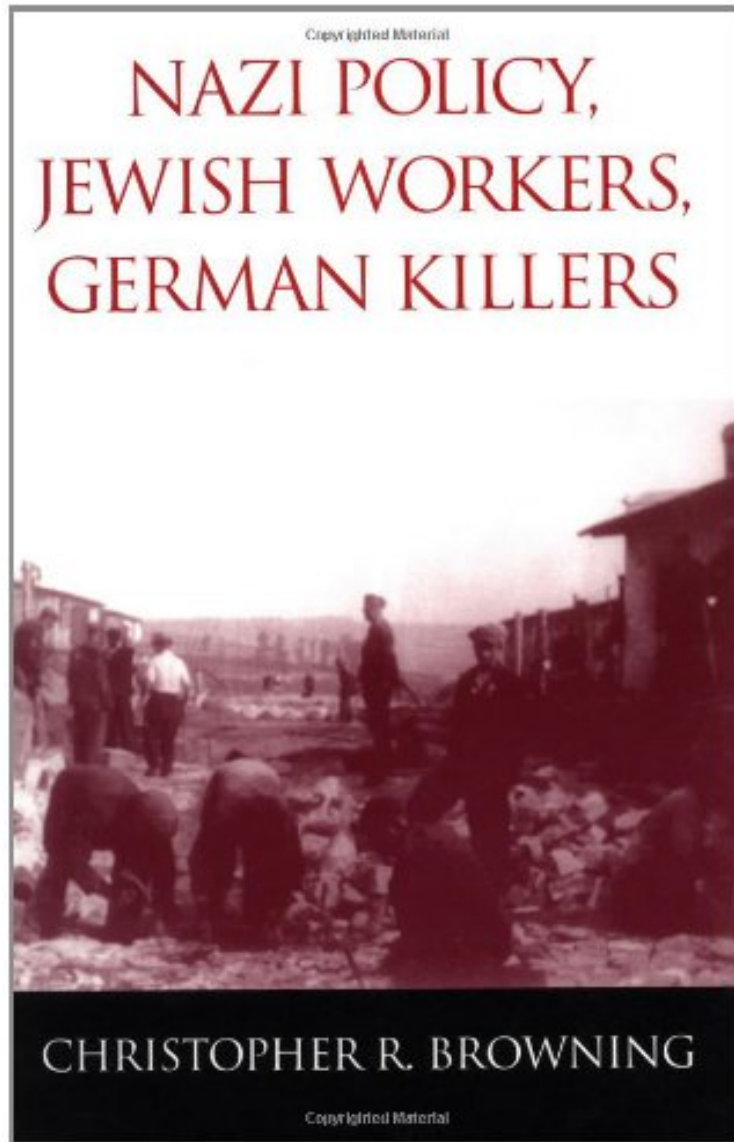


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Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers

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Christopher R. Browning : Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Read for Holocaust ScholarsBy Deborah Lazaroff AlpiChristopher Browning is one of the world's most respected Holocaust scholars in no small part due to his book Ordinary Men: Police Battalion 101 and the Holocaust. This collection of several lectures regarding the time line of Nazi policy, Jewish Labor and the German killers doesn't disappoint. An excellent volume for any Holocaust scholar's

collection.³¹ of 33 people found the following review helpful. New insight into a perennial theme. By John Barry Kenyon As new written sources from the early 1940s continue to turn up regularly in Russia and in its former Soviet satellites, historians are able to refine the history of the Jewish holocaust. Christopher Browning is at the forefront of this academic work. In his latest book, based on a series of lectures, he has a close look at when senior nazidom actually determined on a policy of destruction. He convincingly argues it was October 1941. There is an excellent chapter on Starachowice labor camp in Poland in which survivor memories and new documentary evidence are shown to be complementary. For those who want a followup to Browning's previously published work, for example on reserve police batallion 101, there is a final chapter in which the author slightly modifies his previous conclusions on the mindset of the killers. I think it is fair to say that this scholarly book is meant for advanced students of the holocaust, or at least those with a fair knowledge of the historiography.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. based on Nazi documents By Michael Lewyn This short book, unlike many books on the Holocaust, is based on internal Nazi documents, and tries to give readers a feel for how Nazi policy both evolved at the top and was implemented at the bottom. The beginning of the book seeks to answer the question: when did the Nazis settle upon genocide? The 1939-40 documents analyzed by Browning suggest that Nazis envisioned expelling Jews to Madagascar or the remotest reaches of Eastern Europe; by contrast, sometime in 1941 Hitler and Himmler apparently agreed on mass extermination. Then Browning seeks to address the question of how much leeway local authorities had to avoid these policies; often, local commanders were more interested in exploiting Jewish labor than in extermination. Browning concludes that local authorities could drag their feet, but could not affirmatively resist clear orders from above. The last essays focus on the role of individual German police battalions who participated in killing squads. Browning concludes that the majority of these men were not ideologically motivated to murder Jews- but that typically a few were, and the rest just followed orders and could even avoid participation themselves as long as they did not interfere with the murder going on around them.

Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers focuses on controversial issues in current Holocaust scholarship. How did Nazi Jewish policy evolve during the first years of the war? When did the Nazi regime cross the historic watershed from population expulsion and decimation ("ethnic cleansing") to total and systematic extermination? How did Nazi authorities attempt to reconcile policies of expulsion and extermination with the wartime urge to exploit Jewish labor? How were Jewish workers impacted? What role did local authorities play in shaping Nazi policy? What more can we learn about the mindset and behavior of the local perpetrators? Using new evidence, this book attempts to shed light on these important questions. Christopher R. Browning is the Frank Porter Graham Professor of History at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He is the author of *The Path to Genocide* (Cambridge University Press 1992) and *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, which received the Jewish National Book Award.

From Booklist Of four previous books, Browning is best known for *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (1992), a study of how it was possible for ordinary, middle-aged men to become mass murderers. His latest book is the result of six lectures given at Cambridge University, in which he examined three issues at the forefront of Holocaust scholarship: the decision-making and policy-making at the heart of the Nazi regime, out of which emerged the "final solution," the systematic attempt to murder all the Jews of Europe; the pragmatic and temporary use of Jewish labor; and the attitudes, motivations, and adaptations of the "ordinary" Germans who implemented Nazi policy at the local level. The source materials include both postwar testimonies and rare contemporary letters and document files that "speak less to the issue of decision and policy making and more to those elusive issues of individual attitudes and behavior." George Cohen From Kirkus spaper 0-521-77490-X Given the recent headlines about the slave-labor reparations settlement in Germany, this new study from distinguished Holocaust historian Browning (*Ordinary Men*, 1992, etc.) is an important event. The six pieces herein, an expansion of Browning's 1995 Trevelyan lectures, fall, as the author notes, into three pairs. The first two consider policy-making processes that led to the Final Solution; the middle two focus on the tensions between pragmatism and ideology in the Reich's treatment of Jewish slave labor; and in the final pair Browning returns to the topic of *Ordinary Men*, using fresh evidence to re-examine the behavior of those who committed mass murder. The field of Holocaust studies changes by leaps and bounds, with new evidence becoming available almost daily as files from the former Soviet bloc and still unread materials from the Nazis themselves are evaluated by scholars. Much of what Browning has to say here grows out of such newly available materials. Although the conclusions he comes to are not significantly different from positions he has previously held, new details emerge that allow him to add nuance and depth. Hence, although he still persuasively maintains that the decisions leading to the Nazi attempt to murder all of Europe's Jews were an incremental, ongoing decision-making process that stretched from the spring of 1941 to the summer of 1942, his access to previously unavailable diaries of Joseph Goebbels and communications among Nazi leaders enrich our understanding of the ongoing internal tug-of-war over when and how to achieve that gruesome goal. Similarly, recent studies of regional decision-making give a fuller picture of the interplay of local and national interests in the carrying

out of the mass murders. Browning is a methodical, if somewhat dry, writer and the result is an indispensable addition to the Holocaust bookshelf, though most valuable to specialists. Estimable scholarship, intelligently presented, but not a casual reader's book. -- Copyright 2000, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "The essays contain a great deal of interesting material....Browning's current contribution to this debate is very welcome...." The New Republic "...the book as a whole is very readable, with the individual lectures being shining examples for concise and clear argumentation...Together, these lectures are the best introduction to current issues in serious Holocaust Studies available at the moment. I would highly recommend the book to any student or scholar looking for a succinct summary and critical discussion of the state of knowledge in this field." H-Net s"Browning is one of the leaders in the study of the Holocaust, and the essays in this book confirm his reputation. The essays explore important and often neglected aspects of the Holocaust, and are original, well argued and incredibly well researched. In the book he focuses on the victims and the perpetrators, using oral testimony on documentary evidence. There is a lot of drama in each story, and I found them quite stimulating. Together they offer both interesting theoretical perspectives, and substantive new information. Like his many other publications, this book deserves a wide readership." Robert Gellately, Strassler Professor in Holocaust History, Clark University" In the 'fateful months' following Barbarossa, a series of decisions would be taken. One of these decisions would emerge as what the Nazis called 'the Final Solution to the Jewish Question,' a program of systematic and total mass murder, to begin and be completed as soon as feasibly possible, and for the first time with clear priority for the implementation of Jewish policy over the various other Nazi demographic schemes affecting ethnic Germans and Slavs." -from Chapter 1 "Thus does Browning demonstrate how interplay between policy and perpetration worked smoothly in creating the most efficient murder machine in history-German killers. Not easy reading, but vital arguments. See for yourself." Winston-Salem (NC) Journal