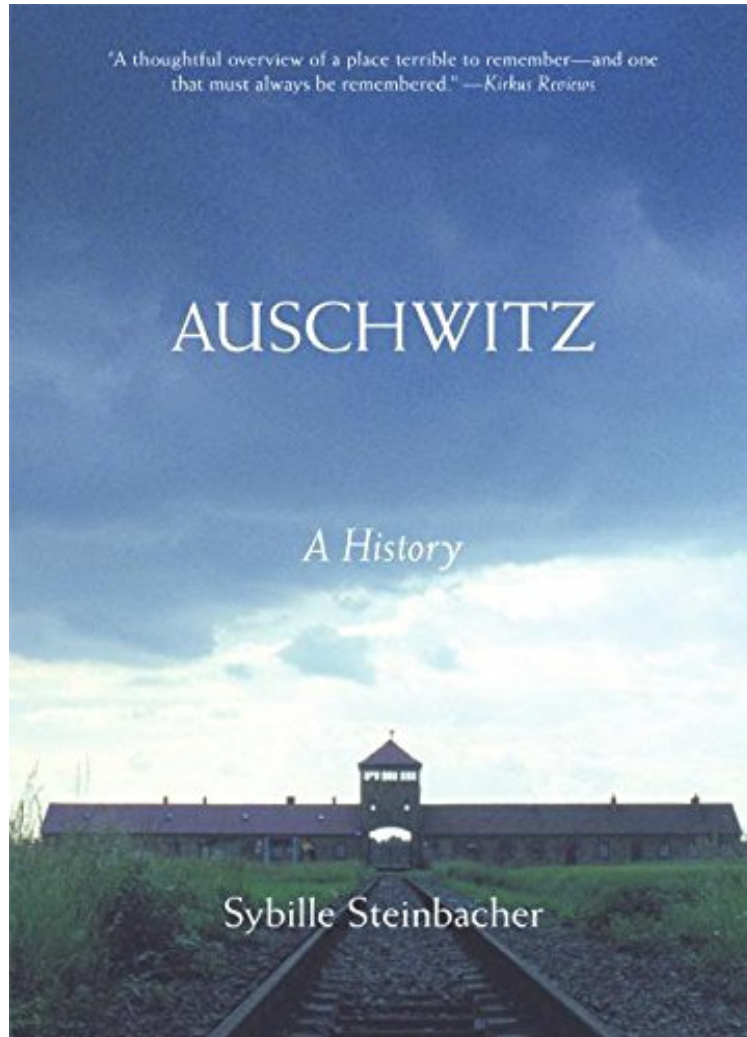


[Free pdf] Auschwitz: A History

Auschwitz: A History

Sybille Steinbacher

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Sybille Steinbacher : Auschwitz: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Auschwitz: A History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Painful Side of History: Auschwitz: A HistoryBy William T. MasonisMountains of books have been written and will no doubt continue to be written about the Holocaust and about Auschwitz in particular, but this one should be a standard on the shelf of anyone who reads a lot about that dark era. The book is actually almost totally devoid of the wrenching testimony of survivors so typical of the genre, but rather covers thoroughly and objectively the history of the town itself from the Middle Ages, the shifting nature of its population, and goes into all the factors that made this the place of choice for the Nazis to implement their Final Solution on the massive scale it had there. It makes mention of a special population of prisoners who were only there

temporarily for "reeducation" purposes, something I'd never heard of in the course of 20 years' study of the subject. For a quick overview of solid facts on the place, this should be the place to start. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Technical evaluation of Auschwitz. By Mark E. OHL M.D. A fascinating and tragic topic. Only at the final chapter do we see why this book was written and why the author felt so compelled to write it with such documentation and detail. Unfortunately, it is necessary to write such a book due to the number and accusatory nature of so many revisionist publications. I suggest to all doubters a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Listen to the first-hand accounts by those who were actually there. We cannot pretend that human beings are not capable of this kind of behaviour. This really happened. That the numbers killed can be debated is a moot point. I recommend this book, but you won't feel very good when you are finished. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Auschwitz: A History By JPPA fascinating account, concise but apparently complete and detailed, of the gruesome Auschwitz camp complex, its conception, daily workings and ultimate dismantling and liberation. The analysis of the evil, that the efficient mass killing of so many millions to facilitate the "Final Solution" was not ordered detailed from above from the start, but evolved in hideous efficiency through the freedom of movement of Hitler's subordinates who pressed ruthlessly forward the realization of the Nazi dreams is a sobering, important reminder what the human race can inflict upon his fellow being. This book comes highly recommended. X-Ray enabled.

At the terrible heart of the modern age lies Auschwitz, a name that has become synonymous with evil. Here the utopian twentieth-century dream of employing science and technology to improve and protect human life was inverted from the latter part of the 1930s through the end of the Second World War, as the same systems were manipulated in the cause of efficient mass slaughter. Historian Sybille Steinbacher's powerful and eminently important book details Auschwitz's birth, growth, and horrible mutation into a dreadful city. How it came to be and how what followed was allowed to occur is a story that everyone needs to understand and remember.

From Publishers Weekly In concise and sober fashion, German historian Steinbacher traces the history of Auschwitz from a medieval trading town to the major extermination camp of the Holocaust. Like so many eastern European towns, Auschwitz for centuries had a mixed population of Germans, Poles, Jews, Ukrainians and others, who by and large managed to coexist. After the quick defeat of Poland by Germany in WWII, the Nazis first sought to establish a concentration camp for political prisoners, and Auschwitz's location on major rail lines and with access to mineral resources made it an ideal site. Quickly the camp became the setting for larger Nazi ambitions to establish German domination, which meant the exploitation of Polish labor and the elimination of Jews. The events that culminated in Auschwitz developing into a sprawling complex of human misery covering some 60 square miles are related based on extensive and up-to-date research. Steinbacher carefully depicts the alternate universe of Auschwitz, entering into the lives and the deaths of its inhabitants, including the businessmen and SS officers who, with no apparent qualms, managed the camp and their victims. Steinbacher, a visiting fellow for European studies at Harvard, avoids extensive analysis or morality tales; the meaning of Auschwitz is in the details, which she provides with clinical precision. Bw illus., maps. (Aug. 16) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Steinbacher posits that the purpose of her book is to represent the various aspects of the history of Auschwitz in their most important contexts; to draw attention, within the wider perspective of political and social history, to the historical and political space in which the crimes were committed; and to sketch the subsequent history of the camp. She believes that Auschwitz was the focus of the two main ideological ideas of the Nazi regime: it was the biggest stage for mass murder of European Jewry, and at the same time a "crystallization point of the policy of settlement and 'Germanization.'" The author traces the history of the town of Auschwitz (known as Oswiecim under Polish rule) and of the camp and its subcamps. Steinbacher discusses the Nazis' extermination policy, their first experiments in mass killings, the construction of Birkenau, the murder of non-Jews, the town and camp after liberation, and the trials of several hundred SS members after the end of World War II. A final chapter deals with the extreme right-wing apologists who have denied the mass murder of the Jews. A multitude of books have been written on the camp, yet this brief volume has much to offer both laypersons and scholars interested in its history. First published in Germany in 2004, this is a cogent, penetrating work in the study of the bestiality of Auschwitz, suitable for inclusion in all history collections. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A thoughtful overview of a place terrible to remember and one that must always be remembered. (Kirkus s) The meaning of Auschwitz is in the details, which (Steinbacher) provides with clinical precision. (Publishers Weekly)