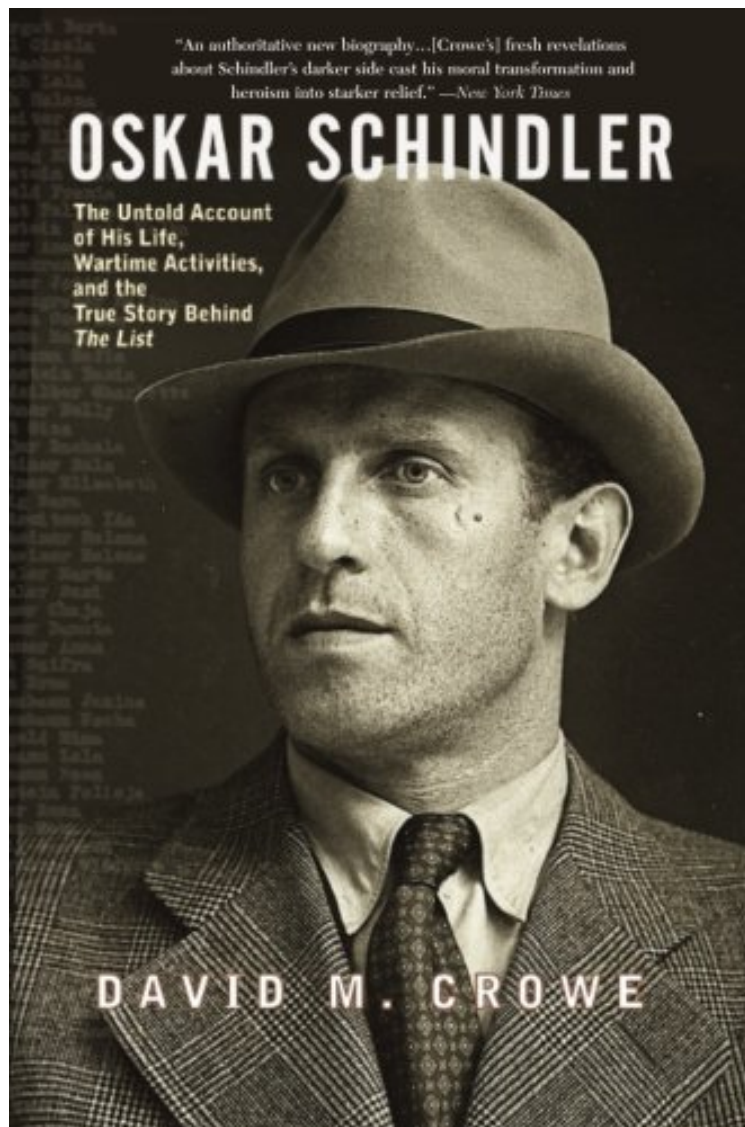


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Oskar Schindler: The Untold Account of His Life, Wartime Activities, and the True Story Behind the List

David Crowe

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David Crowe : Oskar Schindler: The Untold Account of His Life, Wartime Activities, and the True Story Behind the List before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oskar Schindler: The Untold Account of His Life, Wartime Activities, and the True Story Behind the List:

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and how well he wrote this book. For the most part, he stuck to facts that he could document and pointed out facts that were surmised because of a lack of direct documentation while explaining why he surmised his conclusion. I found that very refreshing. So many authors jump to conclusions and become adamant that they are absolutely right. This author stated his conclusion, gave his explanation for the conclusion, but also quoted his research documents and then let the reader draw his/her own conclusions. I can tell that he was very thorough with his research and tried very hard to refrain from giving a biased opinion. I enjoyed reading this book and suggest that others take the time to read it, especially those who may have watched Schindler's List. There is a lot of good background information regarding Germany and World War II as well as the Schindlers. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very good By Andrew Kane A very good book. Little hard to understand because some of the words are written in German for street names and military positions. Just stick with it it gets better. very interesting and you'll learn a lot. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely Incredible - Unable to Put it Down By Anne I must admit I entered into reading this book with a healthy skepticism about the most intimate details of Oskar's life. However, Mr. Crowe has managed to capture the essence of Schindler's true sense; making certain to convey him as the real life man he was with his own demons and faults and careful not to portray him as a saint. Here was a man that history remembers as one of the most extraordinary and exemplary figures of the 20th century for saving over 1,100 Jews from certain death during World War II in Nazi Germany. For those who aren't familiar with Oskar's story the basics are that he's a German businessman, a member of the Nazi party who sets out to make his fortune in Krakow, Poland using the plentiful supply of slave Jewish labor. Gradually over the five year period he maintained his business in Krakow he began to understand the magnitude of what the Nazis termed "special treatment" of the Jews - death. The Nazis had initially placed all Jews into ghettos making it easier for them to collect and transport in cattle cars to concentration and extermination camps where they were either instantly gassed or killed through hard manual labor, disease or starvation. Oskar didn't start out with a moral compass of protecting the Jews who worked for him but as his business continued to prosper and he formed relationships with his workers he softened and felt he had to protect his workers. That is only a brief history of what Schindler is known for but Crowe goes out of his way to make you understand how Schindler got to be in Krakow, how he amassed his fortune, his relationship with key Nazi party leaders and ultimately the famous list of Jews that were saved as a result of his protection of his workers. In 1993 American filmmaker Steven Spielberg made a movie called "Schindler's List" based on a novel written by Thomas Keneally regarding Oskar's heroic, dangerous and humanitarian efforts during the most dangerous period in history. The film was an excellent picture but it fails to truly capture the real bits of the story that I feel after reading Mr. Crowe's book would have made the film even more incredible. The movie may be a masterpiece, but there is no doubt that the actual events in this book if they were portrayed in the movie would be far more intriguing. I applaud the meticulous research efforts of Mr. Crowe and highly recommend this book.

Spy, businessman, bon vivant, Nazi Party member, Righteous Gentile. This was Oskar Schindler, the controversial savior of almost 12,000 Jews during the Holocaust who struggled afterwards to rebuild his life and gain international recognition for his wartime deeds. Author David Crowe examines every phase of the subject's life in this landmark biography, presenting a figure of mythic proportions that one prominent Schindler Jew described as an extraordinary man in extraordinary times.

"Most biographies are written against a sketchy background of historical events drawn with just enough broad strokes of the brush to provide context for a life. Crowe's book, apart from the affecting last chapters on the autumn of Schindler's life, is just the opposite...In these Auschwitz memorial days we are filled with tales and images of Jewish deaths. Crowe's book honours the heroism of Hitler's working Jews in life" *The Spectator* About the Author David M. Crowe is President Emeritus of the Association for the Study of Nationalities at Columbia University and a member of the Education Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. He is currently a Fellow at the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His award-winning books include *A History of the Gypsies of Eastern Europe and Russia* and *The Baltic States and the Great Powers: Foreign Relations, 1938-1940*. He teaches at Elon University.