gender and Destiny: Women Writers and the Holocaust. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1986. Focusing on six specific Holocaust books by women writers, including Charlotte Delbo's "None of Us Will Return", Heinemann examines the areas in which Holocaust literature by female writers differs from that created by male writers.

Insdorf, Annette. Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990. Films from both Hollywood and Germany are examined here, as well as films produced in other, mostly western, European countries. Both documentaries and fictional films are included, as are both short and feature-length films. Insdorf particularly looks at whether a film confronts or evades the real issues of the Holocaust.

Langer, Lawrence L. The Age of Atrocity: Death in Modern Literature. Boston: Beacon Press, 1978. In this study, Langer analyzes four major literary works, by Mann, Camus, Solzhenitsyn, and Delbo. Using these works as examples, he traces the evolution of the twentieth-century concept of death, from individual death, to mass death, to death by atrocity, and death by extermination. From both literary and historical perspectives, this book contributes a great deal to the understanding of the Holocaust and of inappropriate death.

Langer, Lawrence L. The Holocaust and the Literary Imagination. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1975. Examining specific literary works, Langer provides detailed analysis of a number of novels, including Schwartz-Bart's "The Last of the Just" and Kosinski's "The Painted Bird". He also includes some poetry and Wiesel's "Night", which, although non-fiction, qualifies as literature due to its imaginative power and artful presentation.

Rosenfeld, Alvin H. A Double Dying: Reflections on Holocaust Literature. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1980. This survey of Holocaust literature includes works of both fiction and non-fiction. Rosenfeld focuses particularly on the criteria for judging books on the Holocaust. He discusses a number of individual books, from classics like Night to more recent works, including some which he describes as exploiting the Holocaust. The usefulness of this source is augmented by an excellent bibliography.

Roskies, David. Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University, 1984. This scholarly study of Jewish literature includes both pre- and post-Holocaust literature in addition to Holocaust literature itself. It also includes monuments and other works of art. It focuses on the literary and artistic expression of modern Jewish experience in eastern Europe, beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing through World War I and the Holocaust into the post-Holocaust world.