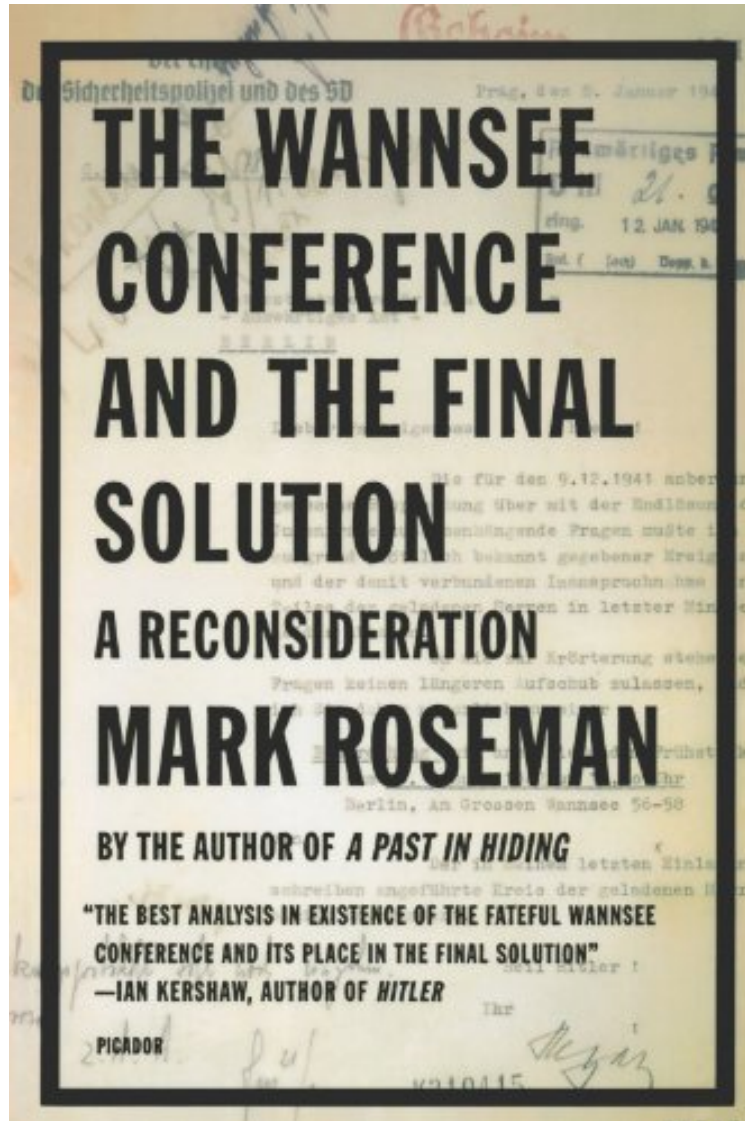


(Free download) The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution: A Reconsideration

# The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution: A Reconsideration

Mark Roseman

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#706762 in Books Mark Roseman 2003-07-01 2003-07-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .51 x 5.50l, .58 #File Name: 0312422342224 pagesThe Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution A Reconsideration | File size: 54.Mb

**Mark Roseman : The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution: A Reconsideration** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution: A Reconsideration:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book offers a valid reassessment of the Wannsee Conference ...By SemmelweisThis book offers a valid reassessment of the Wannsee Conference. It does not diminish the horror

and evil of what they did, but rather gives a much more coherent explanation of why it occurred, when and where it did, why the personnel involved were relatively low level rank for such a task. Part of the more nuanced, deeper understanding of the evil that was the Holocaust. Helps one understand that this was one part in a complex historical event. Perhaps by placing it in context with the overall anti-Semitism of the Nazi functionaries, such historical understanding will help decent people prevent it from happening again. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Technically interesting... By Gerald W. Arcuri I am a long-time student of the Holocaust, and I was curious to see what this book could add to my understanding of the subject. It approaches the topic from a perspective which is somewhat more critical of the purpose of the Wannsee Conference than some other books I have read and tries to construct a balanced explanation of the actual meeting. The prose is not highly readable, but then again, this is a somewhat technical assessment. After finishing the book, I was not certain that I had really gained much insight on the underlying questions regarding Wannsee. Perhaps I was expecting a convincing argument about the meaning and purpose of the conference, when the historical documents don't allow a clear conclusion, but I have to compare the impressions left by this author with everything else I have read, and I just felt that the book describes too vague an agenda for what may actually have happened. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional book By Francis Lemfield This book clarified for me the disparate elements of the Shoah. Before I read this book, the killing almost at times seemed a bit haphazard, taking place at Point A but not at Point B. Why was that the case? In this book one sees the convergence of policies coming to a head at Wannsee, with clarification tragically being brought to life in the ensuing years. Not only well thought out, but well written and presented.

On January 20, 1942, in a grand villa on the shore of Berlin's Lake Wannsee, a conference of Nazi officers produced a paper known as the "Wannsee Protocol," which laid the groundwork for a "final solution to the Jewish Question." This Protocol has always mystified us. How should we understand this calm, business-like discussion of holocaust? And why was the meeting necessary? Hundreds of thousands of Jews had already been shot by squads in Russia or gassed in the camp at Chelmno. Mark Roseman seeks to unravel this double mystery and explain how it was that on a snowy day, fifteen well-educated young men met to talk murder.

From Publishers Weekly Although the publisher promises a "groundbreaking investigation," little if any new light is shed on the overture to the Holocaust by English historian Roseman (*A Past in Hiding*). The notorious 1942 meeting, in a villa in a posh Berlin suburb overlooking Lake Wannsee, reviewed, rather than approved, the "final solution of the Jewish question." Assent was a given. Heinrich Himmler's chief deputy, Reinhard Heydrich, chaired and dominated the conference, which dealt in coded euphemisms with the genocide already underway in occupied Poland and Russia. The protocol, or minutes, printed here as an appendix the most valuable part of this small book makes clear in a single sentence who bore authoritative responsibility: "Instead of emigration, the Fhrer has now given his approval for a new kind of solution, the evacuation of the Jews to the East." All 15 participants understood what "evacuation" meant, says Roseman. Working Jews to death would not eliminate "the most resistant elements" in the "final remnant," Heydrich coldly told those present, for by "natural selection" these would "form the germ cell of a new Jewish revival." That line more than any other, Roseman feels, mandated the murders without exception. Beyond that, he wanders, page after page and often repetitiously, through the bureaucratic Nazi pseudo-legal arguments about how many Jewish grandparents made one a Jew and how to deal with mixed marriages. Even the absolutist Himmler complained, "We tie our hands with all these stupid definitions." As ultimate Nazi racial policy, the Wannsee minutes, despite chilling ambiguities, were a "rhetorical canopy" behind which Roseman sees Hitler's "licensing." (May 7) Forecast: Because the Wannsee conference has attained iconic status since the protocol was discovered in 1947, a book with Wannsee as its focus may draw many curious readers beyond history specialists. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In January 1942 a group of top Nazi officials met in a villa on the shore of Lake Wannsee, near Berlin, for the purpose of planning the "final solution" of the "Jewish question." This Wannsee Conference and the document emanating from it, the Wannsee Protocol, are usually regarded as the moment when German policy toward the Jews departed irretrievably from systematic persecution and deportation and turned toward a deliberate policy of genocide. Holocaust deniers and others sometimes contend that, because Hitler was not present at this meeting and because the genocidal nature of the Final Solution was not spelled out explicitly, somehow this means that there was no deliberate policy from the top of genocide against the Jews. In this short, well-reasoned book, Roseman (contemporary history, Univ. of Southampton; *A Past in Hiding: Memory and Survival in Nazi Germany*) presents a very clear exposition of the reasons behind the Wannsee meeting, what happened there, and its significance in the destruction of the Jews of Europe. Roseman's is the first thorough treatment in English devoted solely to this pivotal event. It should be in all four-year academic and larger public libraries. Libraries may also want to consider a chilling video reenactment, Heinz Schirk's *The Wannsee Conference*. Barbara Walden, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist In January 1942, 15 high-ranking Nazi officials met in a villa on the shore of Berlin's Lake Wannsee. The purpose of the meeting was to intensify and streamline plans already underway for the "Final Solution," which was designed to exterminate European Jewry. Despite the use of

coded terms such as evacuation, the goal of genocide was clear. Yet, the significance of the conference is still disputed by historians. Was this the final irrevocable decision to physically destroy the Jews or simply a meeting to monitor the progress of a policy decision that had already been made? Were the participants fulfilling only the vague sentiments and threats of Hitler or operating under his explicit (but unwritten) instructions? Although historian Roseman cannot provide definitive answers to these questions, he utilizes a variety of sources to support several credible, but still speculative, assertions. The verbatim recounting of the words of such men as Heydrich and Eichmann as they calmly discuss mass murder is riveting and a cogent reminder that evil once embraced easily becomes bureaucratized. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved