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Women Studies Abstracts
Women of
the Whole World
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Lessons and Legacies VII
Days of Remembrance, April 18-25, 1993
Women in World
History
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ravensbrück was the only major nazi concentration camp for women located about fifty miles north of berlin the camp was the site of murder by slave labor torture starvation shooting lethal injection medical experimentation and gassing while this camp was designed to hold 5 000 women the actual figure was six times this number between 1939 and 1945 132 000 women from twenty three countries were imprisoned in ravensbrück including

political prisoners Jehovah's Witnesses socialists including gypsies prostitutes and lesbians criminals and Jewish women who made up about 20 percent of the population only 15 000 survived drawing upon more than sixty narratives and interviews of survivors in the United States Israel and Europe as well as unpublished testimonies documents and photographs from private archives Rochelle Saidel provides a vivid collective and individual portrait of Ravensbrück's Jewish women prisoners she worked for over twenty years to track down these women whose poignant testimonies deserve to be shared with a wider audience and future generations their memoirs provide new perspectives and information about satellite camps there were about 70 slave labor sub camps here is the story of real daily camp life with the women's thoughts about food friendships fear of rape and sexual abuse hygiene issues punishment work and resistance Saidel includes accounts of the women's treatment their daily struggles to survive their hopes and fears their friendships their survival strategies and the aftermath on April 30 1945 the Soviet Army liberated Ravensbrück they found only 3 000 extremely ill women in the camp because the Nazis had sent other remaining women on a death march the Jewish Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp reclaims the lost voices of the victims and restores the personal accounts of the survivors

From August 1942 to April 1945 Siemens Halske AG maintained its own so called production facility adjacent to the Ravensbrück women's concentration camp where up to 2 300 female prisoners were deployed in forced labor this volume contains excerpts from letters witness statements arrest reports diaries compensation claims autobiographies and interviews from Ravensbrück survivors who were forced to work in the armaments factory the texts shed light on the system of forced labor in the context of the concentration camp questions of discouragement and hope as well as the women's will for self assertion and resistance

Winner of the Longman History Today Book Prize a profoundly moving chronicle observer that tells the story of Ravensbrück the only concentration camp designed specifically for women using new testimony from survivors on a sunny morning in May 1939 a phalanx of 800 women housewives doctors opera singers politicians prostitutes were marched through the woods fifty miles north of Berlin driven on past a shining lake then herded through giant gates whipping and kicking them were scores of German women guards their destination was Ravensbrück a concentration camp designed specifically for women by Heinrich Himmler prime architect of the Nazi genocide for decades the story of Ravensbrück was hidden behind the iron curtain and today is still little known using testimony unearthed since the end of the cold war and interviews with survivors who have never spoken before Helm has

ventured into the heart of the camp demonstrating for the reader in riveting detail how easily and quickly the unthinkable horror evolved it not only fills a gap in holocaust history but it is an utterly compelling read taylor downing history today a sense of urgency infuses this history which comes just in time to gather the testimony of the camp s survivors meticulous unblinking helm s book comes not a moment too soon the economist

the encyclopedia of women in world history captures the experiences of women throughout world history in a comprehensive 4 volume work although there has been extensive research on women in history by region no text or reference work has comprehensively covered the role women have played throughout world history the past thirty years have seen an explosion of research and effort to present the experiences and contributions of women not only in the western world but across the globe historians have investigated womens daily lives in virtually every region and have researched the leadership roles women have filled across time and region they have found and demonstrated that there is virtually no historical social or demographic change in which women have not been involved and by which their lives have not been affected the oxford encyclopedia of women in world history benefits greatly from these efforts and experiences and illuminates how women worldwide have influenced and been influenced by these historical social and demographic changes the encyclopedia contains over 1 250 signed articles arranged in an a z format for ease of use the entries cover six main areas biographies geography and history comparative culture and society including adoption abortion performing arts organizations and movements such as the egyptian uprising and the paris commune womens and gender studies and topics in world history that include slave trade globalization and disease with its rich and insightful entries by leading scholars and experts this reference work is sure to be a valued go to resource for scholars college and high school students and general readers alike

a masterly and moving account of the most horrific hidden atrocity of world war ii ravensbrück the only nazi concentration camp built for women on a sunny morning in may 1939 a phalanx of 867 women housewives doctors opera singers politicians prostitutes was marched through the woods fifty miles north of berlin driven on past a shining lake then herded in through giant gates whipping and kicking them were scores of german women guards their destination was ravensbrück a concentration camp designed specifically for women by heinrich himmler prime architect of the holocaust by the end of the war 130 000 women from more than twenty different european countries had been imprisoned there among the prominent names were geneviève de gaulle general de gaulle s

niece and gemma la guardia gluck sister of the wartime mayor of new york only a small number of these women were jewish ravenstrück was largely a place for the nazis to eliminate other inferior beings social outcasts gypsies political enemies foreign resisters the sick the disabled and the mad over six years the prisoners endured beatings torture slave labor starvation and random execution in the final months of the war ravenstrück became an extermination camp estimates of the final death toll by april 1945 have ranged from 30 000 to 90 000 for decades the story of ravenstrück was hidden behind the iron curtain and today it is still little known using testimony unearthed since the end of the cold war and interviews with survivors who have never talked before sarah helm has ventured into the heart of the camp demonstrating for the reader in riveting detail how easily and quickly the unthinkable horror evolved far more than a catalog of atrocities however ravenstrück is also a compelling account of what one survivor called the heroism superhuman tenacity and exceptional willpower to survive for every prisoner whose strength failed another found the will to resist through acts of self sacrifice and friendship as well as sabotage protest and escape while the core of this book is told from inside the camp the story also sheds new light on the evolution of the wider genocide the impotence of the world to respond and himmler s final attempt to seek a separate peace with the allies using the women of ravenstrück as a bargaining chip chilling inspiring and deeply unsettling ravenstrück is a groundbreaking work of historical investigation with rare clarity it reminds us of the capacity of humankind both for bestial cruelty and for courage against all odds

despite some pioneering work by scholars historians still find it hard to listen to the voices of women in the holocaust learning more about the women who both survived and did not survive the nazi genocide through the testimony of the women themselves not only increases our understanding of this terrible period in history but makes us rethink our relationship to the gendered nature of knowledge itself women in the holocaust is about the ways in which socially and culturally constructed gender roles were placed under extreme pressure yet also about the fact that gender continued to operate as an important arbiter of experience indeed paradoxically enough the extreme conditions of the holocaust even of the death camps may have reinforced the importance of gender whilst jewish men and women were both sentenced to death gender nevertheless operated as a crucial signifier for survival pregnant women as well as women accompanied by young children or those deemed incapable of hard labor were sent straight to the gas chambers the very qualities which made them women were manipulated and exploited by the nazis as a source of dehumanization moreover women were less likely to survive the camps even if they were not selected for death gender in the holocaust therefore became a matter of life and death

presents a case study of the ravenbruck concentration camp the only nazi camp in germany specifically designed for women it successfully blends the larger history of nazi germany with the women s experiences interspersing the text with illustrations done mostly by camp inmates

the extraordinary true story of a small group of frenchwomen all resistance members who banded together in a notorious concentration camp to defy the nazis from the new york times bestselling author of madame fourcade s secret war at once heartbreaking and beautifully told this is a masterwork of nonfiction a must read for anyone who wants more of the incredible true story behind lilac girls martha hall kelly author of lilac girls decades after the end of world war ii the name ravenbrück still evokes horror for those with knowledge of this infamous all women s concentration camp better known since it became the setting of martha hall kelly s bestselling novel lilac girls particularly shocking were the medical experiments performed on some of the inmates ravenbrück was atypical in other ways as well not just as the only all female german concentration camp but because 80 percent of its inmates were political prisoners among them a tight knit group of women who had been active in the french resistance already well practiced in sabotaging the nazis in occupied france these women joined forces to defy their german captors and keep one another alive the sisterhood s members amid unimaginable terror and brutality subverted germany s war effort by refusing to do assigned work they risked death for any infraction but that did not stop them from defying their ss tormentors at every turn even staging a satirical musical revue about the horrors of the camp after the war when many in france wanted to focus only on the future the women from ravenbrück refused to allow their achievements needs and sacrifices to be erased they banded together once more first to support one another in healing their bodies and minds and then to continue their crusade for freedom and justice an effort that would have repercussions for their country and the world into the twenty first century

rosa manus 1881 1942 uncovers the life of dutch feminist and peace activist rosa manus co founder of the women s international league for peace and freedom vice president of the international alliance of women and founding president of the international archives for the women s movement iav in amsterdam revealing its rootedness in manus s radical secular jewishness because the nazis looted the iav 1940 including manus s large personal archive and subsequently arrested 1941 and murdered her 1942 rosa manus has been almost unknown to later generations this collective biography offers essays based on new and in depth research on pictures and documents from her archives returned to amsterdam in 2003 as well as other primary sources it thus restores manus to the history from

which the nazis attempted to erase her contributors include margot badran mineke bosch ellen carol dubois myriam everard karen garner francisca de haan dagmar wernitznig and annika wilmers the volume touches on all of the important themes of that history the centrality of peace activism the impact of the world wars and the rise of fascism the tensions over imperialism and nationalist resistance in colonized countries the importance of resources to the persistence of the movement the vital glue of intimate relationships and brings to the fore additional ones including the role of jewish women the centrality of dutch feminists in transnational feminism and the struggle over preserving the history of the movement leila j rupp university of california santa barbara in women s history review 2018

accompanying cd rom includes the names of all known jewish prisoners of ravensbreuck

ravensbruck located 80km north of berlin was the only major nazi concentration camp built for women its history constitutes a crossroads in the various stages of the third reich s persecution of women accused of offending the nazi state and of those ethnically and racially persecuted women from different social strata national ethnic and religious origins were forced to live together under the most extreme conditions within the social system created by the ss from its first days until its liberation thousands of jewish women girls and children were among ravensbruck s prisoners they were part of the camp s population even when the industrial mass killing was exported to the east and germany including its concentration camps was to be freed of all jews against the overall background of the nazi concentration camps and holocaust historiography this collection of essays provides a socio historical in depth analysis of the singularity of the female jewish experience by focusing on the jewish experience in the microcosm of ravensbruck through maintaining the connection to the system and the surroundings both inside and outside the camp as well as the individual voices of the victims these essays avoid the kind of representation that distances us from the actual events alongside a range of testimonies that span more than six decades various types of documentation and source material are thoroughly analysed these outline the general as well as the social history of the jewish prisoners within the overall representation of the camp their numbers are assessed the nazi bureaucratic mechanism is exposed and the experiences of jewish women and children as prisoners survivors and subsequent immigrants is detailed the volume is the fruit of a bi national research team of sociologists and historians from the tel aviv university the freie university berlin and the memorial site in ravensbruck book jacket

here for the first time in the historiography of the holocaust is the story of an international forced labour camp for women the largest of the auxiliary women s camps attached to kz buchenwald in germany it was the place where the jewish prisoners sang the satiric camp anthem hasag is our father the best father there is he promises us long years of happiness in leipzig a paradise on earth was hasag leipzig really a paradise compared to other nazi installations in terms of the treatment of prisoners and their living conditions this study provides answers to this question as it depicts the camp for 5 500 from 18 countries among them 1 200 jewish prisoners brought there from poland special attention is paid here to the cultural activities adding a refreshing new dimension to the scholarly work bringing the reader closer to the alien unfamiliar world known as the hasag leipzig women s camp

in the courtroom and the classroom in popular media public policy and scholarly pursuits the holocaust its origins its nature and its implications remains very much a matter of interest debate and controversy arriving at a time when a new generation must come to terms with the legacy of the holocaust or forever lose the benefit of its historical social and moral lessons this volume offers a richly varied deeply informed perspective on the practice interpretation and direction of holocaust research now and in the future in their essays the authors an international group including eminent senior scholars as well those who represent the future of the field set the agenda for holocaust studies in the coming years even as they give readers the means for understanding today s news and views of the holocaust whether in court cases involving victims and perpetrators international national and corporate developments or fictional documentary and historical accounts several of the essays such as one on nonarmed amidah or resistance and others on the role of gender in the behavior of perpetrators and victims provide innovative and potentially significant interpretive frameworks for the field of holocaust studies others for instance the rounding up of jews in italy nazi food policy in eastern europe and nazi anti jewish scholarship emphasize the importance of new sources for reconstructing the historical record still others including essays on the 1964 frankfurt trial of auschwitz guards and on the response of the catholic church to the question of german guilt bring a new depth and sophistication to highly charged sharply politicized topics together these essays will inform the future of the holocaust in scholarly research and in popular understanding publisher s description

introduces the history of jewish holocaust and provides information on planning commemorative programs

presents biographical profiles of significant women from throughout the history of the world each with birth and

death dates when known a time line quotation and references arranged alphabetically from maa mei

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