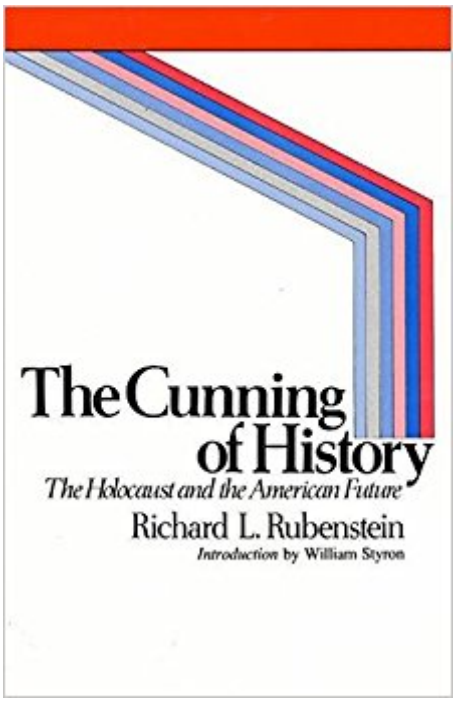
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# The Cunning Of History




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## Synopsis

Richard Rubenstein writes of the holocaust, why it happened, why it happened when it did, and why it may happen again and again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was recommended to me by one of my instructors when I was working on my Master's Thesis. It is only 98 pages but it is one of the single most important books I have ever read. Rubenstein shows how the establishment of a modern bureaucracy produces and enables the monstrous horror of the Holocaust.I generally have my students read this book in tandem with Leon Uris' Armageddon. That novel creates three characters who illustrate so perfectly what Rubenstein writes about.I cannot recommend this book too highly.

This is only a small book (less than 100 pages), but it packs a lot of ideas into it's content.This is an "objective" view of the 20th century trend towards mass murder, and the forces described in this book, while based in a european context can be seen to hold true for virtually all "modern" societies, including Asia and Africa.The author explains the link between a well organised bureaucratic organisation with an objective view to "processing" people through their rules. The danger of having large groups of "displaced" and "no-nation" peoples combined with a tendancy to rationlise away those peoples "rights" in society - to make them effectivley "non-people" and outside the law. It also brings home the reality that power *does* corrupt - or at least finds excuses for all it does to other people.The author has presented us with a possible bleak future in many ways. This book is also a

mirror to how we justify the choices of our modern life and the picture is not always pretty.In the past, where "jews" may have been the target, today discrimination is trending towards the poor, and once again with the displaced and dispossed. Read in conjunction with "no Logo", this book is very enlightening - though out of the 2 books this is the better written. Worth picking up, reading and keeping.

Replacing a lost copy. Explores the Holocaust. Excellent

Want to know the truth about the world we live in? read it

Very well written and researched guide to understanding the evil potential within man. I have read many books on the Holocaust and this one is definitely in the top for me to recommend to anyone trying to understand how mankind can commit such atrocities. The pragmatic approach is very refreshing (all too often emotions about the evil within can compromise the argument, but Rubenstein transcends this).

This book will change the entire way you look at the world. I highly recommend professors use it in class to teach the dynamics of power.....

In this essay Richard Rubenstein contends that the Holocaust should be viewed within the context of a tradition of slavery that is deep rooted in western culture. Drawing on Max Weber, Rubenstein argues that the combination of unrestricted capitalism and protestantism helped to create the conditions necessary for the ultimate form of slavery as expressed in the Nazi death camps. Additional factors include a European trend toward viewing certain segments of a given population as expendable.The analysis is thought provoking and intelligently written. My reservation is that while I agree that viewing the holocaust in this way leads one to the conclusion that under the right circumstances genocide on this scale could happen again , I also believe that there was something uniquely evil in the Nazi leadership that contributed to the Holocaust. Rubenstein’s analysis focused on historical/economic/social forces at the expense of the personal responsibilty of Hitler and his inner circle. Despite that this is an important book that should be mandatory reading in any study of the Holocaust.

A disturbing book, almost 40 years old. Embedded in its larger analysis is a stark realization of what

computers can do to keep tabs on everyone, all the time.

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