

ROSH HA SHANAH FEATURE

IN HONOR OF ROSH HA SHANAH, JEWISH NEW YEAR OF 5734, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF STORIES TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLIDAY WHICH FALLS ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH OF TISHRI, THURS. SEPT. 27, & FRI. SEPT. 28. ROSH HA SHANA MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 10 DAYS OF REPENTANCE, AWE-INSPIRING, DAYS CULMINATING AT YOM KIPPUR, ON SAT., OCT. 6th

European Jewry's End

by DAVID FRIEDMAN

THE HOLOCAUST: THE DESTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN JEWRY 1939-1945 BY NORA LEVIN, SCHOCKEN, NEW YORK, 768 PAGES INCLUDING 54 PAGES OF APPENDIS, NOTES AND INDEX, \$6.95.

The Holocaust still tugs at the consciousness of every Jew even though he may push all thought of it to back of his mind. We always come back to the nagging questions: How did it happen? Why did the world allow it to happen? Can it happen again? We owe it to ourselves as Jews to learn more about this darkest chapter in Jewish history and there is no more opportune time than during the High Holidays when Jews are supposed to contemplate their lives. A good source is this worthwhile paperback re-issue of a history of the destruction of European Jewry.

Nora Levin, a former researcher librarian who now teaches history at Gratz College, Philadelphia, has provided a comprehensive history of the 1933-1945 period in which nearly 6 million Jews were murdered. She describes the rise of Hitler and the creation of the Nazi state, the step by step destruction of European Jewry and the Jewish struggle to understand what was happening and finally to attempt to resist it. She also provides a picture of the political and military background of the Holocaust period and the relationship between Germany and the states it controlled. She devotes separate chapters to the Jews in each country that was affected by the Nazi annihilation policy.

Wisely Ms. Levin does not write emotionally but instead allows the emotions to come from the first-hand reports of Jewish victims, Nazis and other eyewitness reporters. Ms. Levin is concerned with two themes

that run throughout this book. First Jews did not have any idea of what was in store for them. In fact the Nazis took great pains to keep the Jews from learning the truth since Ms Levin says they would have revolted. Jews did resist when they finally did realize what was happening, as witness the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, but by then it was too late.

The Nazis moved from persecution to annihilation slowly, first for the German Jews, then faster for the Jews of Western Europe and most swiftly for East European Jewry. The reason, Ms. Levin explains, is that from 1933 to 1938 Hitler was still concerned about world public opinion. But with the outbreak of war with Poland Hitler was able to begin his extermination and after Russia was invaded in June 1941 the mass extermination program began and kept up a swift pace for three years.

Ms. Levin's second theme is that the world did nothing to prevent the exterminations. She believes that Hitler would have been forced to change his policy "if solid opposition had appeared: popular resistance at home...; early reprisal actions by the Allies as soon as deportations started; more widespread obstruction of the deportations--such as occurred in a few countries." She shows how, when occasionally some of these things happened, they prevented deaths; Germans could even refuse to participate in the killings without anything happening to them.

The author strongly criticizes the U.S., England, the Soviet Union and the Catholic Church for not taking steps that could have prevented the annihilation of Jews. The chief villain that comes through the book is Britain, who as the holder of Palestine, the one place where Jews could have gone, did everything possible to prevent Jewish immigration there before the annihilations began, during the Holocaust and most infamously of all even tried to prevent the survivors from going there.

The chief lesson that Jews learned from the catastrophe, according to Ms. Levin, was that if they wanted to live they would have to depend on themselves. "Tenaciously they clung to that small scallop of desert which is their home by faith, by history and by honorable pledge from the League of Nations and Britain...A new breed of Jew had come out of Palestine; tough, realistic and militant. They were bringing into Palestine not refugees who ask for money, but ma'apilim, "stormers of obstacles."

Anyone, Jew or non-Jew, who wants to understand the reason why the present leaders of Israel sometimes take actions that they consider necessary to protect the Jewish State even in defiance of world opinion, should read this book.

A New Year's Message

Rabbi Robert I. Kahn

(Pres. Central Conf. Amer. Rabbis)

The confession of sins in the Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) Prayer Book is all in the plural: "We have sinned, we have transgressed, we have done iniquity." Men, women and children of all ages unite in reciting a litany of wrong-doing, confessing to every crime in the book.

The message of this practice is plain: We are all knit together in the social fabric. Every sin is our sin. Some may be guilty, but all are responsible; some are implicated, but all are involved.

In this year of Watergate, the whole nation needs this message. Every break-in, every bugging, every lie, every bribe, every illegal contribution, every apathetic shrug of the shoulder, every irritated reaction to those who persisted in uncovering the cover-up, were our sin, our failure, and the corruption of OUR government.

But the confession of Yom Kippur is only its first feature. It is also a Day of Atonement, which the dictionary breaks down into at-one-ment. It is a time to be reconciled with each other, reconciled with our ideals, reconciled with God.

May all America be truly brought together in a devotion to integrity in every aspect of our national life.

Yom Kippur begins at sundown on Friday, October 5)

TEL AVIV (WNS) --Former Premier David Ben Gurion was hospitalized shortly before the Rosh Hashana holidays with a cold accompanied by fever.

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