



Memory and Amnesia

The Holocaust in Germany

Editors: Gilad Margalit & Yfaat Weiss

(In Hebrew)

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This collection of articles is being published on the sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War II and the defeat of the Nazis, as the last members of the generation of murderers and victims are dying out. Now the Holocaust is turning from a living memory into a historical episode. The book examines contemporary questions primarily related to how Germans cope with the Holocaust and how the topic is represented in the German public debate, collective memory, and culture.

The book, written by culture, society and history researchers from Israel, Europe and the United States, reveals the ways in which Germans deal with the annihilation of the Jews since 1945 as an unresolved tension between the moral and political necessity to remember and the desire to forget and make others forget. This tension undoubtedly has an impact on Germany's image as a country and society, but especially in the globalization era, it has repercussions for the way in which the memory of the Holocaust is shaped beyond its borders as well.

The Holocaust's place in German culture has increased in recent decades, as compared with the 1950s and 1960s, and is reflected in the fact that the public is delving more into the topic and holding more commemoration events. In contrast, the public has also been increasingly examining the fate of the Germans during World War II – an endeavor that presents them as victims of Nazism and the victorious allied forces. Presenting the German people during the Third Reich as a victim constitutes a sometimes conscious effort to grant the Germans an identical status to that of the Jewish Holocaust victims in the public conscience and memory, thereby obscuring the uniqueness of the breakdown of civilization at Auschwitz, and easing the burden of guilt and embarrassment born by generations of Germans.

The book *Memory and Amnesia: The Holocaust in Germany* provides the Israeli reader with a first-time glimpse into the views of some of the most eminent historians, culture researchers, film researchers, sociologists and social psychologists who deal with this subject in Israel and abroad.

Presentations of the Publication

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Dr. Yfaat Weiss and Gilad Margalit (editors)

Memory and Amnesia: The Holocaust in Germany

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Dr. Yfaat Weiss and Gilad Margalit (editors)

Memory and Amnesia: The Holocaust in Germany

Participants: Dr. Yfaat Weiss, Haifa University, Dr. Gilad Margalit, Haifa University, Dr. Galili Shachar, Hebrew University

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Location: University of Haifa