



Children of Terror

Inge Auerbacher , Bożenna Urbanowicz Gilbride

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Two very young girls, one a Catholic from Poland, the other a Jew from Germany, are caught in a web of terror during World War II. These are their unforgettable true stories. "War does not spare the innocent. Two young girls, one a Catholic from Poland, the other a Jew from Germany, were witnesses to the horror of the Nazi occupation and Hitler's terror in Germany. As children they saw their homes and communities destroyed and loved ones killed. They survived deportation, labor camps, concentration camps, starvation, disease and isolation.

"This is a moving personal account of history. Urbanowicz and Auerbacher's painful pasts and similar experiences should guide us to make correct decisions for the future."

Aldona Wos, M.D.

Ambassador of the United States of America, Retired, to the Republic of Estonia

Daughter of Paul Wos, Flossenbürg

Concentration Camp, Prisoner

Number 23504

"Most Holocaust survivors are no longer with us, and that is why this volume is so important. It is a moving testimony by two courageous women, one Catholic and one Jewish, about their youthful ordeals at the hands of the Nazis. They succeed in ways even the most astute historian cannot - they literally capture history and bring it to life. It is sure to touch all those who read it."

William A. Donohue

President, Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights

"Such an original book, written jointly by both a Jewish survivor and a Polish-Christian survivor of the Holocaust, Children of Terror points the way toward fresh insight, hope and redemption. If "Never again" is to be more than a slogan, tomorrow's adults must be nourished and informed by books such as this. A fabulous piece of work, perfect for the young people who are our future."

Rabbi Dr. Hirsch Joseph Simckes, St. John's University, Department of Theology

"The authors were born in the same year but into different worlds: one a Polish Catholic and the other a German Jew. Despite their dramatically different traditions and circumstances, they shared a common trauma - the confusion and fear of being a child in wartime. Auerbacher and Urbanowicz vividly describe the saving power of family, place, and tradition. Young readers of Children of Terror will come away with a deeper understanding of the Second World War and a profound admiration for the book's authors."

David G. Marwell, Ph.D., Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Children of Terror Details

Date : Published December 3rd 2009 by iUniverse

ISBN : 9781440178092

Author : Inge Auerbacher , Bozenna Urbanowicz Gilbride

Format : Paperback 120 pages

Genre : World War II, Holocaust, History, Nonfiction, War

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From Reader Review Children of Terror for online ebook

April says

This book was very interesting. Although short and not very detailed, it gave an inside glimpse to what children went through during the Nazi regime.

Jan says

Interesting and quite short. Gives two perspectives - shows the incredible scope of the Holocaust.

Jan Peczkis says

A Rarity: Victimhood Competition Truce: Juxtaposed Polish and Jewish Suffering Without Obvious Jewish Objections

This book is unusual in that it juxtaposes the Nazi-related sufferings of a Pole with that of a Jew. There was an earlier such juxtaposition: See the Peczkis review of: Did the Children Cry: Hitler's War Against Jewish and Polish Children, 1939-1945. At that time, some Jews raised a big fuss, evidently believing that Jewish sufferings are above that of all other peoples.

The exclusively Judeocentric definition of the Holocaust, and the near-exclusive attention to Jewish suffering, has prompted some Poles to refer to their genocide as the Polokaust.

THE POLOKAUST STILL LARGELY IGNORED IN FAVOR OF THE HOLOCAUST

Although this book evokes warm feelings in the reader, it should not be overstated. The reader should know the following about one of the authors. Bozena Urbanowicz Gilbride, a Polish WWII victim of the Germans and prominent Holocaust educator, resigned in 2003 from NPAJAC (National Polish-American-Jewish-American Council), because the five million non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust had been marginalized, if not completely ignored.

THE POLE'S WARTIME EXPERIENCES: SURVIVING THE OUN-UPA GENOCIDE

Bozenna Urbanowicz Gilbride's early years were spent in an idyllic rural community in the Kresy (eastern Poland). She had a Ukrainian nanny. [My mother, as a girl, did also. Evidently this was a fairly common practice in the Kresy.].

Gilbride experienced the Soviet and then Nazi invasions, and noted the help that Poles gave to fugitive Jews. (p. 16). Horror engulfed her community in August 1943. Her 9 year-old self went through the Ukrainian

fascist-separatist OUN-UPA genocide of Poles. The Poles tended to sleep in their fields to avoid getting caught and murdered in their beds by the UPA cutthroats. One night, the people slept in their beds. The UPA set fire to their village (Leonowka, near Tuczyn, Rowne (Rovno) County), at both ends of the village. Her family, warned by the knock of a neighbor, managed to flee their homes. Owing to the fact that the wheat plants were tall this time of year, they managed to hide from the UPA murderers.

Multitudes of Polish refugees took to Tuczyn. The Germans gave a small number of arms to the Poles--not enough for adequate defense, but only enough to intensify the killings. (p. 20). The Germans, taking advantage of the situation, offered "refuge" to the Poles in the form of deportation to Nazi Germany for hard labor. As was the case with tens of thousands of Volhynian Poles, who, having no adequate means of defense from the OUN-UPA genocide, Gilbride's family accepted the offer. Gilbride describes her life as a forced laborer, and the privations she went through. Even after their defeat in 1945, the Germans continued to express contempt for Poles. (p. 37).

THE JEW'S WARTIME EXPERIENCES: THE CAMP AT TEREZIN

Inge Auerbacher describes her life in pre-WWII Germany, the rise of the Nazi movement, progressively-increasing hostility to Jews in public attitudes and government policies, Kristallnacht, and her deportation to the Terezin (Theresienstadt) concentration camp. For a time, Terezin was made by the Nazis into an essential Potemkin village--a showcase of Nazi tolerance for Jews. The camp was beautified, and the Red Cross was allowed an inspection in June 1944. (pp. 83-84). In time, however, most of the Jews of Terezin were shipped to Auschwitz-Birkenau for gassing, while many others died from other causes. Auerbacher was part of a relatively small group of Jews who survived the camp. She eventually emigrated to the USA, where she continued to have health problems that lingered for many years after her incarceration.

Claire says

Both girls were victims of Holocaust persecution: one a jew & one a christian. Somewhat parallel experiences.

Chris says

This book is actually two stories. One is the story of Inge Auerbacher who was a Jewish child during WW II. Her family lived in Germany, and her father was a WW I hero. The second is the story of Bozemuna Gilbride, a Polish Catholic, who was a child during WW II.

Gilbride's story is the first one in the book. In many ways, her story is more disturbing than Auerbacher. Forced to leave their home, Gilbride's family is made forced labor and are separated. Auerbacher's family also suffered, and it is, understandably, a different type of suffering.

It isn't a book of who suffered more, but it is a book that seems to look at the different types of attacks during WW II. While the material is not always present, the books could easily be read by young adults, and present a wider scope than most Holocaust literature because it does present two different stories.

Each story also includes a brief section of life after the war.

Carrie says

The story of two girls during World War II - one Catholic and Polish, one Jewish and German. Both were interred in the Concentration Camps, both survived. Interesting story

Catherine Sandy says

During the Holocaust, in addition to the 6 million Jews killed, there were 5 million others who were killed. among these were millions of Christian Polish people. This book tells the story of a Jewish girl and a Polish girl during this time.

Kelly Gressley says

Enjoyed reading how this two girls grew up in not so pleasant time in their family lives.

Faydra D. Fields says

This book was written by two ladies who became friends in America, who both suffered under the Nazi occupation in Europe.

The twist is that only one of the ladies is Jewish. The other is a Polish Christian.

Many of us are quite aware of the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. I liked this book because it requires that you consider what happened to the other 5 million people who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

It's interesting how similar their experiences were, even though one lady is Jewish and one lady is a Christian.

I think you will find the book interesting.
