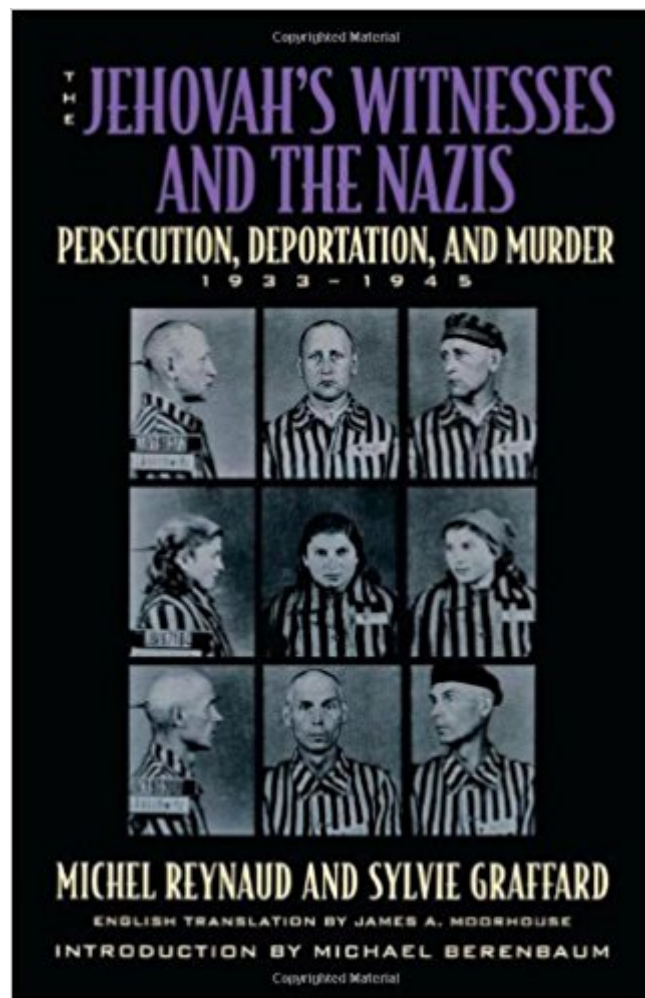




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The Jehovah's Witnesses And The Nazis: Persecution, Deportation, And Murder, 1933-1945



Synopsis

The Jehovah's Witnesses endured intense persecution under the Nazi regime, from 1933 to 1945. Unlike the Jews and others persecuted and killed by virtue of their birth, Jehovah's Witnesses had the opportunity to escape persecution and personal harm by renouncing their religious beliefs. The vast majority refused and throughout their struggle, continued to meet, preach, and distribute literature. In the face of torture, maltreatment in concentration camps, and sometimes execution, this unique group won the respect of many contemporaries. Up until now, little has been known of their particular persecution.

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Customer Reviews

"Prophecies about the return of the Jews to the Holy Land... classified the Witnesses in Nazi eyes as Zionists," writes Michael Berenbaum, president of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, in his introduction to *The Jehovah's Witnesses and the Nazis: Persecution, Deportation, and Murder, 1933-1945* by Michel Reynaud, founder of the publishing house Editions Tiresias, and deportation scholar Sylvie Graffard, trans. from the French by James A. Moorehouse. Approximately 5,000 Witnesses were "voluntary prisoners" in concentration camps they could leave if they renounced their religion; most refused freedom. Many continued practicing their religion within the camps; one woman still free baked biblical passages into cookies to smuggle into Dachau. The previously untold history receives scholarly, sensitive treatment in this important addition to Holocaust studies. Photos. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Personal stories of individual suffering and triumph help Reynaud and Graffard to make this vital chapter of Holocaust history breathe. (Kristin Putchinski Foreword Reviews) Reynaud and Graffard have done admirable research in collecting information about the Witnesses, and in interviewing the few surviving members of the sect who were in the camps. [The Jehovah's Witnesses and the Nazis] is the most informed account of the persecution of the Witnesses that we have (Istvan Deak The New York Review Of Books) This is a book that had to be written. It is most compelling in subject matter and style, is long overdue and is the first of its kind. (Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman The Virginian-Pilot)

This is one of the best book I ever receive, I love it. Thanks for providing me the oportunits of reading it.

good book, very wordy, hard to get through, but good

Sad to read but important.

Very happy with service and item

Michael Berenbaum (former President and CEO of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, and a director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum) wrote in his Introduction to this 1999 book, "Jehovah's Witnesses were isolated and harangued from 1933 on... They refused to enlist in the army, to undertake air raid drills, and to stop meeting or proselytizing. 'Heil Hitler' never passed their lips... Five thousand Witnesses were sent to concentration camps where they alone were 'voluntary prisoners.' The moment they recanted their views, they could be freed... Such behavior is astounding, to be admired for its fidelity to commitment, even where one disagrees with such a tradition. It is because of the integrity of the Witnesses' behavior, their fidelity to their own tradition and belief, that they have a special place in my heart." Here are some quotations from the book: "Who were these so-called undesirables? The first Germans interned in the camps were Communists, Social Democrats, labor leaders, and the Jehovah's Witnesses." (Pg. 4) "It should be noted that the Witnesses were and are in conflict with the authorities in many countries. In the United States, for example, they were not recognized as conscientious objectors because they refused the use of force utterly: They were awaiting the battle of Armageddon, the final combat when Satan would be vanquished." (Pg. 47) "I was told that I COULD sign the

statement first because it didn't mention the Jehovah's Witnesses but only the Bible Students, and then because it wasn't wrong to fool the enemy in order to go free and to better serve Jehovah on the outside." (Pg. 61)"Germany invaded Denmark and Norway on April 9, 1940... Norway's 462 members continued their activities clandestinely without too much interference or ill treatment." (Pg. 123)"Even though I didn't share their religious beliefs, with the benefit of time I can only have a certain sense of respect for these men... Even Rudolf Hoss's testimony attested to the courage of these inmates. How many prisoners placed before the choice of assured death would have shown the same courage?" (Pg. 219)

As one of Jehovah Witness I was so moved and touched by this book. I have a keen interest in history and the holocaust. I have several books and accounts of people who had lived thru this atrocity. However, nothing has given such insight to the account of the Jehovah's Witnesses like this book. Not many are aware that other groups and minorities were hunted for as like the Jews. Exterminated and sent to death camps. This book has shed light on the reasons, details and shocking treatment that was faced by these people who's only crime was the love and devotion to there God Jehovah and love of there brotherhood. Reading this book has given me a profound feeling of pride and appreciation for my fellow brothers and sisters in my faith. This is my spiritual heritage. By no means is this just a book for Jehovah's Witnesses, it's a book for all those who have an interest in the holocaust. No matter what religion or person that suffered the holocaust they all had one thing in common, an absolute tragic and disgusting persecution of humanity.

Beautiful story. "Volunteer prisoners" what an unusual story of courage. What prisoner in a concentration camp would not wish for freedom and escape from harms way? Reading of these individuals reminded my of bible characters like Daniel and his 3 camponions in Babylonian captivity and others in the holy writings. Where were the other Christian denominations during this time, sure I've heard of individuals, conscientious objectors, but where were the mainstream churches. If they were not an enemy of Hitler, were they not his collaborators? Surely presssure from all religious groups could have swayed the hatred of the world? Well done Bible Students or Jehovah's Witnesses, as a group your deeds are more powerful than words.

This book is one of the most concisely detailed description of how an evil dictator's idealism (the Nazi regime) becomes a government and law of the land. I find it truly remarkable that common folk aloud this dictatorship to rise in power to the point it did. I suppose considering the era this

happened, during the great depression, is what has much to do with the answer. Also people of that time probably couldn't conceive of such heinous violence. It is truly amazing that one small group of religiously devout people stood up against the Nazis ideals and spoke out so publicly, even when they knew the consequences of such actions! It begs the question, why did they choose such a course? Encouraging the wrath of Hitler himself could not stop them from speaking out! Wow! This small group known as Jehovah's Witnesses now has grown to become a big group, huge group, numbering in the millions. Wow, again! What's the big deal? What's their secret?!

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