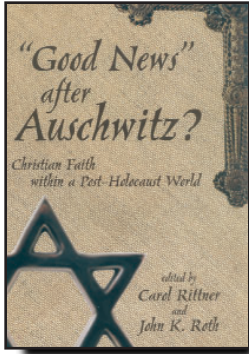




Recent Books



“Good News” after Auschwitz

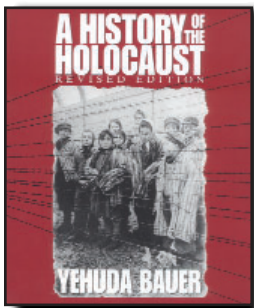
Carol Rittner and John K. Roth, eds.

Mercer University Press, 2001

215 pp., \$39.95

The message is simple: It is time that post-Holocaust Christians should emphasize positive differences that Christianity can make. This

collection of thirteen accessible essays, written by well-known post-Holocaust scholars, addresses the question what credibility-challenged Christianity can say to a post-Holocaust world and how Christians could express a more affirmative vision of Christianity without downplaying its part in the Holocaust. The contributors call for a repentant honesty about Christianity’s anti-Jewish history, a new appreciation for the Jewish roots of Christianity, the Jewish identity of Jesus, and the continuing validity of the Jewish people, a welcome liberation from liturgies and biblical interpretations that promote harmful Christian exclusivism, and a deepened understanding that the core of Christian practice is to love, inclusively and hospitably. The authors succeed in keeping the delicate balance between the awareness of Christianity’s historical anti-Jewish tendencies and the challenge of positive proclamations that Christianity could make after the Holocaust. This book refreshingly claims that Christians still have to share “good news,” even after Auschwitz, or perhaps precisely because of Auschwitz.



A History of the Holocaust

Yehuda Bauer

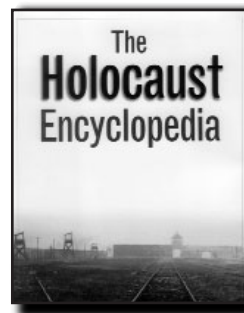
Franklin Watts, 2001

432 pp., \$17.95 paper, \$35.00 cloth

Yehuda Bauer offers a detailed account of the Holocaust that occurred during World War Two.

He traces the roots of anti-Semitism and provides a comprehensive description of how and why the Holocaust occurred. In basically chronological manner, including an elaborate portrayal of the decades in Germany before 1938, Bauer illustrates the political

and social dimensions of the Holocaust with chapters on the life in the ghettos, the Final Solution, the resistance, and rescue attempts. He understands to bring history movingly alive through passages from diaries left by concentration-camp inmates, stories of individual heroism and unparalleled adversity. This revision of the 1982 original is updated by new information and incorporates new insights. Included are 15 maps, 15 tables and charts, and 16 pages of photographs. Here is one of the best choices for a profound history of the Holocaust that is at the same time immensely readable and therefore recommends itself as textbook for Grades 9-12, college, and university alike.



The Holocaust Encyclopedia

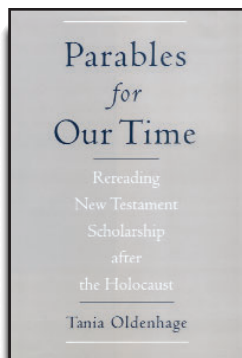
Walter Laqueur, ed.

Yale University Press, 2001

765 pp., \$60.00

Take more than 100 of the leading authorities on the Holocaust coming from 11 countries, both Jews and non-Jews, let them reflect on all the major issues of the Holocaust, let them write up-to-date essays from A to Z on key events, policy decisions, sites, and individuals, as well as in-depth studies on the political, social, religious, and moral issues involved with the Holocaust, using new evidence from the former Soviet bloc, and intersperse these longer pieces with numerous short entries, and you will get a comprehensive standard reference work on the Holocaust. Nothing less has been achieved with *The Holocaust Encyclopedia*. Among the outstanding contributions are Saul Friedländer’s on Nazi policy, Israel Gutman’s on Warsaw, Michael Berenbaum’s on theological and philosophical responses to the Holocaust, Dan Michman’s on Judenrat, Shlomo Aronson and Peter Longerich’s on the preparation and implementation of the Final Solution, Michael Brenner’s on Displaced Persons, and Roger Greenspun’s on the Holocaust in cinema and television, to name just a few. The encyclopedia contains 276 Photographs, 19 maps, a 17-page chronology from 1933 to 1945, and an excellent bibliographical essay by Robert Rozett that not only surveys the Holocaust literature under different topics but also introduces available resources on the Internet. Cross-references and an extensive index guarantee the acces-

sibility of this vast resource on the Holocaust. *The Holocaust Encyclopedia* should be on the desk of every student of the Holocaust and maybe on the shelf of every student.

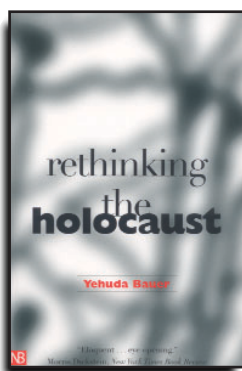


Parables for Our Time

Tania Oldenhage
Oxford University Press, 2002
189 pp., \$42.00

Tania Oldenhage investigates scholarly interpretations of New Testament parables and tries to demonstrate how the Holocaust was remembered and represented in the context of

postwar parable scholarship. She divides *Parables for Our Time* into four parts, in each examining a major scholar in parable interpretation. The first part (“Holocaust Remembrance in Germany”) focuses on Wolfgang Harnisch’s *Die Gleichniserzählungen Jesu*, the second (“Historical Criticism and the Legacy of the Holocaust”) on Joachim Jeremias’s *The Parables of Jesus*, the third (“Jesus as Poet of Our Time”) deals with John Dominic Crossan’s *Raid on the Articulate*, and the fourth (“The Promise of Metaphor Theory”) centers around Paul Ricoeur’s article “Biblical Hermeneutics.” Oldenhage ends with her own reading of the parable of the Wicked Husbandmen in a post-Holocaust context, using literary methods. Based on her studies she finally proposes a post-Holocaust biblical hermeneutics in which the New Testament can be read with awareness of the Holocaust.



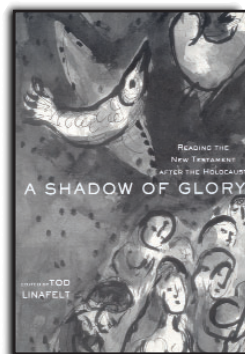
Rethinking the Holocaust

Yehuda Bauer
Yale University Press, 2002
335 pp., \$16.95 paper, \$35.00 cloth

Yehuda Bauer takes up what is presumably one of the most difficult tasks in contemporary historical research: to present a sweeping description and interpretation of the Shoah and, as ultimate challenge, the critical

analysis of the alternative views of the Holocaust’s history and meaning (as attempted by Zygmunt Bauman, Jeffrey Herf, Goetz Aly, Daniel Goldhagen, John Weiss, and Saul Friedländer). This book sets itself positively apart from the flood of Holocaust literature especially where Bauer addresses the instrumentalization of the Shoah by different groups. The topics range from historiosophy (“Is the Holocaust

explicable?”), over how Jews reacted to the murderous campaign against them during the Holocaust—according to Bauer himself, the core of his interpretation—to the relationship between the Shoah and the establishment of Israel. Especially recommendable is the appendix of Bauer’s speech to the German Bundestag on January 27, 1998. In it, Bauer presents with a high density in argumentation his viewpoint of the Shoah and the necessity to be on one’s guard so that never again one’s origin could be classified as crime that has to be avenged with death. *Rethinking the Holocaust* is a book that makes one immensely sensitive for the past and the present as well.



A Shadow of Glory

Tod Linafelt, ed.
Routledge, 2002
258 pp., \$24.95

How does the Holocaust affect the way one reads the New Testament? In seventeen essays, some of the most prominent contemporary scholars in biblical studies and Jewish studies—both Christian and Jewish,

American and European—wrestle with the complex impact of the Holocaust on the practice of biblical interpretation. The essays are grouped in four parts: “The Holocaust in the History of Interpretation,” “Reading as Jews,” “Reading as Christians,” and “Jews and Gentiles in the New Testament and Today.” Topics addressed include the anti-Judaism in the Gospels, the ambiguities of Paul’s thinking on Israel, New Testament theology and general biblical scholarship after the Holocaust, as well as topics more closely related to the Holocaust, like the controversial erection of a cross at Auschwitz, the reading of Jesus as a Nazi New Testament scholar. These high-caliber essays provide much food for thought and may break new ground for a post-Holocaust hermeneutics.