

The Origins of the Final Solution – The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy 1939-1942.
By Christopher R. Browning with a contribution by Jürgen Matthäus.
William Heinemann 2004.

The Holocaust – Theoretical Readings. Edited by Neil Levi and Michael Rothberg.
Edinburgh University press 2003.

My Wounded Heart – The Life of Lilli Jahn 1900-1944.
Bloomsbury 2004.

Christopher Browning's previous works, particularly *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, established his reputation as one of the foremost current scholars of the Nazi genocide of the Jews. With *The Origins of the Final Solution* he has cemented that reputation and produced a work the ten chapters of which are replete with information and analysis about a crucial period of four years which saw ideas about marginalization, persecution, and expulsion, become concretised as a highly organised system of mass murder. This book is an essential for anyone seeking to gain a detailed understanding of how the Nazis developed their evil ideas and transformed them into a terrible reality.

The Holocaust – Theoretical Readings, is a highly intelligent collection of writings in eleven sections from contributors such as Jean Améry, Zygmunt Bauman, Saul Friedlander, Emil Fackenheim, Jacques Derrida and Peter Novick. While some of the pieces have already been published elsewhere their juxtaposition with the works of others under such headings as Historicizing the Holocaust, Race, Gender and Genocide, Rethinking Visual Culture and Uniqueness, Comparison, and the Politics of Memory gives them renewed power and provocativeness. This anthology is a source of information, argument and debate that will sustain readers and students of the subject for years to come.

My Wounded Heart leaves the theory and plunges the reader into the awful reality of a brave Jewish woman, a doctor, who married a non-Jew in 1926, gave him five children, was divorced by him in 1942 and died in Auschwitz two years later. Her story is told through a series of deeply touching and heart-breakingly poignant letters, written by and to her from the time of her arrest until her death. This is also the story of the impact of the discovery of the letters after the death of her son Gerhard in 1998, and the impact of their discovery and publication in Germany. Powerful and moving, *My Wounded Heart* is another memoir of a terrible period of inhumanity, and a microcosm of the macrocosm that changed the Jewish world forever in the space of a few years.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh