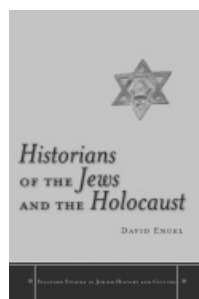


eralized sexual mores, and the desire for family planning. They also note that Fromm's self-image as a thoroughly German citizen-innovator did little to save him from Hitler's grand plan. From exile in England, he watched the theft of his life's work. Many of his relatives died in the camps.

This readable book presents its findings economically and with a fine narrative flair. Bibliography, genealogy, index, notes, photographs. PKJ



HISTORIANS OF THE JEWS AND THE HOLOCAUST

David Engel

Stanford University Press, 2009. 314 pp. \$65.00
ISBN: 978-0-8047-5951-9

Originally published in Hebrew as *Mul har haGa'ash*, David Engel, a professor of Holocaust Studies and European History at NYU, provides us in *Historians of the Jews and the Holocaust* with a brilliant "historiographic study of the tendency of historians of the Holocaust...and historians of the Jews...to construct their fields as two separate realms, each with its own rules and practices, whose border is not readily crossed."

Trained as a historian of Modern Europe with emphasis on Poland, Engel explains in this work his growing interest in "Holocaust Studies" and his realization that the divisions

It will prove to be important to both senior scholars and beginning doctoral students in modern Jewish history.

that separated the two camps were not passing ones "born of momentary circumstance, but [rather] the product of principled position[s] deeply rooted in the professional discourse of Holocaust scholars and historians of the Jews alike."

Engel shows that "reasons for this counter-intuitive situation lie in the evolution of the Jewish historical profession since the 1920's." Here he draws on the writings and professional activities of such scholars as Salo Baron and his students at Columbia University, the Israelis Ben Zion Dinur, Shaul Esh, Jacob

Katz, and Uriel Tal, and the non-Zionist Raul Hilberg to reach his conclusions. Engel's discussion of Yad Vashem's refusal to publish Hilberg's "The Destruction of the Jews" (1961) throws new light on that affair. Engel also discusses with great insight and erudition the inability of non-Zionist writers such as Hannah Arendt and Bruno Bettelheim to influence their Israeli and American and British Zionist counterparts as well as the larger Jewish public following the Eichmann trial.

It will prove to be important to both senior scholars and beginning doctoral students in modern Jewish history. CJR



LETTERS FROM THE LOST: A MEMOIR OF DISCOVERY

Helen Waldstein Wilkes

Athabasca University Press, 2010. 280 pp. \$24.95
ISBN: 978-1-897425-53-4

At the age of sixty, Helen Waldstein Wilkes opened a box that contained letters her parents had received when she was a child. Written by members of her extended family who remained in Europe after Waldstein Wilkes and her parents left Strobnitz, and later Prague, to join her aunt and uncle in Canada in 1939, this deeply personal collection of letters describes the effects of Nazism on everyday life, the constraints of censorship, and the attempts at emigration that were undertaken by those who stayed behind. Strikingly, the post-war correspondence in the collection, a series of five letters written by one of Waldstein Wilkes' only surviving relatives, describes life in Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, the fates of the individuals whose voices are preserved in the previous correspondence, and his attempts to rebuild his life. *Letters from the Lost* includes transcriptions of the letters in the box, which range from April 1939 to September 1945, as well as family photographs, imagined accounts of the thoughts and actions of the author's deceased family members, and accounts of her journeys to the places where the letters were written. In this way, Waldstein Wilkes examines not only what can be learned from the voices that have been passed down to us, but also the immense scope of what was lost. SJ

ISRAEL STUDIES



EXILED IN THE HOMELAND: ZIONISM AND THE RETURN TO MANDATE PALESTINE

Donna Robinson Divine

University of Texas Press, 2009. 256 pp. \$55.00
ISBN: 978-0-292-71982-8

The painful birth of Israel during the first decade of the British Mandate (1919-1929) is beautifully described by Donna Robinson Divine in her aptly titled *Exiled In the Homeland*.

Empathetic but unsparing, she offers a broadly researched view of the harsh formative years of the Jewish State. The author, a Mideast specialist and Smith College professor, sees the nationalist movement of the mid-19th century as the impetus to Israel's creation. Alienated from their ghetto-linked religion, many young Jews were drawn to a nationalist creed of their own, Zionism.

Divine tells how the first of these young people entered the new country, with no money and no agricultural or construction skills. They came dedicated to bringing a utopian society into the world through hard labor. Sadly, they found exhaustion, hunger, and a grim communal existence. The Zionist code required everyone to be gloriously happy in the homeland. Penetrating that pretense by reading diaries, Divine found many immigrants deeply depressed by the impersonal treatment of the Zionist community and their longing for family life and the Jewish holidays.

With refugees pouring in from Europe's turmoil, the ironic twist took place that turned an agrarian, egalitarian society into today's capitalist success. Divine describes early efforts to employ the city dwellers. Factories recreated scenes that recalled the worst work conditions and housing squalor of the Industrial Revolution in the West.

Was it really that bad? A former kibbutz volunteer told this reviewer that he put that question to a German woman who had entered during the early Mandate.

"It was," she agreed, "but suppose they hadn't let us in."

The last chapter should be of special interest to students of labor history and govern-