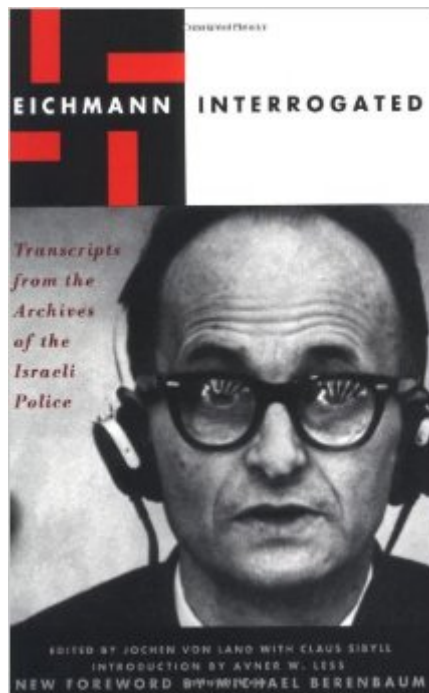


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Eichmann Interrogated: Transcripts From The Archives Of The Israeli Police



Synopsis

As head of the Gestapo's "Jewish Evacuation Department," Lieutenant Colonel Adolf Eichmann (1906-1962) was the driving force in the impoverishment, deportation, and extermination of millions of Jews. In 1945 he escaped with a Vatican passport and fled to South America. In May 1960 the Israelis located and kidnapped Eichmann from Argentina, and brought him to trial in Israel, where he was convicted and hanged, his remains cremated and scattered. For nearly a year prior to his trial Eichmann was interrogated by Captain Avner W. Less, a German Jew whose father and numerous relatives perished in Nazi concentration camps. Eichmann Interrogated is a superbly edited condensation of their 275-hour exchange, representing ten percent of the 3,564-page total. Amid his lies, distortions, evasions, half-truths, and startling admissions, Eichmann fully acknowledges the reality of the Holocaust while attempting to minimize his central role in its execution. As his life from traveling salesman to mass murderer unfolds, Eichmann's defense becomes a chilling self-indictment and a warning of Evil's often unassuming visage.

Book Information

Paperback: 328 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; First Thus edition (May 6, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0306809168

ISBN-13: 978-0306809163

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 5.4 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #723,874 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Holocaust](#) #534 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Law Enforcement](#) #608 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Germany](#)

Customer Reviews

Adolf Eichmann made many statements when interviewed, and this review only touches on a few topics. One of these is the personal philosophy of Eichmann, including his rejection of Christianity: "More and more I came to the conclusion that God can't possibly be as small as in the Bible stories. I thought I had found my own belief. And I read Schopenhauer, who says the way of religious faith is safer and the way of freedom is a dangerous way, which the individual must perpetually work out for

himself. I said to myself: The God I believe in is greater than the Christian God." (p. 39). Eichmann also touches on the early days of the Nazi Party: "Yes, Herr Hauptmann, of course there was hatred of the Jews in it. But in those days there were lots of party members with Jewish relatives by blood or marriage. I myself knew an SS-Scharfuhrer who was a Jew...I said to him: Good God, man, there's nothing I can do for you. The only advice I can give you is: Clear out, go to Switzerland or somewhere else, because it's no good for you here, it's no good, it's hopeless." (p. 41). The idea of sending Europe's Jews to Madagascar has at times been mistakenly attributed to the Poles. In actuality, this idea goes back to one of the early pioneers of Zionism. As Eichmann explains: "I remembered Theodor Herzl's efforts to bring about a Jewish state, described by Adolf Bohm, and that at one time Herzl had considered plans for Madagascar." (p. 65). After being asked by interrogator Avner W. Less if he got the idea from a Polish commission that had visited Madagascar in 1937, Eichmann replied: "No, never, never, never. I got the idea from Theodor Herzl." (p. 69).

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