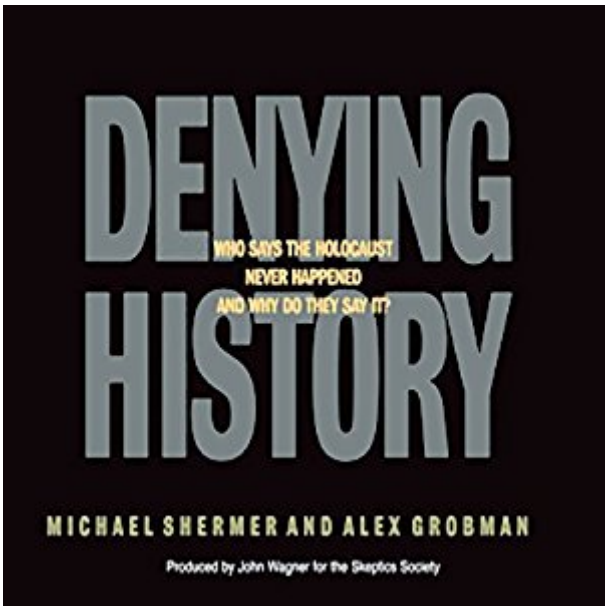
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Denying History: Holocaust Denial, Pseudohistory, And How We Know What Happened In The Past



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Synopsis

Denying History takes a bold and in-depth look at those who say the Holocaust never happened and explores the motivations behind such claims. While most commentators have dismissed the Holocaust deniers as antisemitic neo-Nazi thugs who do not deserve a response, historians Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman have immersed themselves in the minds and culture of these Holocaust "revisionists." In the process, they show how we can be certain that the Holocaust happened and, for that matter, how we can confirm any historical event. This edition is expanded with a new chapter and epilogue examining current, shockingly mainstream revisionism. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the most comprehensive book yet to appear which seeks to refute the claims of Holocaust deniers and revisionists. It seeks to put the nature of historical "truth" in a semi-philosophical framework as well as tackling the empirical claims of deniers head on. There is a strong section attacking Fred Leuchter’s so-called research on the bricks at the Auschwitz crematoria (no wonder no traces of cyanide remain after 50 years in the open air) and a thorough account of the nazis’ own incriminating records and confessions. Will the book actually convince any Holocaust deniers themselves? Probably not. They will doubtless pin-prick the book, for example Heydrich’s death at one point is wrongly given as 1943. And they will continue to maintain that Eichmann’s confessions in custody were his last ditch effort to cooperate and thus save his life. As Sherman and Grobman make very clear, Holocaust deniers are ideologically motivated and devoted to rehabilitation of

nazism. A final thought: the main media organ of deniers these days is the Internet. There is still scope for a detailed analysis of the content and impact of these hate pages. The authors have written a valuable book, but the debate (like it or not) will go on.

This book is the most convincing refutation that I've seen of the claim that there was no systematic Nazi plan to murder Europe's Jews, and the most penetrating analysis of why some people make that claim. Shermer and Grobman are to be commended for dealing with the subject from the standpoint of historiography, avoiding the shrill ad hominem arguments that are, alas, all too frequent in this sensitive area, and for making an attempt to figure out exactly why people believe what they do. Their analysis of David Irving is especially enlightening: Irving is certainly an intelligent man, and doesn't appear to be a vicious anti-Semite. The authors' explanation of how this otherwise sensible historian was led down the garden path by the ex-Nazi "in crowd" is one of the most interesting, and thoroughly convincing parts of the book.

I found this book accessible and informative. Shermer is the founding publisher of Skeptic magazine, which may be why he has a very readable and enjoyable writing style. This subject is at times dense, dry and difficult but Shermer is never tedious or boring. He does a good job of showing us who Mark Weber, David Irving (an epilogue devoted exclusively to the latter is in the 2009 expanded edition), Bradley Smith and others are and suggests motives for their claims the Holocaust is greatly exaggerated.Shermer offers a very fair and accurate assesment of the claims of the so-called Revisionists, then proceeds to refute them. He references many documents, went to the camps, and conducted many interviews: he got to know the leading revisionists in person. Thus, he gets into primary sources, which earns my respect. He offers a very strong if not water tight argument that the Holocaust has not been exaggerated. He explains his theory of a "convergence of evidence", which explains that, just as there's no smoking gun to prove evolution, many different facts, from many different sources, lead to conclusions such as evolution and the Holocaust both happened.

Excellent information. I see the same old "deniers" denying this book by proffering their "same old-same old" misinformation. Very much appreciate what one reviewer brought out about the Holocaust: that even at Nuremburg trials the Germans/Nazis did not try to deny the Holocaust. Nor did Adolf Eichmann on trial 15 years later.Highly recommended is "Rise of the Nazi Party" ... EXCERPT from the movie: "This is the story of how Hitler and the Nazis bent an entire people to

their will and groomed them into participation in the most evil regime in history."----------Excellent in-depth DVD documentary detailing through the voices of a number of historians how Hitler lured the WWII German people into adoring him, glorifying him and following him into the most evil and criminal regime in history.Most WWII Germans did, indeed, enthusiastically support Hitler's Nazi regime.There are 7-10 internationally recognized and respected historians narrating this documentary who are experts on WWII history.

Great writing great subject

Not exhaustive by any means, but Shermer raises critical questions & points that haven't been satisfactorily handled by the deniers.

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