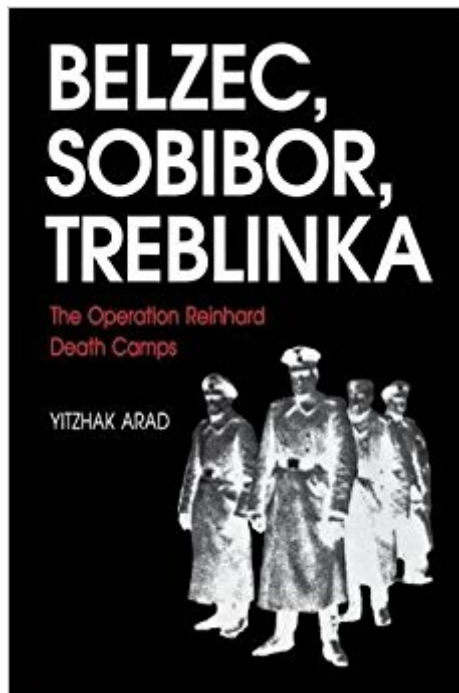




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# Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka: The Operation Reinhard Death Camps



## Synopsis

"... Mr. Arad reports as a controlled and effective witness for the prosecution.... Mr. Arad's book, with its abundance of horrifying detail, reminds us of how far we have to go." •New York Times Book Review"... some of the most gripping chapters I have ever read.... the authentic, exhaustive, definitive account of the least known death camps of the Nazi era." •Raul HilbergArad, historian and principal prosecution witness at the Israeli trial of John Demjanjuk (accused of being Treblinka's infamous "Ivan the Terrible"), uses primary materials to reveal the complete story of these Nazi death camps.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With meticulous scholarship and precise exposition Tel Aviv historian and Yad Vashem director Arad recounts all facets of Operation Reinhard, the destruction of 1.5 million Jews in occupied Poland from 1941 to 1943. Arad describes the founding, organization, personnel, prisoners, and victims of the three death camps and provides detailed chapters on the uprisings and escapes from Treblinka and Sobibor. He effectively employs extensive excerpts from Jewish, Polish, and German contemporary documents and later testimony by witnesses and participants. Arad is scrupulously careful to point out the limits of the available evidence. This comprehensive, judicious, and moving history is a remarkable contribution to Holocaust studies and is strongly recommended for academic and public libraries. James B. Street, Santa Cruz P.L., Cal.Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Drawing on a wealth of evidence ... [Arad] lets the terrible record speak for itself... Mr. Arad reports as a controlled and effective witness for the prosecution... Mr. Arad's book, with its abundance of horrifying detail, reminds us of how far we have to go." New York Times Book Review " ... some of the most gripping chapters I have ever read... the authentic, exhaustive, definitive account of the least known death camps of the Nazi era." Raul Hilberg

A thorough, well-researched account of the often forgotten death camps that in a relatively short time claimed nearly 2 million lives. This book helps to promote the awareness necessary for the many lives lost in Operation Reinhard camps. Unlike Auschwitz and the German concentration camps, there were very few survivors to document the horrors of these camps and their role in the Holocaust. This book which provides an account of the efforts made by courageous individuals against insurmountable odds to defy the final solution, also raises questions about the actions or inactions of the local population.

This book is one of the more detailed examinations that exposes the darkest chapter in the history of humanity, namely Operation Reinhard and the establishment of extermination centres at Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka. Well researched, this book details the wholesale genocide of the Jews in the General Government area of Poland. Often in thinking about the Holocaust, Auschwitz springs to mind as the mother of all extermination camps, yet the horrors and atrocities inflicted upon the Jews in Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka must surely equal if not surpass those that occurred in Auschwitz.

The level of scholarship and precision by the author does testament to the chilling tale he chronicles. Again, I am amazed at the bureaucratic details debated by various forces within Nazi Germany as they sort through the massive task of efficiently transporting, eliminating, and erasing the evidence of the existence of nearly two million Jews during wartime. There are petty concerns, logistical issues, and "normal" human emotions felt by these bureaucrats despite the ungodly and horrific mission to which they have been assigned. Having just watched the excellent "Escape from Sobibor," I also found the escapes at Treblinka and Sobibor to be told in thrilling, masterful detail. You do truly feel as if you were there, with the brave heroes who risked all to end these death camps. In several ways the stories of these death camps are grimmer even than that of Auschwitz. For one thing, their story is largely untold and unknown, even to many Jews. Second, there was no "work" component to these camps -- the Jews were tricked into thinking they were at a transit camp

on their way East, merely getting deloused along the way. The Nazis were proud of their crowd control technology, which was perfected over time, to truly evil results. The scholarship preserved here, once learned, is unforgettable.

The book is excellent and concise. The matter is throughout researched by author. Operation Reinhard had been planned and executed by few SS men. Secrecy and sheer brutality of the operation succeeded in extermination of Polish Jews. Recommended to anyone who has interest in the matter.

I got this to update my historical knowledge about the holocaust. Almost everyone have heard of Auschwitz, but these death camps and what happened is not so well known. You will find information from many perspectives in this book. From the men who organized and ran these camps, how the the transportation was organized; to those who stayed there and survived. It is a very strong book, and I had to read it in two parts. Taking it all in at once was just too much. It feels strange to give a "i like it review", since the information in the book is so disturbing.

This is definitely a 5-star book on this topic as it is so well researched one can much better understand the ins and outs from both sides of the infamous Reinhard operation. BST is a must-read account of a major XXth century crime. Mr. Arad has been the Director of the Yad Vashem Museum for over 20 years and his masterful expertise about this history makes the reading unbelievably fascinating. The reading of this book is recommended to anyone as this relates an important part of the universal recent history.

This book offers the reader the opportunity to envision the personal tragedies suffered by the innocent victims of Nazi atrocities. These camps of Hell were initiated by an evil regime that vowed 1000 years of tyranny. In total, 12 years of horror driven by madmen was a daily survival test of endurance.

It seemed that for years the only widely available book about any of these camps was Jean Francoise Steiners reprehensible "Treblinka" which, though marketed as a history, is clearly a work of fiction. This book by Yitzhak Arad was one of the first well researched, documented and presented books on the subject for me, when I happened upon it at the public library. I am glad to finally own a copy, as it is not only fascinating (though disturbing) reading cover to cover, it is also a

good reference. Arad presents the material in such a way so that both the dry details and the ground zero experience of mass murder are experienced. His book drives home the astonishing fact that nearly one third of the Jews murdered during the Holocaust were killed at these three camps during a roughly nineteen month period. These killings were accomplished, at the camps themselves, by approximately 400 officers and auxiliary workers, with the unwilling assistance of doomed slave labor. Arad also provides an accurate reconstruction of the uprisings at Treblinka and Sobibor, and relates the lesser known history of the camps after the escapes. Anyone who only thinks of the Holocaust in terms of German concentration camps or Auschwitz should have a look at this book, as it is an eye opener. For any serious student of the Shoah, it is indispensable.

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