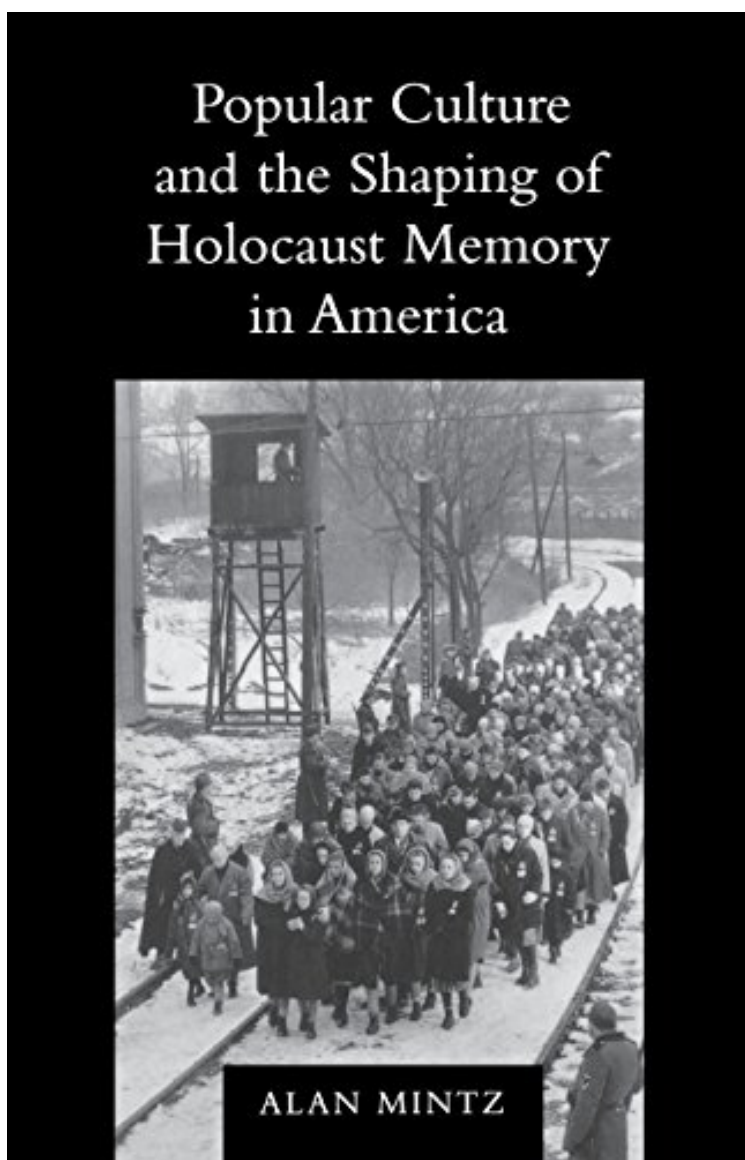


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Popular Culture and the Shaping of Holocaust Memory in America (Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies)

Alan Mintz

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Alan Mintz : Popular Culture and the Shaping of Holocaust Memory in America (Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Popular Culture and the Shaping of Holocaust Memory in America (Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in

Jewish Studies):

The Holocaust took place far from the United States and involved few Americans, yet rather than receding, this event has assumed a greater significance in the American consciousness with the passage of time. As a window into the process whereby the Holocaust has been appropriated in American culture, Hollywood movies are particularly luminous. *Popular Culture and the Shaping of Holocaust Memory in America* examines reactions to three films: *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961), *The Pawnbroker* (1965), and *Schindler's List* (1992), and considers what those reactions reveal about the place of the Holocaust in the American mind, and how those films have shaped the popular perception of the Holocaust. It also considers the difference in the reception of the two earlier films when they first appeared in the 1960s and retrospective evaluations of them from closer to our own times. Alan Mintz also addresses the question of how Americans will shape the memory of the Holocaust in the future, concluding with observations on the possibilities and limitations of what is emerging as the major resource for the shaping of Holocaust memory: videotaped survivor testimony. *Popular Culture and the Shaping of Holocaust Memory in America* examines some of the influences behind the broad and deep changes in American consciousness and the social forces that permitted the Holocaust to move from the margins to the center of American discourse.

"Mintz's insights give pause for thought on matters of great interest to educators, parents, and the Jewish community as a whole, in addition to scholars in a range of fields, including literary studies, American studies, film studies, and popular culture as well as Holocaust studies." Naomi Sokoloff, University of Washington "The questions and issues Mintz raises throughout his book take the study of these texts to a sophisticated yet sensible new level. Mintz challenges the assumption that there are automatic lessons to be learned from such memory, or that there can be any redemption in such memory. These are crucial insights which deserve the widest possible audience." James E. Young, University of Massachusetts at Amherst (author of *The Texture of Memory* and *At Memory's Edge*.) "Mintz's insights give pause for thought on matters of great interest to educators, parents, and the Jewish community as a whole, in addition to scholars in a range of fields, including literary studies, American studies, film studies, and popular culture as well as Holocaust studies." Naomi Sokoloff, University of Washington "The questions and issues Mintz raises throughout his book take the study of these texts to a sophisticated yet sensible new level. Mintz challenges the assumption that there are automatic lessons to be learned from such memory, or that there can be any redemption in such memory. These are crucial insights which deserve the widest possible audience." James E. Young, author of *The Texture of Memory* and *At Memory's Edge* From the Back Cover "Mintz's insights give pause for thought on matters of great interest to educators, parents, and the Jewish community as a whole, in addition to scholars in a range of fields, including literary studies, American studies, film studies, and popular culture as well as Holocaust studies." --Naomi Sokoloff, University of Washington "The questions and issues Mintz raises throughout his book take the study of these texts to a sophisticated yet sensible new level. Mintz challenges the assumption that there are automatic lessons to be learned from such memory, or that there can be any redemption in such memory. These are crucial insights which deserve the widest possible audience." --James E. Young, University of Massachusetts at Amherst (author of *The Texture of Memory* and *At Memory's Edge*)