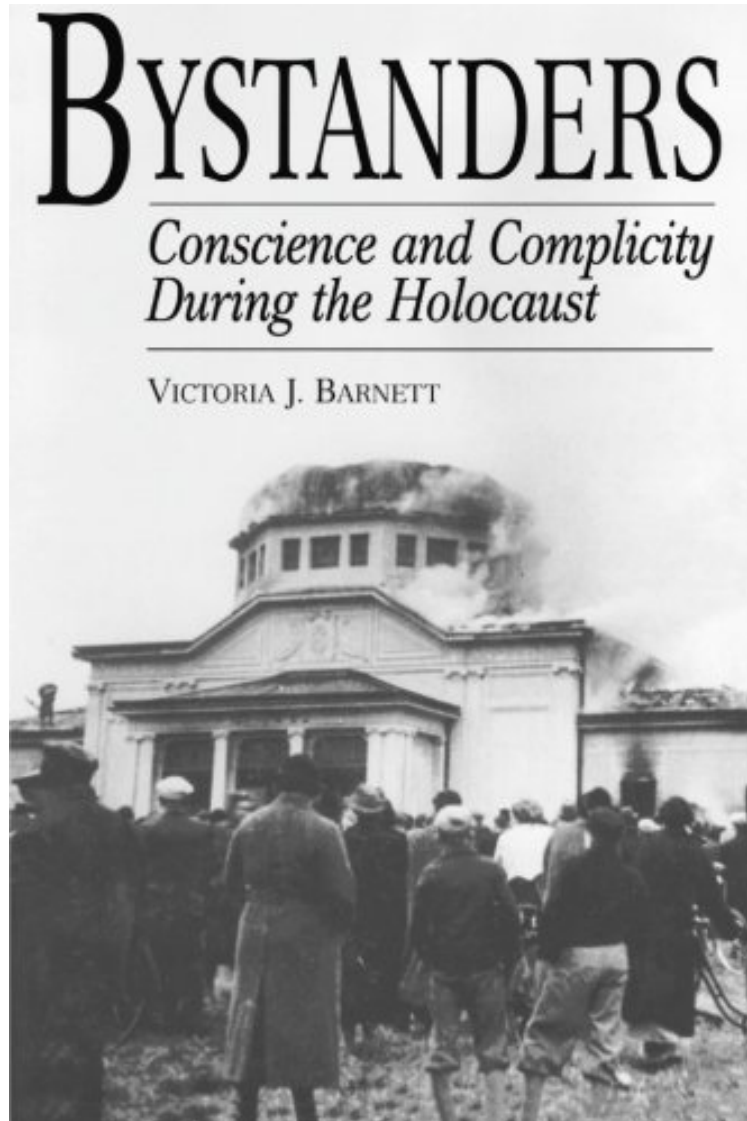


(Mobile book) Bystanders: Conscience and Complicity During the Holocaust

Bystanders: Conscience and Complicity During the Holocaust

Victoria Barnett, Victoria J. Barnett

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Victoria Barnett, Victoria J. Barnett : Bystanders: Conscience and Complicity During the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bystanders: Conscience and Complicity During the Holocaust:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A precise and technical study By George I gave this book five stars because of its clear value to any study of Nazi Germany. Barnett has done her homework. There is one thing I would give as a warning to any perspective reader. This is not, in large part, a recounting of particular instances of what

bystanders actually did or didn't do. Rather, it is a detailed and technical study of the psychological and sociological aspect of watching others suffer while doing little or nothing to aid them. Barnett picks the brains of copious experts in the field of Holocaust research. This book gives every opinion you can imagine as to why people stood by and did little or nothing. Barnett expands her observations beyond Germany and gives the reader a good idea of how the world felt about what was happening. If you can stick with the technical aspect of this study, you will learn a lot. If such an approach is not your cup of tea you ought to pass on "Bystanders". 25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Penetrating Examination of Human Behavior and the Holocaust By FTS In recent years, a number of books have probed the question, "How could the Holocaust happen in a highly-civilized country of 'ordinary,' law-abiding people?" Victoria Barnett's penetrating and provocative book goes a long way in answering the question. Barnett is a first-rate scholar and a skillful writer. She has studied in Germany and is an expert on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Although she relies on a vast amount of research, the material is presented simply and directly. Rather than trying to inflame or lay blame on one person or institution or people, Barnett examines the historical and psychological elements of both individual and institutional behaviors and attitudes in Germany and Europe. Her approach is detailed, fair, and reasoned. In an honest and rational manner she presents all the factors that converged in Germany, beginning in the years immediately after World War I, to create Nazism and ultimately the "final solution." This is a disturbing book. Almost from the first page you will find yourself looking into a mirror asking: "Would I have been a bystander?" "Am I a bystander?" Barnett's writing style is simple, direct, clear, and engrossing. However, don't be surprised if you find it difficult to read more than a few pages at a time. Bystanders should be required reading in every Holocaust-studies, ethics, history and psychology class in every country in the world. If we can answer the questions "how" and "why" perhaps we save the world from another Hitler or another Holocaust. This book changed my life. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent look at motivation and ethical choices By Donna Luna This book was required reading for an ethics class I took in college. I ordered it for my son to read because we were discussing the motivation for Hitler before the start of WWII and the people who followed him. It seems that many followed him blindly, but as you read through the pages, ethical decisions become a challenge when one is threatened. Not to excuse his choices or the choices of others, but when the fire is lit beneath you and you are bound by fear of torture, death and other nasties, what would you do? Bonhoeffer was a man of strength and conviction and he was able to withstand the threats and faced many horrors because of his ethical choices. A must read for any serious ethics, psychology or history student.

The Holocaust did not introduce the phenomenon of the bystander, but it did illustrate the terrible consequences of indifference and passivity towards the persecution of others. Although the term was initially applied only to the good German the apathetic citizens who made genocide possible through unquestioning obedience to evil leaders recent Holocaust scholarship has shown that it applies to most of the world, including parts of the population in Nazi-occupied countries, some sectors within the international Christian and Jewish communities, and the Allied governments themselves. This work analyzes why this happened, drawing on the insights of historians, Holocaust survivors, and Christian and Jewish ethicists. The author argues that bystander behavior cannot be attributed to a single cause, such as anti-Semitism, but can only be understood within a complex framework of factors that shape human behavior individually, socially, and politically.

..."an excellent model of a psychohistorical study that has been informed by the conclusions derived from experimental psychology. Her study of the psychosocial dynamics behind moral decision making can also help historians look for the patterns of primary data that can prove fruitful in understanding the behaviors of bystanders as they confront such assaults on humanity as those set in motion by the Nazis. She helps historians to answer the questions of why and how normal people watch political murder from the sidelines." -American Historical "Bystanders is a powerful argument...The theoretical conclusions of Barnett's final pages are so pertinent, so powerful, that I would gladly have seen them all printed in italics. Indeed, were I now teaching an introductory course on Christian ethics in either a church or a seminary I would include this book as mandatory reading." -Christian Century? Bystanders is a powerful argument...The theoretical conclusions of Barnett's final pages are so pertinent, so powerful, that I would gladly have seen them all printed in italics. Indeed, were I now teaching an introductory course on Christian ethics in either a church or a seminary I would include this book as mandatory reading.?-Christian Century?...an excellent model of a psychohistorical study that has been informed by the conclusions derived from experimental psychology. Her study of the psychosocial dynamics behind moral decision making can also help historians look for the patterns of primary data that can prove fruitful in understanding the behaviors of bystanders as they confront such assaults on humanity as those set in motion by the Nazis. She helps historians to answer the questions of why and how normal people watch political murder from the sidelines."?-American Historical .."an excellent model of a psychohistorical study that has been informed by the conclusions derived from experimental psychology. Her study of the psychosocial dynamics behind moral decision making can also help historians look for the patterns of primary data that can prove fruitful in understanding the behaviors of bystanders as they confront such assaults on humanity as those set in motion by the Nazis. She helps historians to answer the questions of why and how

normal people watch political murder from the sidelines."-American Historical "Victoria Barnett's new book is a welcome and necessary addition to the scholarship on the holocaust, in particular on its implications for Christians and Christianity....Barnett's lucidly written, accessible book will find a receptive audience in undergraduate and graduate classes as well as among the broader interested public."-Doris L. Bergen Professor University of Notre Dame"Without flinching, and with sharp distaste for any apologetics, Barnett scrutinizes the behavior of the "bystanders," those who saw and did nothing and then claimed they bore no responsibility. This book is a great achievement and will disturb the complacency of all those who thought they already knew the history of the Holocaust."-Susannah Heschel author of Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus"Victoria Barnett's book charts new ground in considering the bystander phenomenon during the Holocaust. Drawing from a wide variety of sources Barnett examines the historical and ethical implications of bystander behavior on three levels: the individual, institutional and international. Scholars and educators will benefit from Barnett's innovative and provocative study."-Mary Johnson National Senior Program Associate Facing History and Ourselves"The ethical questions [Barnett] raises are as relevant and searing for the bystanders of today as they are for those of the past. Extremely well written, interesting and clear, the book should appeal to students in college-level Holocaust studies courses as well as the general public. It provides a great deal of information about Holocaust history while simultaneously provoking the reader toward moral self-scrutiny."-Pearl Oliner Professor of Education Research Director Altruistic Personality and Prosocial Behavior InstituteAbout the AuthorVICTORIA J. BARNETT is a consultant for the Department of Church Relations, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She has written numerous scholarly articles on religious topics. An authority on the history of the churches during the Holocaust, she is the author of For the Soul of the People: Protestant Protest against Hitler (1992).