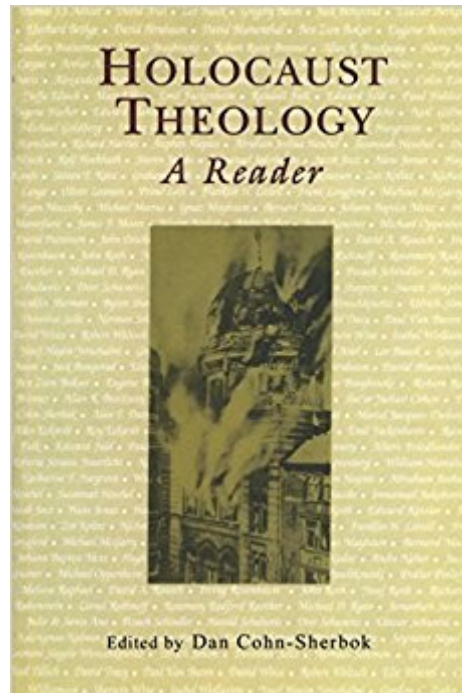




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Holocaust Theology: A Reader



Synopsis

Where was God during the Holocaust? And where has God been since? How has our religious belief been changed by the Shoah? For more than half a century, these questions have haunted both Jewish and Christian theologians. Holocaust Theology provides a panoramic survey of the writings of more than one hundred leading Jewish and Christian thinkers on these profound theological problems. Beginning with a general introduction to Holocaust theology and the religious challenge of the Holocaust, this sweeping collection brings together in one volume a coherent overview of the key theologies which have shaped responses to the Holocaust over the last several decades, including those addressing perplexing questions regarding Christian responsibility and culpability during the Nazi era. Each reading is preceded by a brief introduction. The volume will be invaluable to Rabbis and the clergy, students, scholars of the Holocaust and of religion, and all those troubled by the religious implications of the tragedy of the Holocaust. Contributors include Leo Baeck, Eugene Borowitz, Stephen Haynes, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Steven T. Katz, Primo Levi, Jacob Neusner, John Pawlikowski, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Jonathan Sarna, Paul Tillich, and Elie Wiesel.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Holocaust starkly challenges theologians to answer the profoundly perplexing question at the foundation of theodicy: why does an omnipotent, benevolent God permit evil to exist in the world? Most of the selections in this anthology deal with theodicy, although only a few actually use that term. Cohn-Sherbok, a professor of Judaism at the University of Wales, brings together the

responses of more than 100 Christian and Jewish thinkers. For each one, Cohn-Sherbok provides brief excerpts from their writings, grouped into four overlapping categories: "The Challenge," "Faith in the Dead Camps," "Wrestling with the Holocaust" and "Jews, Christians and the Holocaust." Some of the authors are little known, but many are more familiar, such as Elie Wiesel, Paul Tillich, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Jacob Neusner and Primo Levi. They repeatedly quote from each other. The book begins with a useful summary of its contents and a history of the Holocaust. Cohn-Sherbok also provides an epilogue, "The Future of Holocaust Theology," in which he states the conclusion reached by many of the writers: the Holocaust "is an unfathomable mystery." A less significant mystery is in the inclusion of two obscure individuals, Julio de Santa Ana and Marc Ellis, who somehow subvert Holocaust theology into an attack on the State of Israel, accusing it of "oppression of the Palestinian masses" and torturing Palestinian prisoners. These writers diminish the value of Cohn-Sherbok's compilation, since their comments contrast sharply with the more thoughtful and balanced efforts of the other contributors. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Holocaust Theology: A Reader should prove useful as an introductory text which grapples with complex issues."-SHOFAR"Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok has provided a much needed and indeed "panoramic survey of Holocaust theology" (1) that offers a comprehensive overview of excerpts from representative writings in the field. Holocaust Theology: A Reader provides a fine, comprehensive overview of the interpretive possibilities." -Journal of the American Academy of Religion"This anthology does indeed offer a panoramic survey, and thus is a valuable contribution to Holocaust literature.]"-The Princeton Seminary Bulletin

I liked that the book represented many different perspectives on the holocaust from many famous rabbis and other learned people. It was a godsend for writing my paper on theodicy.

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