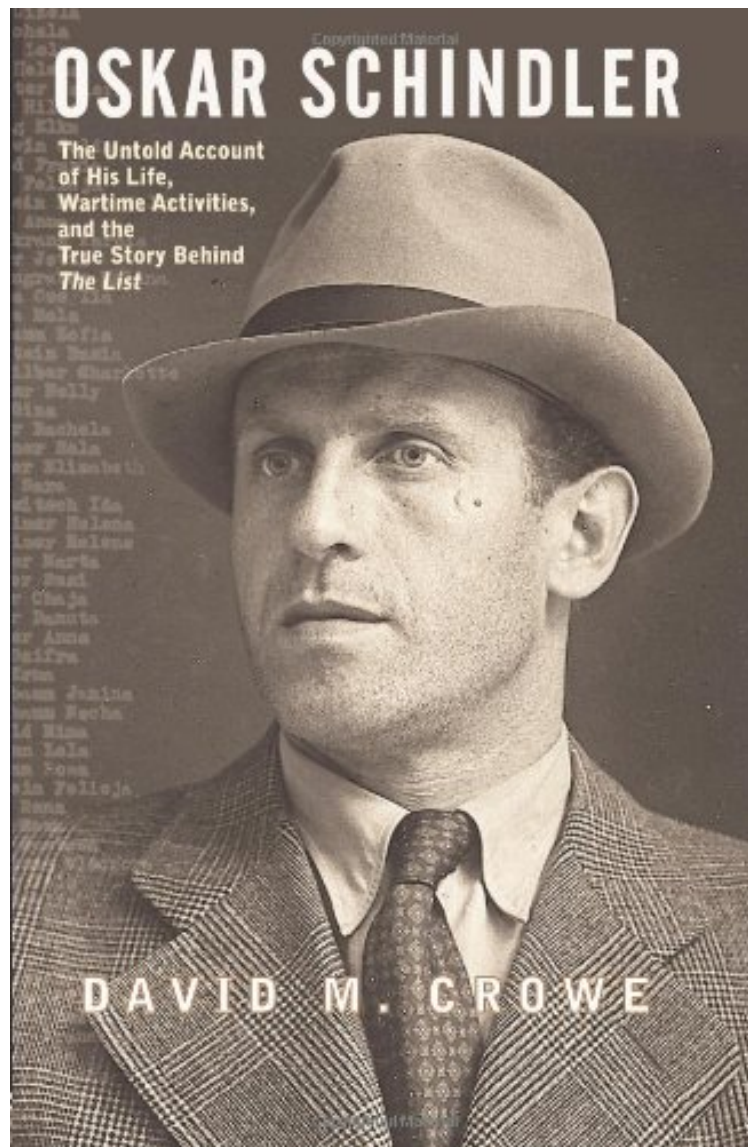


(Library ebook) Oskar Schindler: The Untold Account of His Life, Wartime Activities, and the True Story Behind the List

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

David M. Crowe

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David M. 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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This book is great for anyone who really enjoys this part of history and who loves the person Oskar Schindler became. This was a difficult time in history and this book highlights the man who tried to save as many forsaken as he could.

Spy, businessman, bon vivant, Nazi Party member, Righteous Gentile. This was Oskar Schindler, the controversial man who saved eleven hundred Jews during the Holocaust but struggled afterwards to rebuild his life and gain international recognition for his wartime deeds. David Crowe examines every phase of Schindler's life in this landmark biography, presenting a savior of mythic proportions who was also an opportunist and spy who helped Nazi Germany conquer Poland. Schindler is best known for saving over a thousand Jews by putting them on the famed "Schindler's List" and then transferring them to his factory in today's Czech Republic. In reality, Schindler played only a minor role in the creation of the list through no fault of his own. Plagued by local efforts to stop the movement of Jewish workers from his factory in Krakow to his new one in Brnlnitz, and his arrest by the SS who were investigating corruption charges against the infamous Amon Gth, Schindler had little say or control over his famous "List." The tale of how the "List" was really prepared is one of the most intriguing parts of the Schindler story that Crowe tells here for the first time. Forced into exile after the war, success continually eluded Schindler and he died in very poor health in 1974. He remained a controversial figure, even in death, particularly after Emilie Schindler, his wife of forty-six years, began to criticize her husband after the appearance of Steven Spielberg's film in 1993. In *Oskar Schindler*, Crowe steps beyond the mythology that has grown up around the story of Oskar Schindler and looks at the life and work of this man whom one prominent Schindler Jew described as "an extraordinary man in extraordinary times."

From Booklist *Starred * Schindler is known best for the portrayal of him in Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*, which was, of course, based on Thomas Keneally's novel of the same name. Schindler was a German who risked his life and his fortune to save 1,100 Jews and provide hundreds of other Jews who worked for him with a quality of life that enabled many of them to survive the Holocaust. In researching this definitive biography over a seven-year period, Crowe interviewed and corresponded with many of Schindler's Jews; discovered a vast collection of his private papers and letters; found the Czech secret police and Gestapo files on Schindler documenting his involvement as an operative in Nazi Germany's military counterespionage organization, Abwehr, before and during World War II; and studied the war crimes file on Amon Goeth, the commandant of the Plaszow concentration camp. Crowe posits that Schindler had nothing to do with the creation of his famous transport lists (one for 700 men and one for 300 women) and then devotes a long chapter on its true origin. Crowe sees that Schindler's transformation from a greedy factory owner into one of the most remarkable righteous gentiles in the Holocaust took place slowly. "I think that he was, at heart, a fairly decent human being despite his womanizing and heavy drinking," Crowe concludes, and that over time, the growing violence and death that enveloped Krakow's Jews disgusted him and prompted him to do whatever he could to protect his Jewish workers from the SS. With 32 black-and-white photographs, this biography is essential in understanding one of the most extraordinary figures from the Holocaust. George Cohen
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A monumental work of scholarship, detailed, informed, precise and measured, the definitive work on this extraordinary man." -- Michael Berenbaum, The University of Judaism Los Angeles, California; Former Director of the Research Institute, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Former President, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation; Author, *A Promise to Remember*
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 at 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.