

who will write our history kassow

who will write our history kassow is a pivotal question that reflects on the preservation and interpretation of historical narratives, especially those concerning the Holocaust. The phrase originates from the acclaimed work by historian Samuel D. Kassow, who meticulously compiled the extraordinary diary-maintained chronicles of the Warsaw Ghetto. This article explores the significance of Kassow's contribution, the broader context of Holocaust historiography, and the ongoing challenges of documenting history accurately. Understanding who will write our history Kassow is essential for appreciating how personal testimonies, archival research, and scholarly analysis intersect to shape collective memory. This discussion will delve into Kassow's methodology, the impact of the Ringelblum Archive, and the implications for contemporary historical writing. Additionally, the article addresses the evolving role of historians in confronting difficult pasts and ensuring that history is neither forgotten nor distorted. The following sections provide a comprehensive overview of these themes and their relevance in today's historical discourse.

- The Historical Context of "Who Will Write Our History"
- Samuel D. Kassow and His Contribution
- The Ringelblum Archive: A Testament to Resistance
- Challenges in Holocaust Historiography
- The Role of Historians in Shaping Collective Memory
- Implications for Contemporary Historical Writing

The Historical Context of "Who Will Write Our History"

The phrase "who will write our history" originates from a poignant inquiry posed during one of the darkest periods of the 20th century—the Holocaust. It encapsulates the urgent need to document the experiences of Jewish communities facing annihilation under Nazi persecution. The question was famously associated with Emanuel Ringelblum, a Polish-Jewish historian and social worker who took on the monumental task of chronicling life within the Warsaw Ghetto. Amidst the horrors of war, Ringelblum and his collaborators sought to preserve firsthand accounts, official documents, and cultural artifacts to ensure that future generations would understand the reality of their lived experiences. This endeavor highlighted the broader issue of historical documentation during times of crisis and the responsibility borne by those who survive to bear witness. The phrase itself has since become emblematic of efforts to preserve marginalized voices and fight historical erasure.

The Warsaw Ghetto and the Need for Documentation

The Warsaw Ghetto, established by Nazi Germany in 1940, was the largest Jewish ghetto in Europe. It became a site of immense suffering, resistance, and tragedy. The oppressive conditions and

systematic deportations to extermination camps underscored the importance of documenting daily life and atrocities. The Ringelblum Archive, compiled under clandestine circumstances, served as a vital repository of Jewish history during this period. In this context, the question "who will write our history" was not only rhetorical but a call to action to preserve truth against the backdrop of genocide.

Samuel D. Kassow and His Contribution

Samuel D. Kassow is a renowned historian specializing in Jewish history and Holocaust studies, particularly recognized for his seminal work titled "Who Will Write Our History?" Kassow's scholarship brought to light the extraordinary efforts of Emanuel Ringelblum and the clandestine group known as Oyneg Shabbos, who curated the Warsaw Ghetto archives. Through meticulous research and archival study, Kassow reconstructed the narrative of these historians' courageous work, contextualizing it within broader historical and cultural frameworks. His contribution has been instrumental in expanding public and academic understanding of Jewish resistance through documentation during the Holocaust.

Kassow's Methodology and Research Approach

Kassow's approach combined rigorous archival research with an interdisciplinary perspective, incorporating sociology, history, and Jewish studies. He analyzed original documents, testimonies, and secondary sources to piece together a comprehensive account of the Oyneg Shabbos project. By focusing on the human dimension of historical preservation, Kassow highlighted the importance of individual and collective memory in the face of systematic destruction. His work underscores how history is not only written by victors but also by those who resist through the written word.

Impact on Holocaust Studies and Public Awareness

The publication of Kassow's research significantly influenced Holocaust scholarship by emphasizing the role of grassroots historical documentation. It brought attention to the complexities of memory, identity, and survival during genocidal violence. Additionally, Kassow's work has inspired educational programs, exhibitions, and documentaries, thereby broadening public engagement with Holocaust history and the ethical imperatives of remembrance.

The Ringelblum Archive: A Testament to Resistance

The Ringelblum Archive, known as the Oyneg Shabbos Archive, represents one of the most remarkable examples of resistance through historical documentation during the Holocaust. Conceived by Emanuel Ringelblum and his collaborators, the archive contained thousands of documents, including diaries, reports, essays, and artwork that detailed life in the Warsaw Ghetto. These materials were secretly collected and buried in metal boxes and milk cans, intended to survive the destruction of the Jewish community and serve as a permanent record.

Contents and Significance of the Archive

The archive included a diverse range of materials:

- Personal diaries and eyewitness accounts
- Official Nazi documents and decrees
- Reports on social, cultural, and economic conditions
- Artwork and poetry reflecting the spirit and suffering of the ghetto inhabitants
- Documentation of resistance activities and communal organization

This extensive collection provides an unparalleled window into the daily lives and struggles of Jewish people under Nazi oppression. It stands as a powerful testament to resilience and the determination to preserve truth despite existential threats.

Discovery and Preservation

After World War II, portions of the Ringelblum Archive were recovered, though much was lost or damaged. The recovered materials were preserved in museums and archives, serving as critical resources for historians, educators, and descendants of Holocaust survivors. The archive's survival symbolizes the triumph of memory over oblivion and reinforces the importance of archival preservation in historical scholarship.

Challenges in Holocaust Historiography

Holocaust historiography faces numerous challenges stemming from the scope, complexity, and sensitivity of the subject matter. Accurately documenting and interpreting such a catastrophic event requires confronting issues related to source reliability, survivor testimony, and the evolving nature of historical evidence. The question of who will write our history Kassow highlights the ethical and methodological dilemmas faced by historians working with traumatic and often fragmented records.

Issues of Source Authenticity and Bias

Historical sources related to the Holocaust vary widely in origin and perspective, including official Nazi records, survivor testimonies, and underground documents like the Ringelblum Archive. Historians must critically evaluate these sources for authenticity, potential bias, and context. The clandestine nature of many documents complicates verification but also offers unique insights unavailable elsewhere.

The Role of Survivor Testimonies

Survivor testimonies are invaluable for humanizing historical events and providing personal perspectives. However, memory can be influenced by trauma, time, and narrative shaping. Balancing respect for these accounts with critical historiographical methods remains a central challenge in Holocaust studies.

The Role of Historians in Shaping Collective Memory

Historians serve as custodians of collective memory, shaping how societies remember and understand their past. The inquiry embodied in *who will write our history* Kassow reflects the historian's responsibility to preserve marginalized voices and confront historical denial or distortion. Through research, writing, and public engagement, historians influence education, commemoration, and cultural identity.

Ethical Responsibilities

Historians must navigate ethical issues such as representing victims' experiences accurately, avoiding sensationalism, and recognizing the political implications of historical narratives. In the context of Holocaust history, this includes combating denial and ensuring that the lessons of the past inform present and future generations.

Educational and Cultural Impact

Historical scholarship informs curricula, museum exhibitions, and media portrayals, thereby shaping public understanding. The work of Samuel D. Kassow and others has helped integrate the stories preserved in the Ringelblum Archive into mainstream Holocaust education, fostering a deeper appreciation for the complexities of resistance and memory.

Implications for Contemporary Historical Writing

The legacy of *who will write our history* Kassow extends beyond Holocaust studies, offering valuable lessons for contemporary historical writing. It underscores the importance of inclusive narratives, archival preservation, and the courageous efforts of those who document history under adverse conditions. Modern historians continue to grapple with how best to represent diverse experiences and maintain rigorous standards of evidence.

Incorporating Multiple Perspectives

Contemporary historiography increasingly values multi-vocality, recognizing that history is enriched by including perspectives from different communities, genders, and social groups. This approach helps prevent monolithic narratives and promotes a more nuanced understanding of past events.

The Role of Technology and Digital Archives

Advancements in technology have transformed historical research and preservation. Digital archives and online databases make materials more accessible and facilitate new forms of analysis. These tools support the ongoing mission embodied in the question who will write our history Kassow, ensuring that history remains vibrant and accessible.

Key Takeaways for Historians

1. Commitment to preserving marginalized voices and firsthand accounts.
2. Rigorous evaluation of sources to maintain historical accuracy.
3. Ethical sensitivity in representing traumatic histories.
4. Utilization of interdisciplinary methods and technological tools.
5. Engagement with public history to foster collective memory.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of 'Who Will Write Our History' Kassow?

The author of 'Who Will Write Our History' is Dr. Samuel D. Kassow, a historian specializing in Jewish history.

What is the main subject of 'Who Will Write Our History' by Kassow?

'Who Will Write Our History' focuses on the secret archives of the Warsaw Ghetto, documenting Jewish resistance and life during the Holocaust.

When was 'Who Will Write Our History' by Kassow published?

The book 'Who Will Write Our History' was published in 2007.

Why is the title 'Who Will Write Our History' significant?

The title reflects the efforts of the Oyneg Shabes group in the Warsaw Ghetto who aimed to preserve the truth about Jewish experiences during the Holocaust for future generations.

Has 'Who Will Write Our History' by Kassow been adapted into other media?

Yes, the book inspired a documentary film titled 'Who Will Write Our History,' which was released in 2018.

What sources did Kassow use to write 'Who Will Write Our History'?

Kassow used the secret archives of the Oyneg Shabes group, survivor testimonies, and historical documents to write the book.

How has 'Who Will Write Our History' by Kassow contributed to Holocaust studies?

Kassow's work has shed light on Jewish resistance and the importance of preserving historical truth, providing valuable insights and primary source material in Holocaust scholarship.

Additional Resources

1. *Who Will Write Our History? Rediscovering the Warsaw Ghetto Chronicle* by Samuel D. Kassow

This book uncovers the story of the secret archive created by the Warsaw Ghetto's Jewish inhabitants during World War II. Kassow explores how a group of intellectuals documented their lives under Nazi occupation, preserving firsthand accounts of suffering, resistance, and hope. It highlights the importance of memory and the power of historical testimony.

2. *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank

A poignant and personal account of a young Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II. Anne's diary details the fears, hopes, and daily life of those in hiding, offering a deeply human perspective on the Holocaust. It remains one of the most powerful and widely read testimonies of the era.

3. *Night* by Elie Wiesel

A harrowing memoir of Elie Wiesel's experiences in Nazi concentration camps, including Auschwitz and Buchenwald. This book provides a stark, unflinching look at the horrors of the Holocaust and the struggle to maintain faith and humanity amidst unimaginable cruelty. Wiesel's narrative is a profound reflection on suffering and survival.

4. *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl

Written by a Holocaust survivor and psychiatrist, this book explores how finding purpose can help individuals endure extreme suffering. Frankl recounts his experiences in concentration camps while presenting his psychological theory of logotherapy. It is both a memoir and a guide to resilience through meaning.

5. *The Holocaust: A New History* by Laurence Rees

This comprehensive history provides a detailed overview of the Holocaust, drawing on eyewitness testimonies and archival research. Rees examines the origins, implementation, and aftermath of the genocide, offering insight into the human stories behind the statistics. The book is accessible yet

deeply informative.

6. *Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto: The Jewish Combat Organization* by Israel Gutman
Focusing on the armed resistance within the Warsaw Ghetto, this book tells the story of the Jewish Combat Organization (ŻOB). It highlights the courage and determination of fighters who stood against overwhelming Nazi forces during the 1943 uprising. Gutman's research sheds light on an often overlooked aspect of Holocaust history.

7. *The Hidden Children: The Secret Survivors of the Holocaust* by Jane Marks
This book explores the experiences of Jewish children who survived the Holocaust by being hidden with non-Jewish families or in institutions. Marks documents their stories of survival, loss, and identity, revealing the complex aftermath of the war for the youngest victims. It emphasizes themes of memory and recovery.

8. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* by Christopher R. Browning
Browning investigates how average German men became perpetrators of mass murder during the Holocaust. Through detailed analysis of Reserve Police Battalion 101, the book challenges assumptions about evil, complicity, and obedience. It provides a chilling examination of the social dynamics behind genocide.

9. *The Boys: Triumph over Adversity* by Martin Gilbert
This work by the eminent historian Martin Gilbert focuses on the lives of young Jewish boys who survived the Holocaust through various acts of bravery and endurance. The book combines personal narratives with historical context, celebrating the resilience of youth amid the horrors of war. It complements the themes of memory and survival found in Kassow's work.

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who will write our history kassow: Who Will Write Our History? Samuel D. Kassow, 2007-07-17 In 1940, the historian Emanuel Ringelblum established a clandestine organization, code named Oyneg Shabes, in Nazi-occupied Warsaw to study and document all facets of Jewish life in wartime Poland and to compile an archive that would preserve this history for posterity. As the Final Solution unfolded, although decimated by murders and deportations, the group persevered in its work until the spring of 1943. Of its more than 60 members, only three survived. Ringelblum and his family perished in March 1944. But before he died, he managed to hide thousands of documents in milk cans and tin boxes. Searchers found two of these buried caches in 1946 and 1950. *Who Will Write Our History* tells the gripping story of Ringelblum and his determination to use historical scholarship and the collection of documents to resist Nazi oppression.

who will write our history kassow: Who Will Write Our History? Samuel D. Kassow, 2009-01-06 In 1940, in the Jewish ghetto of Nazi-occupied Warsaw, the Polish historian Emanuel Ringelblum established a clandestine scholarly organization called the Oyneg Shabes to record the

experiences of the ghetto's inhabitants. For three years, members of the Oyneg Shabes worked in secret to chronicle the lives of hundreds of thousands as they suffered starvation, disease, and deportation by the Nazis. Shortly before the Warsaw ghetto was emptied and razed in 1943, the Oyneg Shabes buried thousands of documents from this massive archive in milk cans and tin boxes, ensuring that the voice and culture of a doomed people would outlast the efforts of their enemies to silence them. Impeccably researched and thoroughly compelling, Samuel D. Kassow's *Who Will Write Our History?* tells the tragic story of Ringelblum and his heroic determination to use historical scholarship to preserve the memory of a threatened people.

who will write our history kassow: *Who Will Write Our History?* Samuel D. Kassow, 2018-08
In 1940, the historian Emanuel Ringelblum established a clandestine organization, code named Oyneg Shabes, in Nazi-occupied Warsaw to study and document all facets of Jewish life in wartime Poland and to compile an archive that would preserve this history for posterity. As the Final Solution unfolded, although decimated by murders and deportations, the group persevered in its work until the spring of 1943. Of its more than 60 members, only three survived. Ringelblum and his family perished in March 1944. But before he died, he managed to hide thousands of documents in milk cans and tin boxes. Searchers found two of these buried caches in 1946 and 1950. *Who Will Write Our History* tells the gripping story of Ringelblum and his determination to use historical scholarship and the collection of documents to resist Nazi oppression.

who will write our history kassow: *Who Will Remember You?* Israel B. Bitton, 2021-10-06
Memory. A word so often said, often thought of, and continuously studied. Yet, we know relatively so little other than how vast and magnificent it is. In *Who Will Remember You? A Philosophical History and Theory of Memory and Will*, Israel B. Bitton, offers an interdisciplinary perspective that unifies philosophy of memory with history, neuroscience, culture and ethics, yielding novel insights into the elusive phenomena of memory, namely its universality. Bitton posits that the current and typical "misunderstanding of memory" stems from over-specialization in scientific research, a compartmentalization that does not support reaching holistic conclusions which are necessary for fully appreciating the totality of memory phenomena. No longer should memory be thought of as residing only in the brain, for the body is known to have memory too, but neither should it be thought of as exclusively human since it inheres in all matter as a physical and biological fact. Indeed, Bitton extends the philosophical and practical meanings of memory furthest in great detail, employing the latest research in neuroscience to support his case. In this work, Bitton traces the kernels of these ideas from the ancient Egyptians and Israelites all the way through to the modern period in philosophy, science and popular culture, demonstrating that his philosophical formulation has always been and remains accepted de facto by society as can easily be detected in various social trends. Upon offering his holistic account that considers the magnitude of memory phenomena across several disciplines, Bitton presents a novel theory that postulates the primary human drive as categorized by a will to significance, which, because of the universality of memory becomes a will to memorability. By placing the individual at the center of their own memory-reality, they can be empowered to safeguard, enhance, and extend the universal force of memory within and around them. From that vantage point, this book provides its audience with ideas meant to provoke and incite the readers' own reflections on memory's meaning and import as well as what it takes to be an ethical "memory agent" in an era of hyper-fake news.

who will write our history kassow: *Jewish Responses to Persecution: 1938-1940*
Alexandra Garbarini, 2011-08-16
Published in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum *Jewish Responses to Persecution: Volume II, 1938-1940* is the second volume of the five-volume set within the series *Documenting Life and Destruction: Holocaust Sources in Context*. This volume brings together in an accessible historical narrative a broad range of documents—including diaries, letters, speeches, newspaper articles, reports, Jewish identity cards, and personal photographs—from Jews in Nazi-dominated Europe and beyond Europe's borders. The volume skillfully illuminates the daily lives of a diverse range of Jews who suffered under Nazism, their coping strategies, and their efforts to assess the implications for the present and future of the

persecution they faced during this period. Volume II begins with Kristallnacht in 1938 and continues through the Jewish flight out of Germany, the onset of World War II, the forced relocation of the Jews of Europe to the East, and the formation of Jewish ghettos, particularly in Poland. The twelve chapters, divided into four parts, track the trajectory of German expansion and anti-Jewish policies chronologically, attesting to a clear progression of persecution over time and space. At the same time, they reflect the vast differences in the responses of Jewish communities, groups, and individuals within and beyond the Germans' grasp, differences that resulted both from the unevenness of the Reich's policy toward Jews as well as the varied backgrounds, traditions, expectations, and life histories of Jews affected by German policy. This volume raises essential questions, such as: What was the spectrum of Jewish perceptions and actions under Nazi domination? How did Jews affected directly, or others standing on the outside, view the situation? In what ways were Jews able to influence their own fate under persecution? What role did Jewish tradition play in how the present and future were interpreted? The answers inherent in the documents are often varied or inconclusive; nonetheless these sources add considerably to our understanding of the Holocaust.

who will write our history kassow: Jewish Responses to Persecution: 1938-1940 Jürgen Matthäus, Mark Roseman, Alexandra Garbarini, Emil Kerenji, Jan Lambertz, Avinoam Patt, 2010 Volume II begins with Kristallnacht in 1938 and continues through Jewish flight out of Germany, the onset of World War II, the forced relocation of the Jews of Europe to the East, and the formation of Jewish ghettos, particularly in Poland.

who will write our history kassow: *Emotions in Yiddish Ghetto Diaries* Amy Simon, 2023-06-16 This book uses an empathic reading of Yiddish diarists' feelings, evaluations, and assessments about persecutors in the Warsaw, Lodz, and Vilna ghettos to present an emotional history of persecution in the Nazi ghettos. It re-centers the daily experiences of psychological and physical violence that made up ghetto life and that ultimately led victims to use their diaries as a place of agency to question and attempt to maintain their own beliefs in pre-war Jewish and Enlightenment ethics and morality. Holocaust scholars and students, as well as people interested in personal narratives, interpersonal relations, and the problem of dehumanization during the Holocaust will find this study particularly thought-provoking. Essentially, this book highlights the benefits of reading with empathy and paying attention to emotions for understanding the experiences of people in the past, especially those facing tragedy and trauma.

who will write our history kassow: *Jewish-European Émigré Lawyers* Leora Bilsky, Annette Weinke, 2021-08-16 Emigrierte jüdische Juristen, Historiker, Archivare und Aktivisten und ihre individuellen Zugänge zum humanitären Völkerrecht. Emigrierte jüdisch-europäische Juristen waren im 20. Jahrhundert wichtige Träger eines rechtlichen Internationalismus und interkultureller Konzepte im Völkerrechtsdenken, die teilweise in die Nachkriegsdiskurse einfließen, vielfach aber auch vergessen oder an den Rand gedrängt wurden. Der interdisziplinäre Band konzentriert sich auf eine Reihe internationaler Juristen, Historiker, Archivare und Aktivisten und deren individuelle Zugänge zum humanitären Völkerrecht. Mit Hilfe eines biografischen Zugangs werden subjektive Erfahrungen wie akademische Sozialisation, ideologische und religiöse Überzeugungen, soziale Marginalisierung, politische bzw. rassistische Verfolgung und erzwungene Auswanderung in den Blick genommen. Zudem wird danach gefragt, inwiefern sich solche Erfahrungen in Vorstellungen von Universalismus und Partikularismus, Kosmopolitismus und Souveränität, nationaler Selbstbestimmung, Staatsbürgerschaft und Staatenlosigkeit, kollektiven Minderheitenrechten und individuellen Menschenrechten niederschlugen. English: Jewish émigré lawyers, historians, archivists and activists and their individual approaches to International Humanitarian Law. Jewish-European émigré lawyers in the twentieth century were important agents of legal internationalism and served as carriers of intercultural concepts of international legal thought; concepts, which fed into postwar discourses, but were also often forgotten or marginalized. This interdisciplinary volume focusses on a range of international lawyers, historians, archivists and activists and their individual approaches towards International Humanitarian Law. It uses a

biographical lens to analyze the impact of subjective experiences like academic socialization, ideological and religious viewpoints (Weltanschauung), social marginalization, political and racial persecution, and forced emigration. Moreover, it investigates the extent to which the emigrants' experiences shaped typical notions of twentieth century politics and law, such as universalism and particularism, cosmopolitanism and sovereignty, national self-determination, citizenship and statelessness, collective minority rights, and individual human rights.

who will write our history kassow: History of Intellectual Culture 4/2025 Charlotte A. Lerg, Johan Östling, Jana Weiß, Victoria Van Orden Martínez, Christine Schmidt, Ewa Koźmińska-Frejłak, 2025-10-06 The fourth issue of the yearbook History of Intellectual Culture (HIC) features a thematic section on the production of knowledge related to the Holocaust. The contributions focus on the circulation of knowledge via letters and other forms of written communication within and among survivor historical commissions after the Second World War with an emphasis on the interplay of gender and other differences. Although more women than men were involved in these efforts, women typically held subordinate roles to men and have largely been invisible in the historiography of these endeavors. This thematic section addresses this lacuna by exploring aspects of the “unseen labor” behind these documentation efforts that remain underexplored and marginalized in studies on the production, circulation, and history of knowledge, as well as of intellectual culture.

who will write our history kassow: Third-Generation Holocaust Narratives Victoria Aarons, 2016-09-30 This collection of new essays examines third-generation Holocaust narratives and the inter-generational transmission of trauma and memory. This collection demonstrates the ways in which memory of the Holocaust has been passed along inter-generationally from survivors to the second-generation—the children of survivors—to a contemporary generation of grandchildren of survivors—those writers who have come of literary age at a time that will mark the end of direct survivor testimony. This collection, in drawing upon a variety of approaches and perspectives, suggests the rich and fluid range of expression through which stories of the Holocaust are transmitted to and by the third generation, who have taken on the task of bearing witness to the enormity of the Holocaust and the ways in which this pronounced event has shaped the lives of the descendants of those who experienced the trauma first-hand. The essays collected—essays written by renowned scholars in Holocaust literature, philosophy, history, and religion as well as by third-generation writers—show that Holocaust literary representation has continued to flourish well into the twenty-first century, gaining increased momentum as a third generation of writers has added to the growing corpus of Holocaust literature. Here we find a literature that laments unrecoverable loss for a generation removed spatially and temporally from the extended trauma of the Holocaust. The third-generation writers, in writing against a contemporary landscape of post-apocalyptic apprehension and anxiety, capture and penetrate the growing sense of loss and the fear of the failure of memory. Their novels, short stories, and memoirs carry the Holocaust into the twenty-first century and suggest the future of Holocaust writing for extended generations.

who will write our history kassow: The Diary of Samuel Golfard and the Holocaust in Galicia Wendy Lower, 2011-08-22 The Diary of Samuel Golfard and the Holocaust in Galicia examines the contents and context of a rare diary written by a Jewish man from Nazi-occupied Poland. Serving as both a record and an artifact of Samuel Golfard's life, the diary details his attempt to make sense of and resist the event that ultimately destroyed him. Wendy Lower integrates photographs, newspaper articles, documents, and testimonies to create a more complete picture of Golfard's experiences and writings. She also traces the diary's own journey after Golfard's death, from 1943 Poland to the present day.

who will write our history kassow: Writing in Witness Eric J. Sundquist, 2018-06-25 Finalist for the 2019 National Jewish Book Award in the Anthologies and Collections Category presented by the Jewish Book Council Silver Winner for Anthologies, 2018 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards Writing in Witness is a broad survey of the most important writing about the Holocaust produced by eyewitnesses at the time and soon after. Whether they intended to spark resistance and undermine Nazi authority, to comfort family and community, to beseech God, or to leave a memorial

record for posterity, the writers reflect on the power and limitations of the written word in the face of events often thought to be beyond representation. The diaries, journals, letters, poems, and other works were created across a geography reaching from the Baltics to the Balkans, from the Atlantic coast to the heart of the Soviet Union, and in a wide array of original languages. Along with the readings, Eric J. Sundquist's introductions provide a comprehensive account of the Holocaust as a historical event. Including works by prominent authors such as Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel, as well as those little known or anonymous, *Writing in Witness* provides, in vital and memorable examples, a wide-ranging account of the Holocaust by those who felt the imperative to give written testimony.

who will write our history kassow: *The Cambridge History of Judaism: Volume 8, The Modern World, 1815-2000* Mitchell B. Hart, Tony Michels, 2017-09-28 The eighth and final volume of *The Cambridge History of Judaism* covers the period from roughly 1815-2000. Exploring the breadth and depth of Jewish societies and their manifold engagements with aspects of the modern world, it offers overviews of modern Jewish history, as well as more focused essays on political, social, economic, intellectual and cultural developments. The first part presents a series of interlocking surveys that address the history of diverse areas of Jewish settlement. The second part is organized around the emancipation. Here, chapter themes are grouped around the challenges posed by and to this elemental feature of Jewish life in the modern period. The third part adopts a thematic approach organized around the category 'culture', with the goal of casting a wide net in terms of perspectives, concepts and topics. The final part then focuses on the twentieth century, offering readers a sense of the dynamic nature of Judaism and Jewish identities and affiliations.

who will write our history kassow: *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Music Studies* Tina Frühauf, 2023 The *Oxford Handbook of Jewish Music Studies* is the most comprehensive and expansive critical handbook of Jewish music published to date. The chapters form a first truly global look at Jewish music, including studies from Central and East Asia, Europe, Australia, the Americas, and the Arab world. The Handbook provides a resource that researchers, scholars, and educators will use as the most important and authoritative overview of work within music and Jewish studies.

who will write our history kassow: *Matters of Testimony* Nicholas Chare, Dominic Williams, 2015-12-01 In 1944, members of the Sonderkommando—the “special squads,” composed almost exclusively of Jewish prisoners, who ensured the smooth operation of the gas chambers and had firsthand knowledge of the extermination process—buried on the grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau a series of remarkable eyewitness accounts of Nazi genocide. This careful and penetrating study examines anew these “Scrolls of Auschwitz,” which were gradually recovered, in damaged and fragmentary form, in the years following the camp’s liberation. It painstakingly reconstructs their historical context and textual content, revealing complex literary works that resist narrow moral judgment and engage difficult questions about the limits of testimony.

who will write our history kassow: *The Atrocity of Hunger* Helene J. Sinnreich, 2023-02-16 During World War II, the Germans put the Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland into ghettos which restricted their movement and, most crucially for their survival, access to food. The Germans saw the Jews as 'useless eaters,' and denied them sufficient food for survival. The hunger which resulted from this intentional starvation impacted every aspect of Jewish life inside the ghettos. This book focuses on the Jews in the Łódź, Warsaw, and Kraków ghettos as they struggled to survive the deadly Nazi ghetto and, in particular, the genocidal famine conditions. Jews had no control over Nazi food policy but they attempted to survive the deadly conditions of Nazi ghettoization through a range of coping mechanisms and survival strategies. In this book, Helene Sinnreich explores their story, drawing from diaries and first-hand accounts of the victims and survivors. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

who will write our history kassow: *The Jewish Heroes of Warsaw* Avinoam Patt, 2021-05-04 Analyzes how the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was interpreted and commemorated following the revolt. *The Jewish Heroes of Warsaw: The Afterlife of the Revolt* by Avinoam J. Patt analyzes how the heroic saga of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was mythologized in a way that captured the attention of Jews around the world, allowing them to imagine what it might have been like to be there, engaged in the

struggle against the Nazi oppressor. The timing of the uprising, coinciding with the transition to memorialization and mourning, solidified the event as a date to remember both the heroes and the martyrs of Warsaw, and of European Jewry more broadly. *The Jewish Heroes of Warsaw* includes nine chapters. Chapter 1 includes a brief history of Warsaw from 1939 to 1943, including the creation of the ghetto and the development of the Jewish underground. Chapter 2 examines how the uprising was reported, interpreted, and commemorated in the first year after the revolt. Chapter 3 concerns the desire for first-person accounts of the fighters. Chapter 4 examines the ways the uprising was seized upon by Jewish communities around the world as evidence that Jews had joined the struggle against fascism and utilized as a prism for memorializing the destruction of European Jewry. Chapter 5 analyzes how memory of the uprising was mobilized by the Zionist movement, even as it debated how to best incorporate the doomed struggle of Warsaw's Jews into the Zionist narrative. Chapter 6 explores the aftermath of the war as survivors struggled to come to terms with the devastation around them. Chapter 7 studies how the testimonies of three surviving ghetto fighters present a fascinating case to examine the interaction between memory, testimony, politics, and history. Chapter 8 analyzes literary and artistic works, including Jacob Pat's *Ash un Fayer*, Marie Syrkin, *Blessed is the Match*, and Natan Rapoport's *Monument to the Ghetto Fighters*, among others. As this book demonstrates, the revolt itself, while described as a revolution in Jewish history, did little to change the existing modes for Jewish understanding of events. Students and scholars of modern Jewish history, Holocaust studies, and European studies will find great value in this detail-oriented study.

who will write our history kassow: No Small Matter Anat Helman, 2021 Visiting five continents and covering 220 years, our journey into modern Jewish childhood begins with birth and ends at the time of bar or bat mitzvah. Jewish children, their history and their images, are described by scholars from the fields of demography, history, linguistics, film studies, literature, religious studies, and psychology. Among the questions they probe are: How did Jewish children experience immigration? What did they contribute to modern ethnic and national Jewish cultures? What was their fate during times of war? In the aftermath of war, how did they go about rebuilding their lives, and how did they recollect and interpret the events of their interrupted childhood?

who will write our history kassow: The Archive Thief Lisa Moses Leff, 2015-06-09 In the aftermath of the Holocaust, Jewish historian Zosa Szajkowski gathered up tens of thousands of documents from Nazi buildings in Berlin, and later, public archives and private synagogues in France, and moved them all, illicitly, to New York. In *The Archive Thief*, Lisa Moses Leff reconstructs Szajkowski's story in all its ambiguity. Born into poverty in Russian Poland, Szajkowski first made his name in Paris as a communist journalist. In the late 1930s, as he saw the threats to Jewish safety rising in Europe, he broke with the party and committed himself to defending his people in a new way, as a scholar associated with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Following a harrowing 1941 escape from France and U.S. army service, Szajkowski struggled to remake his life as a historian, eking out a living as a YIVO archivist in postwar New York. His scholarly output was tremendous nevertheless; he published scores of studies on French Jewish history that opened up new ways of thinking about Jewish emancipation, modernization, and the rise of modern antisemitism. But underlying Szajkowski's scholarly accomplishments were the documents he stole, moved, and eventually sold to American and Israeli research libraries, where they remain today. Part detective story, part analysis of the construction of history, *The Archive Thief* offers a window into the debates over the rightful ownership of contested Jewish archives and the powerful ideological, economic, and psychological forces that have made Jewish scholars care so deeply about preserving the remnants of their past.

who will write our history kassow: An Iron Wind Peter Fritzsche, 2016-10-25 A vivid account of German-occupied Europe during World War II that reveals civilians' struggle to understand the terrifying chaos of war In *An Iron Wind*, prize-winning historian Peter Fritzsche draws diaries, letters, and other first-person accounts to show how civilians in occupied Europe tried to make sense of World War II. As the Third Reich targeted Europe's Jews for deportation and death, confusion and

mistrust reigned. What were Hitler's aims? Did Germany's rapid early victories mark the start of an enduring new era? Was collaboration or resistance the wisest response to occupation? How far should solidarity and empathy extend? And where was God? People desperately tried to understand the horrors around them, but the stories they told themselves often justified a selfish indifference to their neighbors' fates. Piecing together the broken words of the war's witnesses and victims, Fritzsche offers a haunting picture of the most violent conflict in modern history.

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