



Geographies of the Holocaust (The Spatial Humanities)

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This book explores the geographies of the Holocaust at every scale of human experience, from the European continent to the experiences of individual human bodies. Built on six innovative case studies, it brings together historians and geographers to interrogate the places and spaces of the genocide. The cases encompass the landscapes of particular places (the killing zones in the East, deportations from sites in Italy, the camps of Auschwitz, the ghettos of Budapest) and the intimate spaces of bodies on evacuation marches. Geographies of the Holocaust puts forward models and a research agenda for different ways of visualizing and thinking about the Holocaust by examining the spaces and places where it was enacted and experienced.

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Editorial Review

Review

"As a pioneering call to extend our familiar approaches, *Geographies of the Holocaust* offers a welcome model of collaborative interdisciplinarity -- between historians and geographers, humanities and the social sciences, distinguished specialists and scholars from the outside. The desired purposes are admirably served. Thinking with space delivers not only a new range of challenging methodologies, but brings the well-established findings of the field under strikingly new perspectives too." ?Geoff Eley, University of Michigan

"*Geographies of the Holocaust* is an important work. It is surprisingly inexpensive for the quality of the production (comparable to an art book) and could be required reading in any number of courses on political geography, GIS, critical theory, biopolitics, genocide, and so forth." ?Journal of Historical Geography

"Both students and researchers will find this work to be immensely informative and innovative.... Essential." ?Choice

"The authors are to be commended for their pioneering work.... Geographers are well positioned to make valuable contributions to the field and to shed light on the historic events surrounding the Holocaust from place, space, and environment-oriented perspectives." ?Rudi Hartmann, University of Colorado Denver

"[A] superb [example] of how scholars can use GIS to better understand the past." ?New Books Network, Jewish Studies

"*Geographies of the Holocaust* defies the usual expectation that an edited volume will contain chapters of uneven quality?all its chapters are methodologically sound, engagingly illustrated, and open new pathways forward in conceptualizing the spatiality of the Holocaust." ?AAG Review of Books

"Built on six innovative case studies, this book explores the geographies of the Holocaust at every scale of human experience, from the European continent to the experiences of individual human bodies, in order to

put forward different ways of visualizing and thinking about the Holocaust." ?Jewish Book World

"Geographies of the Holocaust is an excellent collection of scholarship and a model of interdisciplinary collaboration. It brings together the humanistic traditions of the social sciences and humanities emphasizing the experiential aspects of events with cutting-edge technological advances in geovisualization and spatial analysis to seek out broader patterns, structures, and tendencies. The volume makes a timely contribution to the ongoing emergence of the spatial humanities and will undoubtedly advance scholarly and popular understandings of the Holocaust." ?H-HistGeog

"Most historians of the Holocaust remain unaware of the powerful methodological tools developed by geographers that can be fruitfully applied to our field. The great value of this book is that it will serve as an introduction and a primer for the uninitiated. It will help explain how GIS and other technologies can enhance our understanding of the Holocaust and convey some important new findings resulting from the application of these very methods." ?Alan E. Steinweis, author of *Studying the Jew: Scholarly Antisemitism in Nazi Germany*

About the Author

Anne Kelly Knowles is Professor of Geography at Middlebury College. She is author of *Calvinists Incorporated: Welsh Immigrants on Ohio's Industrial Frontier* and *Mastering Iron: The Struggle to Modernize an American Industry, 1800-1868*. She has also edited two previous volumes on the use of GIS for history. Her work has been recognized by the American Ingenuity Award for Historical Scholarship from Smithsonian magazine.

Tim Cole is Professor of Social History at the University of Bristol and author of *Traces of the Holocaust: Journeying In and Out of the Ghettos*; *Holocaust City: The Making of a Jewish Ghetto*; and *Selling the Holocaust: How History Is Bought, Packaged, and Sold*, and editor (with Chris Pearson and Peter Coates) of *Militarized Landscapes: From Gettysburg to Salisbury Plain*.

Alberto Giordano is Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography at Texas State University in San Marcos. He is the author of one book (in Italian) on quality control in GIS and of several publications in GIScience, historical cartography, and hazards geography. He is author (with Tim Cole) of a number of articles on GIS, the Holocaust, and the Budapest ghetto.

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The World War II Holocaust was a profoundly geographical event, rooted in specific physical spaces, times, and landscapes. Because it was also characterized by a spatiality of process--concentration, deportation, dispersal, dislocation--its study requires subtle and critical geographical analysis. The seizure and reallocation of property, the devastation of national infrastructures, and the mass exodus and forced migration of millions of individuals are only some of the obvious geographical components involved in the implementation of the Nazis' genocidal policies. Although some scholars have dealt with particular geographical questions in regional studies and others have analyzed specific aspects of space or the built environment, no comprehensive interpretations have identified and investigated the spaces and geographical

patterns of the Holocaust. Nor have the analytical...

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