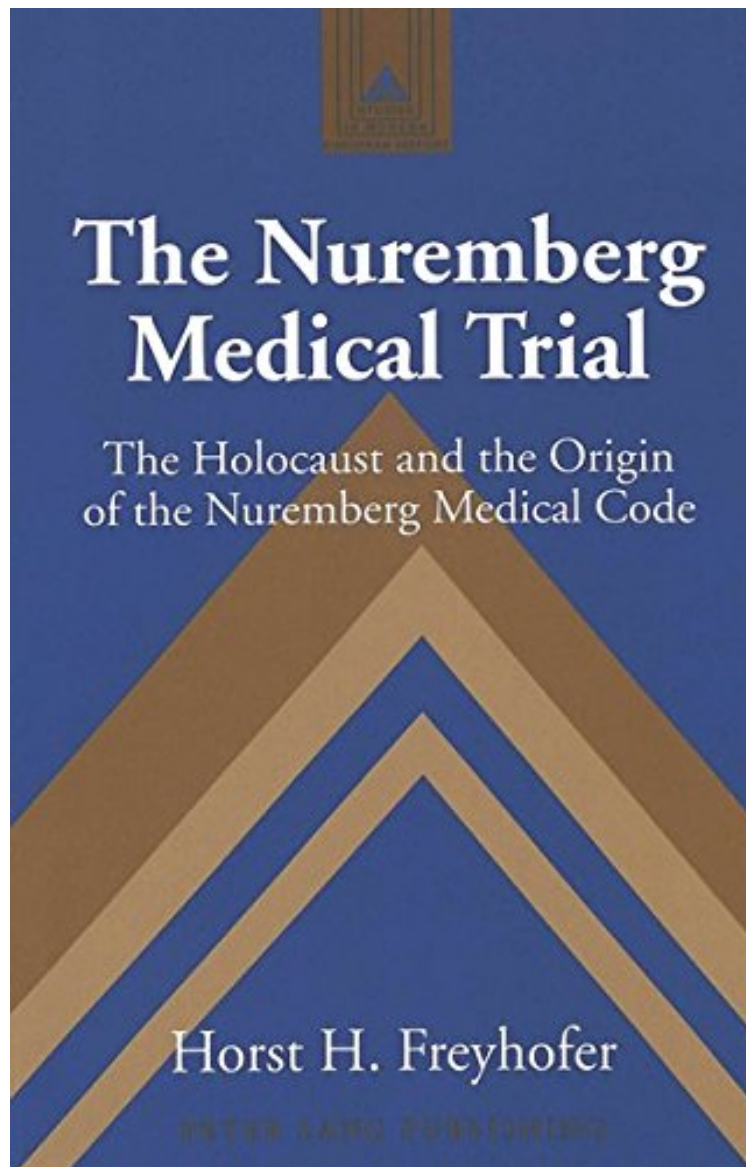


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The Nuremberg Medical Trial: The Holocaust and the Origin of the Nuremberg Medical Code (Studies in Modern European History)

Horst H. Freyhofer

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(Studies in Modern European History):

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. comprehensive overview of the medical trial
By James Cooder
The book is the first one I could find that gives a comprehensive overview of the medical trial. The book puts the trial into its correct political and cultural background so that the actions of the major players are not mystified but are made understandable. The author shows more clearly than others how implicated that Allies were in the medical research conducted on helpless victims. Americans condemned the experiments and used the data. They contracted Nazi scientists indicted at Nuremberg after the trial to work for the military, sometimes using equipment left over by the Nazis. The author leaves no doubt about the abominable nature of the experiments, the depraved character of the perpetrators, and the unimaginable suffering of the victims. And it obviously not his intention to soil American history. But by merely pointing to the records and abstaining from speculating about them, such soiling seems inevitable. This may be the real reason why this book so far is the only one offering a comprehensive account (meaning leaving out none of the "uncomfortable" facts) of the medical trial, and may remain the only one for a long time to come.
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Searching For The Truth
By J. Gaffey
Freyhofer has offered the reader a stimulating account of an important historical event. By using the dual viewpoints of law and ethics as a benchmark, he successfully manages to transport the reader to the courtroom in Nuremberg. Once there, the serious student of history will be rewarded with an armchair appreciation of a work well done. For those who seek a lighter read, you may soon find yourself enjoying a serious work that highlights the need for a better understanding of causes and effects in world history. If you truly wish to have a better understanding of why the world is the way it is today, this book could serve as a stepping stone to a better understanding of human nature.

Following World War II, the American Military Tribunal indicted twenty-three Nazi doctors and administrators for performing agonizing and often fatal experiments on helpless concentration camp inmates. Using primarily court records, this book attempts to answer the following salient questions: What sort of medical experiments did the Nazi doctors perform? Who were their victims, and what was their fate? What, if any, were the medical results? What legal charges were brought against the doctors, and what was their defense? Who were the witnesses? Did the defendants try to reconcile their brutal acts with the Hippocratic Code never to do harm, or were they devoid of any medical ethics? Did they constitute dishonorable exceptions to a principled German medical profession, or were they symptomatic of a more widespread disregard for traditional medical ethics? In trying to answer these questions, Horst H. Freyhofer gives the reader the opportunity to follow the exchanges between prosecutors and defendants as well as the final reasoning of the court.

About the Author
The Author: Horst H. Freyhofer has studied modern intellectual history and history of science at Universitt Gttingen and UCLA, where he received his doctorate. He has been Associate Professor at Florida Institute of Technology and Visiting Professor at Middlebury College, Vermont, and is currently Associate Professor at Plymouth State University, New Hampshire. His writings have been published in various professional journals, and he is the author of *The Vitalism of Hans Driesch* (Peter Lang, 1982), a study of the rise and fall of a scientific theory in the twentieth century.