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Slavko Goldstein

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Slavko Goldstein : 1941: The Year That Keeps Returning before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1941: The Year That Keeps Returning:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Light in the DarknessBy CustomerThank you, Slavko Goldstein, for a magnificent, meticulous contribution to clarifying the fog that has engulfed my understanding of the period 1941-1950 in Croatia. I would have given it five stars except for the omission of all but passing reference to Alois Stepinac. So, we are still left to wonder--saint or sinner and to what degree. As a person whose roots are from Veljun, this is a signifocant omission. Otherwise, I intensely read the entire work over nearly one continuous reading over two days. I

would have read on and on if there were more. My own feelings about the situation to a degree mirror those of this meticulous observer. His accounts very much corroborate much of my family's "folk" history of the times. I have read the accounts of Glase von Horstenau many years ago, and I was able to follow the events of 1991-1995 through the use of official UNPROFR maps sent to me through unofficial channels. It may be true, as Tolstoy said, that historians answer the questions no one ever asked, but it is not true about Slavko's fine piece of work. Thank you again, Mr. Goldstein. I cannot express how much you have helped shed light on a dark, murky period. Understanding without blaming is so very hard to do. 24 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Probably best and most readable description of Croatia's history from 1941-1995 that I ever read. By Brooklyn resident Disclosure: Born in Croatia in the 60-ties in a Catholic family (with some distant members married to Serbs and others scattered throughout former Yugoslavia), I grew up in West Germany, returned to Croatia about a decade before another war erupted, and in Brooklyn, NY since before the war ended in 1995. Voted only one time in multiparty elections, in 1990, and it happened to be for HSLS, which was cofounded by the author. Do not know him and never met him at the time of this writing. Ordered Croatian version of book, but read and completed the English Kindle version. It is very hard to classify and pinpoint this book. It is part autobiography, part biography of his father, part detailed documentary chronicle of events of 1941-1945 of the Karlovac region (and beyond) of Croatia, part history of the Holocaust in Croatia. The style is meandering, but linking together places, people and events spanning decades, and describing the most difficult and contentious times of Croatia's recent history in a factual, honest and I would dare say personally courageous way. I see Croatia still as a place where emotions run very high when it comes to certain topics, and the author has poked his stick into the vasp nests of every contentious topic that lets the blood boil on every political side (left, right or center). One of the most remarkable quality of the book is his ability, rare by Croatian, Yugoslav and probably Balkan standards, to describe events from various points of view, making them look less black and white, with lots of gray and even color mixed into it. I was surprised to find that many of the stories of my parents and grandparents about the difficult WW2 period in Northern Croatia in a region closer to the Hungarian border sounded very similar to what I found in this book written about Karlovac, which convinced me that the author has done his best to be truthful and complete in his description of events of this time. For a Croatian kid interested in history, but growing up on one-sided stories from either one or the other side, this book is priceless and in my middle age explains to me things from the 1930-ties to today like nothing else I ever read in a book about this region. I truly hope that in my lifetime this book will be made obligatory reading for Croatian high school students. For the non-Croatian/Yugoslav/Balkan among the readers this book may be a little more difficult to follow than to someone like me. There are many interesting descriptions of life before, during and after the war in that part of Croatia, of life in the Partisan guerrilla fighters in Yugoslavia in WW2, etc. One of the remarkable aspects of this book is the detailed description of the fate of many of Croatia's Jewish residents, and their options at the time, which, though they were affected by the Holocaust, had the remarkable alternative to join the resistance and fight the murderers of their people, and be in the end victorious. The author's mother made that choice and saved her and her sons' life. I could go on and on in describing what else this book contains, and suffice it to say that I doubt that a foreign reader will find all portions of the book equally interesting, but for readers wanting to understand the Balkans in the 20th century this book should be required reading, as it comes from an eyewitness to critical events who is very objective in his approach, detail oriented and as complete as possible. I am waiting for the Croatian edition of the book and may post an update later on commenting on additional aspects of the book. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Well researched and documented book. Somewhat selective in telling "the whole truth" By Milan Gacesa I was born in what is now Croatia to parents of Serbian heritage one year before "NDH" was proclaimed. In our immediate family we lost 2 people to the "cleansing" campaign. It is impossible to convey the horrors of such a campaign, but the book makes a reasonable effort to do so, perhaps understandably choosing to bypass the most gruesome practices of the "cleansers". I have known, for many years, the woman mentioned in the book, Dara Skoric, but she is reluctant, more than 70 years later, to talk about the specifics of the events that lead to her capture and escape. At the beginning of the book the author mentions the number of people of Serbian heritage lost, but does not make an effort to substantiate that number in the remainder of the book. He goes to great lengths to substantiate 'a number' in each specific example where atrocities happened, e.g.: Glina, etc., but does not return to the claimed total number. The author's efforts to equate Chetniks and Ustashe is curious, although in the eyes of a Parizan that may be understandable or necessary in his environment today. During my early school years, in Communist Yugoslavia, my best friend, Mile Chubelic, was a boy whose mother was of Serbian descent and father was of Croatian decent. Mile and I were separated in 1954 when I emigrated from Yugoslavia, and were not in regular contact, but met on occasion when I returned for visits. In 1992 Mile was rounded up together with more than 100 other 'undesirables' (presumably because he was only 50% of Croatian blood) and massacred in Gospic by Croatian nationalists. The parallels of 1941 and 1992-95 are only alluded to in the book, which is understandable because the book is about 1941. However, there was a great opportunity lost in showing the common roots of the two campaigns. It is hoped that the author will follow-up this excellent book with other material from the same period and the same region, especially documentation of the most recent tragic events in that region. I wholeheartedly agree with another reviewer who says that this book should be made required reading for

high school students in Croatia.

A New York Review Books Original The distinguished Croatian journalist and publisher Slavko Goldstein says, Writing this book about my family, I have tried not to separate what happened to us from the fates of many other people and of an entire country. 1941: The Year That Keeps Returning is Goldsteins astonishing historical memoir of that fateful year when the Ustasha, the pro-fascist nationalists, were brought to power in Croatia by the Nazi occupiers of Yugoslavia. On April 10, when the German troops marched into Zagreb, the Croatian capital, they were greeted as liberators by the Croats. Three days later, Ante Paveli, the future leader of the Independent State of Croatia, returned from exile in Italy and Goldsteins father, the proprietor of a leftist bookstore in Karlovaca beautiful old city fifty miles from the capital was arrested along with other local Serbs, communists, and Yugoslav sympathizers. Goldstein was only thirteen years old, and he would never see his father again. More than fifty years later, Goldstein seeks to piece together the facts of his fathers last days. The moving narrative threads stories of family, friends, and other ordinary people who lived through those dark times together with personal memories and an impressive depth of carefully researched historic details. The other central figure in Goldsteins heartrending tale is his mother a strong, resourceful woman who understands how to act decisively in a time of terror in order to keep her family alive. From 1941 through 1945 some 32,000 Jews, 40,000 Gypsies, and 350,000 Serbs were slaughtered in Croatia. It is a period in history that is often forgotten, purged, or erased from the history books, which makes Goldsteins vivid, carefully balanced account so important for us today for the same atrocities returned to Croatia and Bosnia in the 1990s. And yet Goldsteins story isnt confined by geographical boundaries as it speaks to the dangers and madness of ethnic hatred all over the world and the urgent need for mutual understanding.

From Booklist During WWII, a Nazi-backed regime ruled Croatia, with deadly consequences for hundreds of thousands. One of those was the father of Goldstein, who recounts his familys experiences during the horrific period. Goldstein, 13 when Germany installed the Ustasha regime in 1941, and his younger brother had a resourceful mother who sensed the imminence of roundups and arranged the eventual flight of the family to the refuge of the Communist Partisans. Goldsteins father, however, vanished into the regimes prison camps, a mystery Goldstein investigates amid a recollection of how his friends, schoolmates, and neighbors in his hometown, Karlovac, responded to the Ustasha regime and its persecutions of Jews and Serbs. Representing a range from fanatical nationalists to cynical opportunists, this gallery of Goldsteins acquaintances captures the atmosphere of genocide on a chillingly interpersonal scale. Meeting some such people decades later at a book trade convention, Goldstein matter-of-factly remarks on their avoidance of the truth of 1941s massacres in Croatia. Based on his personal story, Goldsteins brave reconstruction of the massacres and their successor atrocities in 1945 and the 1990s should be added to the Holocaust shelf. --Gilbert Taylor "A chilling personal account of the deep-seated terror and ethnic violence underpinning the pub bet stage of Croatia during World War II A stunning work that looks frankly at the roots of evil". Kirkus s "In this ambitious mix of history and memoir, Goldstein, a Croatian writer, looks back at WWII and its effects on his life, family, and neighbors. Goldstein covers a lot of territory as he explores the vicious ethnic warfare between Serbs and Croats from 1941 onward and looks at how the Nazi pogrom further affected his countrys Jewish community. Its a poignant, uncompromising recollection, told in a meandering but easy-to-follow manner. Goldsteins book, reconstructed through personal experience as well as numerous interviews and historical documents provides invaluable insight into Croatia during WWII." Publishers Weekly I came across this remarkable book, which has not yet been translated into English, while writing recently about the wars in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. It deserves attention because it explains, perhaps better than any book I know of, how different ethnic groups, who lived side by side in peace for centuries, were made to turn against one another and become each others executioners in that unhappy country. Charles Simic Here at last is a memoir whose author readily admits that his childhood recollections are not necessarily crystal clear, but who has made up for the inevitable obscurities with assiduous research and thorough interviews so as to rank it among the greatest writings on the witches cauldron that was Hitlers Europe in 1941. The focus is on Croatia where, under the command of the satanic Ustasha fascists, neighbors denounced, robbed, and killed neighbors, but Slavko Goldsteins 1941 could be applied to every country where war and foreign occupation turned hitherto harmless people into bandits. Istvn Dek, Seth Low Professor Emeritus of History, Columbia University Goldstein, 63, keeps up a formidable pace. Besides editing Erasmus and directing its parent research institute, the Erasmus Guild, he heads an independent publishing house, sits on the council of the Zagreb Jewish Community, and appears frequently on local television and radio programs. In a sense, Goldsteins activism dates back to 1941, the year the Nazis invaded Yugoslavia and installed a puppet regime, the Ustasha, to run Croatia for them. The Jerusalem Report Goldsteins book is at once autobiography and family chronicle, a testimonial and a historical record, a work of literature. Simply, lucidly, it recounts the private life of a family and the public life of a city, the reign of the Independent State of Croatia and World War II, the suffering and the camps, and the postwar tragedies that mirror the past. Zarez (Croatia) Based on personal memories and historical research, Goldstein has spun as if from coils of yarn of good and evil a singular history of twentieth-century tragedies. Novi List (Croatia) A monumental work. Slobodna Dalmacija (Croatia) About

the Author Award-winning publisher, editor, and author Slavko Goldstein was born in 1928 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and grew up in Karlovac, Croatia. During the Holocaust, he lost his father and most of the members of his father's and mother's families. His mother saved him and his brother Danko by joining the Partisans in 1942, in which he served until 1945, achieving the rank of lieutenant at the age of seventeen and becoming one of the youngest officers in the Partisan army. After the war, he worked as a journalist and editor for several leading Croatian newspapers and as a scriptwriter for feature and documentary films. As the director of University Publisher Liber Zageb and then as the publisher and editor of Novi Liber for more than forty years, he has been responsible for the publication of many important works of Yugoslav and Croatian literature and on Croatian social life. He was president of the Jewish Community of Zagreb from 1986-1990 and the founder and president of the first non-communist political party in Croatia from 1989-1990. From 2001 to 2005 he was the president of the Council of the Jasenovac Memorial Center. He has been awarded about twenty prizes for his journalistic, film, and editorial work. The Croatian edition of his latest book, *1941: The Year that Keeps Returning*, won four different prizes as the best publication in Croatia in 2007, and the Krunoslav Suki Award as the book of the decade in the field of nonviolence, human rights, and civil society.

Charles Simic is a poet, essayist, and translator. He has published some twenty collections of poetry, six books of essays, a memoir, and numerous translations. He is the recipient of many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, the Griffin Prize, and a MacArthur Fellowship. Simic's recent works include *Voice at 3 a.m.*, a selection of later and new poems; *Master of Disguises*, new poems; and *Confessions of a Poet Laureate*, a collection of short essays that was published by New York Books as an e-book original. In 2007 Simic was appointed the fifteenth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. His book *Dime-Store Alchemy: The Art of Joseph Cornell* was published by New York Books in 2011.

Michael Gable was born in Barberton, Ohio in 1952. After serving in the US Navy, he graduated from the School of International Service of The American University in Washington, D.C. in 1979. He worked for US government and international humanitarian agencies in the countries of the former Yugoslavia between 1987 and 2005. He now resides in Zagreb, Croatia.