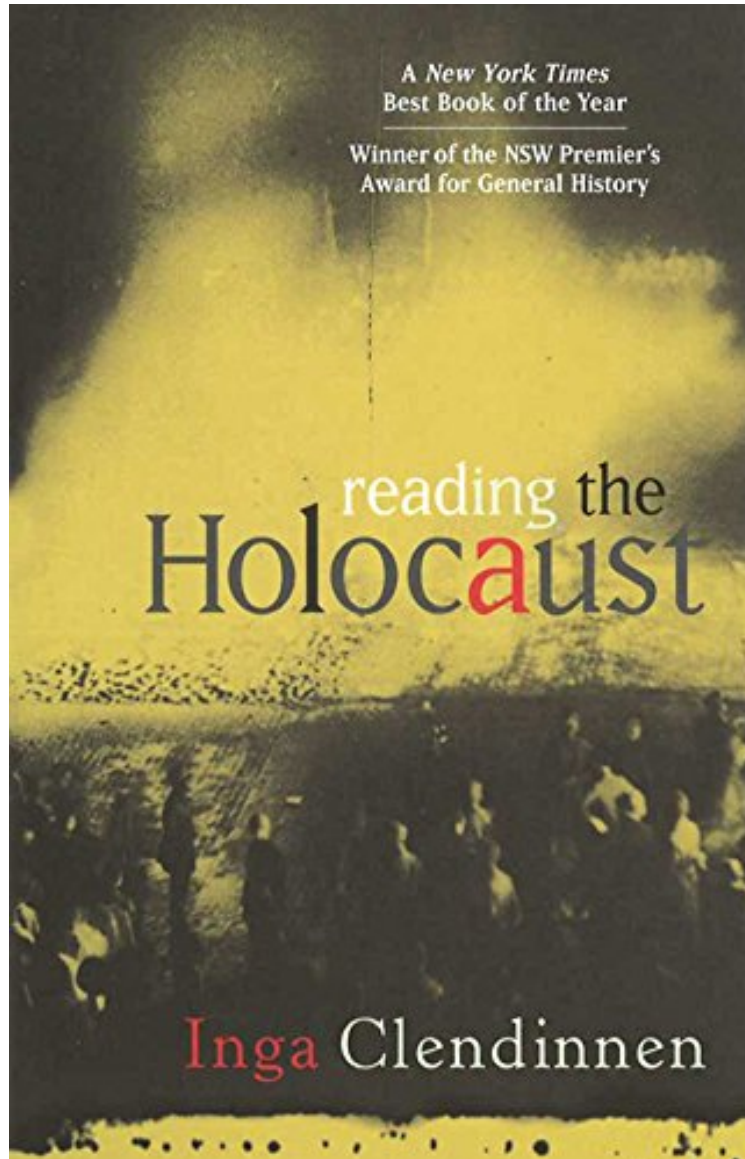


(Download free ebook) Reading the Holocaust

Reading the Holocaust

Von Inga Clendinnen

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Von Inga Clendinnen : Reading the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reading the Holocaust:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Audacity and Brilliance Von Steven M. Gorelick Scholarship and criticism simply doesn't get more gutsy than this! Think about it: An obviously brilliant and sensitive Anthropologist takes on virtually the entire field of Holocaust studies (ostensibly not her field of expertise), reads fearlessly through a massive and established literature, and dares to

take on a scholarly establishment that she argues has clouded and mystified an area of study that -- while perplexing -- should not defy explanation. The only problem I had is that, by the end of the book, her self-proclaimed stance as a naive and fresh reader is more than overwhelmed by what is obviously genuine expertise. But it is expertise fearlessly put to the task of re-reading an entire field and arguing that we should never convince ourselves that some events are too horrible to read, engage with, and understand. You gotta read it to believe it. And I'll tell you something else. Not an ounce of post-modern jargon seeps into this complex and brilliant analysis. Most excitingly, it makes clear that one of the most studied episodes in human history -- The Holocaust -- can and should productively be the subject of many more years of fruitful inquiry. You think I liked it? Criticism gets no better. Period. (I would be afraid that you would think I am the author or related to her, but another aspect of her critical stance is a humility that at least I have never seen in similar work. I guess I am saying: She would never write this about herself.)

Order now! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting overview of major Holocaust works Von Ein Kunde Although I think the review below overstates the case a bit, this is one individual's interesting and serious attempt to digest and understand the Holocaust through some of its seminal texts. Although I had a problem with some particular aspects of Clendinnen's analysis (such as beginning her argument with a polemic on the lack of parity given the Roma in Holocaust inquiries---especially interesting since she later notes that the Roma were indeed viewed differently by the Germans, or her strange decision to single out as dubious, for no apparent reason, and with no evidence, details of Filip Muller's book on Auschwitz), I did enjoy reading the book as a partial synthesis of some Holocaust literature. It is a decent starting point for anyone interested in the literature, although for a short text that outlines the massive issues emanating from this event I would recommend Gerald Markle's *Meditations of a Holocaust Traveler*. Like Clendinnen, Markle takes the lay reader through the fascinating and disturbing moral, philosophical and historical abyss that the event engenders, but in a more engrossing way. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Understanding, not Mystification Von Ein Kunde Clendinnen's small book is a good antidote to mystifiers of the Holocaust like Saul Friedlander and Elie Wiesel. Her "just the facts" attitude is refreshing and paradoxically leads to more comprehension of larger issues (although I think she is too easy on Hannah Arendt and too tough on Viktor Frankl.) This is a good supplement to Ron Rosenbaum's masterful "Explaining Hitler."

Kurzbeschreibung Winner of the New South Wales Premier's History Award and one of the New York Times' ten best books of 1999. In this searching and eloquent book, Inga Clendinnen explores the experience of the Holocaust from both the victims' and the perpetrators' points of view. She discusses the remarkable survivor testimonies of writers such as Primo Levi and Charlotte Delbo, the vexed issue of resistance in the camps, and strategies for understanding the motivations of Nazis at all levels. Clendinnen focuses an anthropologist's precise gaze on the actions of the murderers in the police battalions and among the SS in the camps. And she considers how the Holocaust has been portrayed in poetry, fiction and film. Searching and eloquent, *Reading the Holocaust* is an uncompromising attempt to extract the comprehensible--the recognisably human--from the unthinkable. 'Inga Clendinnen claims for history the same power as poetry or fiction to enter the silences and make them speak.' David Malouf. deDecades after the end of World War II, the Holocaust remains as inexplicable and morbidly fascinating as ever. Countless books have been written about it--accounts of survivors, biographies of Hitler and his cronies, poetry and fiction informed by an event no poet or novelist could have imagined for him- or herself. Along with the deluge of responses to the horror, there have arisen two assumptions: first, that it was a unique event in world history; and, second, that it is impossible to understand the motivations of the Nazi perpetrators. Australian anthropologist Inga Clendinnen challenges both these suppositions in her controversial revisiting of the Holocaust. It is understandable that earlier chroniclers (and survivors) of the Nazi genocide, such as Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel, would have difficulty approaching it with the scholar's objectivity or compulsion to examine all sides of the issue--indeed, in Levi's mind, trying to understand the motivations of the Nazis was tantamount to endorsing them. Clendinnen, an expert in ancient Mayan and Aztec cultures, carefully differentiates between comprehending one's subject and identifying with it. She suggests that only by understanding the minds behind the Final Solution--and not just Hitler and Himmler but the average man in the street and buck private in the army, as well--can we hope to place the Holocaust in historical context. The author divides her study into three parts: in the first (and perhaps most controversial), she discusses the problems inherent in eyewitness accounts; in the second, she examines Nazi psychology; and in the last section, she looks at artistic representations of the Holocaust. Throughout, she amply represents the views of important Holocaust commentators and the many theories that abound. Best of all, she does it in highly readable prose. *Reading the Holocaust* is a thoughtful, provocative look at an old and troubling question. *Pressestimmen*' a brave, towering book which deserves to become famous '. The Australian Book 'This is a deeply humane book; one need only listen to a current news report to understand why it is a necessary one.' The Times Literary Supplement 'Beautifully written and exactly felt, *Reading the Holocaust* is a major contribution to collective remembering and to the register of what happens.' Clifford Geertz' a deeply compassionate book of extraordinary importance.' Canberra Times' impressively humane, open-ended and

generous guide Clendinnen is 'an outsider writing for outsiders' '. The Weekend Australian' This is an important, insightful, superbly written meditation on a sorrow beyond words, well worth the attention of outsiders and insiders alike.' New York Times Book 'Reading the Holocaust is a must read for teachers and scholars alike.' The Journal of Holocaust Education' This book, which unflinchingly engages the most disturbing issues surrounding the most disturbing events of the twentieth century, should be required reading for anyone who has ever attempted to think seriously about the Holocaust.' Studies in Contemporary Jewry