



# A HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

YEHUDA  
BAUER

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# PREFACE

**T**he realization has been growing, in academic circles as well as elsewhere, that the Holocaust must be considered a watershed event in modern history. By watershed event is meant a historical occurrence that is in some sense radically new, an occurrence that changes human perspective. As historical event, the Holocaust can be understood from various disciplinary points. However, to approach the Holocaust from literary, philosophical, or theological points of view, it first must be understood historically—what actually happened. From the facts, some possible conclusions might be formulated as to “why.”

To place the events of the Holocaust in historical perspective, we must first look backward to the history of the Jewish people and their relationship to the non-Jewish world and to antisemitism in ancient, medieval, and modern times. The period of the Holocaust itself is understood in this book to be essentially the period of 1933 to 1945. However, because the

immediate aftereffects of the Holocaust—the events of 1945 to 1948 and the establishment of the State of Israel—are equally pertinent, the immediate political, demographic, and sociological consequences are also included. A selected bibliography is included and more detailed bibliographies can be found in most works cited.

I am deeply grateful to Nili Keren, who participated in the writing of this book, for her help and her patience.

*Yehuda Bauer  
Kibbutz Shoal,  
Israel*

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