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groundbreaking study on the destruction of the jews of vilnius 1941 1944

published by the university of nebraska press lincoln and yad vashem jerusalem the holocaust in the soviet union is the most complete account to date of the soviet jews during the world war ii and the holocaust 1941 45 reports records documents and research previously unavailable in english enable yitzhak arad to trace the holocaust in the german occupied territories of the soviet union through three separate periods in which german political and military goals in the occupied territories dictated the treatment of the jews arad's examination of the differences between the holocaust in the soviet union compared to other european nations reveals how nazi ideological attacks on the soviet union which included war on judeo bolshevism led to harsher treatment of jews in the soviet union than in most other occupied territories this historical narrative presents a wealth of information from german russian and jewish archival sources that will be invaluable to scholars

researchers and the general public for years to come

this book uses an empathic reading of yiddish diarists feelings evaluations and assessments about persecutors in the warsaw lodz and vilna ghettos to present an emotional history of persecution in the nazi ghettos it re centers the daily experiences of psychological and physical violence that made up ghetto life and that ultimately led victims to use their diaries as a place of agency to question and attempt to maintain their own beliefs in pre war jewish and enlightenment ethics and morality holocaust scholars and students as well as people interested in personal narratives interpersonal relations and the problem of dehumanization during the holocaust will find this study particularly thought provoking essentially this book highlights the benefits of reading with empathy and paying attention to emotions for understanding the experiences of people in the past especially those facing tragedy and trauma

historians have mainly seen the ghettos established by the nazis in german occupied eastern europe as spaces marked by brutality tyranny and the systematic murder of the jewish population drawing on examples from the warsaw lodz and vilna ghettos dance on the razor s edge explores how in fact highly improvised legal spheres emerged in these coerced and heterogeneous ghetto communities looking at sources from multiple archives and countries svenja bethke investigates how the jewish councils set up on german orders and composed of ghetto inhabitants formulated new definitions of criminal offenses and established legal institutions on their own initiative as a desperate attempt to ensure the survival of the ghetto communities bethke explores how people under these circumstances tried to make sense of everyday lives that had been turned upside down bringing with them pre war notions of justice and morality and she considers the extent to which this rupture led to new judgments on human behaviour in doing so bethke aims to understand how people attempted to use their very limited scope for action in order to survive set against the background of a holocaust historiography that often still seeks for clear categories of good and bad behaviours dance on the razor s edge calls for a new understanding of the ghettos as complex communities in an unprecedented emergency situation

condemned to the underworld when she is born without feet the infant daughter of the king of akhemony begins her lifetime in darkness and is assisted by the sun consort to reclaim her place as heir to the throne

a history of the vilna ghetto focusing on resistance and on the judenrat and revolving around three persons yitzhak wittenberg the leader of the united partisan organization fpo in vilna yechiel ilya sheinbaum who led the second fighting organization and jacob gens the head of the ghetto and of the jewish police criticizes the strategic plan for a last minute uprising which was adopted by the fpo instead of the more promising strategy of escape from the ghetto and joining the soviet partisans with the surrender of wittenberg in july 1943 the fpo lost its

only able and resolute commander contends that there was no vilna ghetto uprising but only the defense of the house at strashune 6 on 1 september 1943 it was defended by sheinbaum s organization and by unaffiliated fighters rather than by the fpo ideological and political rivalries between different factions of the ghetto resistance precluded the possibility of escape and survival of many able bodied jews depicts gens as a controversial figure whose relations with the resistance were ambivalent dismisses accusations that he was a nazi collaborator or a leader drunk with power

historian levine presents a vivid and distinctly human perspective on how the jewish people survived 800 years of persecution this is an impressive and immensely readable book one that is an important contribution to the literature of jewish history

this is the first work to show how children experienced the second world war under the nazis children were often the victims in this most terrible of european conflicts children also became active participants going out to smuggle food ply the black market and care for sick parents and siblings

created by the center for advanced holocaust studies at the united states holocaust memorial museum the monumental 7 volume encyclopaedia that the present work inaugurates will make available in one place for the first time detailed information about the universe of camps sub camps and ghettos established and operated by the nazis altogether some 20 000 sites from norway to north africa and from france to russia this volume covers three groups of camps the early camps established in the first year of hitler s rule the major concentration camps with their constellations of sub camps that operated under the control of the ss business administration main office and youth camps overview essays precede entries on individual camps and sub camps each entry provides basic information about the purpose of the site the prisoners guards working and living conditions and key events in its history material drawn from personal testimonies helps convey the character of each site while source citations for each entry provide a path to additional information

in the courtroom and the classroom in popular media public policy and scholarly pursuits the holocaust its origins its nature and its implications remains very much a matter of interest debate and controversy arriving at a time when a new generation must come to terms with the legacy of the holocaust or forever lose the benefit of its historical social and moral lessons this volume offers a richly varied deeply informed perspective on the practice interpretation and direction of holocaust research now and in the future in their essays the authors an international group including eminent senior scholars as well those who represent the future of the field set the agenda for holocaust studies in the coming years even as they give readers the means for understanding today s news and views of the holocaust whether in court cases involving victims and perpetrators international national and corporate developments or fictional documentary and historical accounts several

of the essays such as one on nonarmed amidah or resistance and others on the role of gender in the behavior of perpetrators and victims provide innovative and potentially significant interpretive frameworks for the field of holocaust studies others for instance the rounding up of jews in italy nazi food policy in eastern europe and nazi anti jewish scholarship emphasize the importance of new sources for reconstructing the historical record still others including essays on the 1964 frankfurt trial of auschwitz guards and on the response of the catholic church to the question of german guilt bring a new depth and sophistication to highly charged sharply politicized topics together these essays will inform the future of the holocaust in scholarly research and in popular understanding

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