

who will write our history samuel kassow

who will write our history samuel kassow is a pivotal phrase that directs attention to a significant work by historian Samuel Kassow. His book, "Who Will Write Our History?" reveals the extraordinary story of the clandestine archives maintained by the Jewish underground in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. This comprehensive article explores the background, themes, and lasting impact of Kassow's work, highlighting its importance in Holocaust studies and historical preservation. Emphasizing the role of memory and documentation, the article delves into how Kassow's research uncovers the voices of those who faced unimaginable atrocities. Readers will gain insight into the key figures behind the archives, the challenges they faced, and the book's reception in academic and public spheres. The following sections provide a detailed overview, including the historical context, the archive's discovery, and the broader implications for history and memory.

- Historical Context of the Warsaw Ghetto
- The Oyneg Shabes Archive
- Samuel Kassow's Research and Methodology
- Key Figures Behind the Archive
- The Impact and Legacy of "Who Will Write Our History?"

Historical Context of the Warsaw Ghetto

The Warsaw Ghetto was established by Nazi Germany in 1940 as part of their systematic oppression of Jews during World War II. It became the largest Jewish ghetto in Nazi-occupied Europe, confining over 400,000 Jews in a small area under brutal conditions. Starvation, disease, and forced labor were daily realities, and the ghetto was eventually the site of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943, a heroic but ultimately doomed resistance effort. Understanding this context is crucial to appreciating the significance of the underground documentation efforts that Samuel Kassow highlights in his book. The ghetto was not only a place of suffering but also a site of cultural and intellectual resistance.

Life Inside the Ghetto

Conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto were dire, with overcrowding, limited food supplies, and rampant disease. Despite these hardships, Jewish inhabitants sought to maintain cultural life through schools, theaters, and religious practices. The oppressive environment motivated some residents to organize clandestine efforts to document their experiences

and preserve their history for future generations.

The Significance of Resistance

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising demonstrated the determination of Jewish inhabitants to resist Nazi tyranny. This resistance was not only physical but also intellectual and cultural. The creation of secret archives was part of this broader resistance, aiming to ensure that the truth of their lives and struggles would survive even if they themselves did not.

The Oyneg Shabes Archive

The Oyneg Shabes Archive was the secret collection of documents, diaries, photos, and reports compiled by a group of Jewish historians, writers, and activists in the Warsaw Ghetto. Their goal was to chronicle daily life, Nazi atrocities, and acts of resistance in real time. This archive is central to Samuel Kassow's book, serving as both a historical record and a testament to human resilience.

Origins and Purpose

Founded by historian Emanuel Ringelblum, the Oyneg Shabes Archive operated from 1940 to 1943. Members met secretly to collect testimonies, documents, and cultural artifacts, believing that these materials would one day serve as a foundation for understanding the Jewish experience under Nazi occupation. The name "Oyneg Shabes," meaning "Sabbath joy," reflects the group's dedication to preserving hope amid despair.

Contents of the Archive

The archive included a wide variety of materials:

- Personal diaries and eyewitness accounts
- Reports on Nazi activities and policies
- Artwork and poetry reflecting ghetto life
- Statistical data on population and mortality
- Documentation of underground education and cultural events

These documents provide a multifaceted perspective on life in the ghetto and the efforts to maintain dignity and humanity.

Samuel Kassow's Research and Methodology

Samuel Kassow, a distinguished historian, undertook extensive research to bring the story of the Oyneg Shabes Archive to light. His work involved analyzing archival materials, interviewing survivors, and cross-referencing historical sources to construct a detailed narrative. Kassow's methodology combined rigorous academic standards with compassionate storytelling, making the history accessible and compelling.

Archival Research

Kassow accessed materials stored in Polish and Israeli archives, including the recovered portions of the Oyneg Shabes collection. His examination of these documents allowed him to piece together the archive's creation, content, and preservation. This painstaking research was essential to reconstructing the broader narrative of Jewish resistance through documentation.

Oral Histories and Survivor Testimonies

Kassow incorporated interviews and testimonies from survivors who had connections to the archive or the Warsaw Ghetto. These personal narratives added depth and nuance to the historical record, illuminating the human experiences behind the documents. This approach underscores the importance of multiple sources in understanding complex historical events.

Key Figures Behind the Archive

The Oyneg Shabes Archive was the product of a dedicated group of individuals who risked their lives to document history. Samuel Kassow's work highlights these key figures, providing insight into their motivations, backgrounds, and contributions.

Emanuel Ringelblum

As the founder and leader of the archive project, Emanuel Ringelblum was a historian and social activist committed to Jewish history and culture. His leadership was instrumental in organizing the collection and ensuring its survival. Ringelblum's vision was that future generations would understand the truth of what happened in the ghetto, no matter the cost.

Other Contributors

Numerous writers, scholars, and activists contributed to the archive's creation. They included teachers, journalists, and community leaders who gathered information, wrote reports, and collected materials. Their collaboration was a remarkable example of communal effort under extreme circumstances.

- Rachel Auerbach – writer and chronicler
- Marek Edelman – participant in the uprising and archive contributor
- Adolf Bergman – documentarian and editor
- Heniek Fuchs – underground activist and archivist

The Impact and Legacy of "Who Will Write Our History?"

Samuel Kassow's book brought international attention to the Oyneg Shabes Archive and its significance in Holocaust historiography. The work has influenced scholarly research, education, and public understanding of Jewish resistance and memory. It also raises important questions about the role of history and documentation in preserving marginalized voices.

Academic and Cultural Influence

The book has become a key resource in Holocaust studies, inspiring further research into underground resistance and archival preservation. Educational programs and exhibitions based on the archive have helped disseminate this history to wider audiences, ensuring that the lessons of the Warsaw Ghetto endure.

Preservation of Memory

The archive's survival and Kassow's work emphasize the critical importance of who controls historical narratives. The question "who will write our history" resonates as a reminder that history is often shaped by those who record it. Kassow's book underscores the power of documentation to combat erasure and denial.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Samuel Kassow is a historian and professor known for his work on Jewish history, particularly relating to the Holocaust. He authored 'Who Will Write Our History,' which tells the story of the secret archive of the Warsaw Ghetto.

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

The book focuses on the Oyneg Shabes archive, a secret documentation project in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, chronicling Jewish life and resistance under Nazi occupation.

Why is the title 'Who Will Write Our History' significant in Samuel Kassow's book?

The title reflects the urgent question posed by the Jewish resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto about preserving their own narrative and history amidst the threat of annihilation by the Nazis.

How did Samuel Kassow research the book 'Who Will Write Our History'?

Kassow conducted extensive archival research, interviews, and studied the documents of the Oyneg Shabes archive to piece together the story of the Jewish chroniclers in the Warsaw Ghetto.

What impact has 'Who Will Write Our History' had on Holocaust studies?

The book has shed light on the importance of Jewish self-documentation during the Holocaust and highlighted the resilience and courage of those who risked their lives to preserve history.

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

Yes, the book inspired a documentary film titled 'Who Will Write Our History,' which further explores the story of the Oyneg Shabes archive and its creators.

What themes are explored in 'Who Will Write Our History' by Samuel Kassow?

The book explores themes of resistance, memory, identity, survival, and the power of storytelling under extreme oppression.

Who were the key figures featured in Samuel Kassow's 'Who Will Write Our History'?

Key figures include Emanuel Ringelblum, the historian who led the Oyneg Shabes archive, and other members of the Jewish intellectual community in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Why is the Oyneg Shabes archive important according to Samuel Kassow's book?

The Oyneg Shabes archive is important because it preserved firsthand accounts, documents, and testimonies of Jewish life and resistance during the Holocaust, ensuring that their history would not be erased.

Additional Resources

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

This book uncovers the secret archives of the Warsaw Ghetto, created by Jewish historians and activists to document life and death under Nazi occupation. Kassow details the efforts of Emanuel Ringelblum and his colleagues who risked their lives to preserve evidence of the Holocaust. The narrative combines historical research with a compelling story of resistance through documentation.

2. *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

Anne Frank's diary provides a poignant and personal account of life in hiding during the Holocaust. Her writings capture the hopes, fears, and daily struggles of a young Jewish girl amidst the horrors of Nazi persecution. This seminal work is a powerful testament to the human spirit and the importance of bearing witness.

3. *Night* by Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel's memoir recounts his harrowing experiences as a teenager in Nazi concentration camps. "Night" is a deeply moving exploration of suffering, loss, and survival, serving as a crucial testimony of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. Wiesel's narrative emphasizes the need to remember and document such history to prevent future atrocities.

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

Laurence Rees provides a comprehensive overview of the Holocaust, combining eyewitness testimonies with extensive historical research. The book explores the origins, execution, and aftermath of the genocide, shedding light on both the victims and perpetrators. It offers a broad context to understand the depth and complexity of this tragic period.

5. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* by Christopher R. Browning

This work examines how average German men became perpetrators of mass murder during the Holocaust. Browning uses detailed research to analyze the psychological and social factors that influenced their participation in atrocities. The book challenges assumptions about evil and highlights the importance of historical documentation in understanding human behavior.

6. *Resistance: The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising* by Israel Gutman

Israel Gutman provides a detailed account of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, a courageous act of Jewish resistance against Nazi forces. The book draws on survivor testimonies and archival materials to recreate the events and motivations behind the revolt. It underscores the resilience and determination of those who fought against

oppression.

7. *Survival in Auschwitz* by Primo Levi

Primo Levi's memoir recounts his experiences in the Auschwitz concentration camp, blending personal narrative with reflections on humanity and morality. The book explores the brutal realities of camp life and the struggle to maintain dignity amid dehumanization. Levi's testimony is a vital contribution to Holocaust literature and historical memory.

8. *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* by Jack Mayer

This book tells the story of Irena Sendler, a Polish social worker who saved thousands of Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto by smuggling them out in jars and boxes. It highlights the courageous efforts of individuals who risked everything to preserve life and document the truth. The narrative emphasizes the power of resistance and the importance of historical records.

9. *The Holocaust and the Book: Destruction and Preservation* edited by Jonathan Rose

This collection explores the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish literature and the efforts to preserve books and documents during and after the genocide. It addresses themes of cultural destruction, memory, and the role of archives in safeguarding history. The essays collectively demonstrate the significance of written records in understanding and commemorating the Holocaust.

Who Will Write Our History Samuel Kassow

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who will write our history samuel 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 samuel 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 samuel 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 samuel 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 samuel 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 samuel kassow: The Wonder of Their Voices Alan Rosen,

2010-10-18 Over the last several decades, video testimony with aging Holocaust survivors has brought these witnesses into the limelight. Yet the success of these projects has made it seem that little survivor testimony took place in earlier years. In truth, thousands of survivors began to recount their experience at the earliest opportunity. This book provides the first full-length case study of early postwar Holocaust testimony, focusing on David Boder's 1946 displaced persons interview project. In July 1946, Boder, a psychologist, traveled to Europe to interview victims of the Holocaust who were in the Displaced Persons (DP) camps and what he called shelter houses. During his nine weeks in Europe, Boder carried out approximately 130 interviews in nine languages and recorded them on a wire recorder. Likely the earliest audio recorded testimony of Holocaust survivors, the interviews are valuable today for the spoken word (that of the DP narrators and of Boder himself) and also for the song sessions and religious services that Boder recorded. Eighty sessions were eventually transcribed into English, most of which were included in a self-published manuscript. Alan Rosen sets Boder's project in the context of the postwar response to displaced persons, sketches the dramatic background of his previous life and work, chronicles in detail the evolving process of interviewing both Jewish and non-Jewish DPs, and examines from several angles the implications for the history of Holocaust testimony. Such early postwar testimony, Rosen avers, deserves to be taken on its own terms rather than to be enfolded into earlier or later schemas of testimony. Moreover, Boder's efforts and the support he was given for them demonstrate that American postwar response to the Holocaust was not universally indifferent but rather often engaged, concerned, and resourceful.

who will write our history samuel kassow: Warsaw. The Jewish Metropolis Glenn Dynner,

François Guesnet, 2015-04-14 Warsaw was once home to the largest and most diverse Jewish community in the world. It was a center of rich varieties of Orthodox Judaism, Jewish Socialism, Diaspora Nationalism, Zionism, and Polonization. This volume is the first to reflect on the entire history of the Warsaw Jewish community, from its inception in the late 18th century to its emergence as a Jewish metropolis within a few generations, to its destruction during the German occupation and tentative re-emergence in the postwar period. The highly original contributions collected here investigate Warsaw Jewry's religious and cultural life, press and publications, political life, and relations with the surrounding Polish society. This monumental volume is dedicated to Professor

Antony Polonsky, chief historian of the new Warsaw Museum for the History of Polish Jews, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

who will write our history samuel kassow: Catastrophe and Utopia Ferenc Laczo, Joachim von Puttkamer, 2017-11-20 *Catastrophe and Utopia* studies the biographical trajectories, intellectual agendas, and major accomplishments of select Jewish intellectuals during the age of Nazism, and the partly simultaneous, partly subsequent period of incipient Stalinization. By focusing on the relatively underexplored region of Central and Eastern Europe – which was the primary centre of Jewish life prior to the Holocaust, served as the main setting of the Nazi genocide, but also had notable communities of survivors – the volume offers significant contributions to a European Jewish intellectual history of the twentieth century. Approaching specific historical experiences in their diverse local contexts, the twelve case studies explore how Jewish intellectuals responded to the unprecedented catastrophe, how they renegotiated their utopian commitments and how the complex relationship between the two evolved over time. They analyze proximate Jewish reactions to the most abysmal discontinuity represented by the Judeocide while also revealing more subtle lines of continuity in Jewish thinking. Ferenc Laczó is assistant professor in History at Maastricht University and Joachim von Puttkamer is professor of Eastern European History at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and director of the Imre Kertész Kolleg.

who will write our history samuel kassow: *The Atrocity of Hunger* Helene J. Sinnreich, 2023-02-16 Explores the impact of hunger on Jews - designated 'useless eaters' - in World War II ghettos, and their struggle to survive.

who will write our history samuel kassow: The Holocaust's Jewish Calendars Alan Rosen, 2019-02-28 “The most comprehensive to date treatment of these precious artifacts of the Holocaust’s Jewish efforts to maintain religious observations and identity.” —Choice Calendars map time, shaping and delineating our experience of it. While the challenges to tracking Jewish conceptions of time during the Holocaust were substantial, Alan Rosen reveals that many took great risks to mark time within that vast upheaval. Rosen inventories and organizes Jewish calendars according to the wartime settings in which they were produced—from Jewish communities to ghettos and concentration camps. The calendars he considers reorient views of Jewish circumstances during the war and show how Jews were committed to fashioning traditional guides to daily life, even in the most extreme conditions. In a separate chapter, moreover, he elucidates how Holocaust-era diaries sometimes served as surrogate Jewish calendars. All in all, Rosen presents a revised idea of time, continuity, the sacred and the mundane, the ordinary and the extraordinary even when death and destruction were the order of the day. Rosen’s focus on the Jewish calendar—the ultimate symbol of continuity, as weekday follows weekday and Sabbath follows Sabbath—sheds new light on how Jews maintained connections to their way of conceiving time even within the cauldron of the Holocaust. “Rosen demonstrates the relationship between time and meaning, between meaning and holiness, between holy days and the divine presence—all of which came under assault in the Nazis’ effort to kill Jewish souls before destroying Jewish bodies.” —David Patterson, author of *Along the Edge of Annihilation: The Collapse and Recovery of Life in the Holocaust Diary*

who will write our history samuel kassow: Following the Front Margot Clark-Junkins, 2024-09-15 *Following the Front* is a compilation of WWII dispatches written by Sidney A. Olson for TIME and LIFE magazines, 1944-1945. Olson, who joined Time Inc. in 1939 and served as a senior editor there, asked to be assigned overseas as a war correspondent. In mid-December, 1944, he received his accreditation from the War Department and sailed for London. Attached to the European Theater of Operations (ETO), Olson followed the Allied Forces as they pushed the Nazis back into Germany. He typed up his reports and cabled them to his editors in New York. Following the front meant being on the move constantly. In late January, Olson made his way to Paris, flew to Brussels, then drove to the battlefield in Holland. From that time forward, he never really stopped moving. He would race ahead and circle back, hopping from one military division to the next, gradually making his way across Germany and into Austria. His dispatches illustrate--line by line, battle by battle--the extraordinary Allied effort to defeat Hitler.

who will write our history samuel kassow: A Time to Gather Jason Lustig, 2022 Archival Totality in the Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden -- Ingathering the Exiles of the Past? Bringing Archives to Jerusalem -- An Archive of Diaspora at the 'Jerusalem on the Ohio' -- Making the Past into History: Jewish Archives and Postwar Germany -- Digitization, Virtual Collections, and Total Archives in the Twenty-First Century.

who will write our history samuel kassow: The Aesthetics and Politics of Global Hunger Anastasia Ulanowicz, Manisha Basu, 2018-02-14 This collection investigates modern imperialist practices and their management of hunger through its punctuated distribution amongst asymmetrically related marginal populations. Drawing on relevant material from Egypt, Ireland, India, Ukraine, and other regions of the globe, *The Aesthetics and Politics of Global Hunger* is a rigorously comparative study made up of ten essays by well-established scholars from universities around the world. Since modernity, we have been inhabitants of a globe increasingly connected through discourses of equal access for all humans to the resources of the planet, but the volume emphasizes alongside this reality the flagrant politicization of those same resources. From this emphasis, the essays in the volume place into relief the idea that ideological and aesthetic discourses of hunger could inform ethical thinking and practices about who or what constitutes the figure of the modern historical human.

who will write our history samuel kassow: Memorial Books of Eastern European Jewry Rosemary Horowitz, 2014-01-10 From the Russian civil wars through the Nazi years, the Jews of Eastern Europe were targets of violence during the first half of the twentieth century. During the Holocaust especially, entire communities were wiped out. In response, survivors sometimes compiled memorial books, or Yizker books, in an attempt to preserve historical, biographical, and cultural information about their shtetls. This multipart collection provides a concise history of the memorial books and their cultural contexts; eight analytical essays on or using Yizker books; key reviews, in some cases translated from the Yiddish, from the 1950s and later; and a bibliographic overview of secondary sources and collections.

who will write our history samuel kassow: After the Holocaust David Cesarani, Eric J. Sundquist, 2011-09-29 For the last decade scholars have been questioning the idea that the Holocaust was not talked about in any way until well into the 1970s. *After the Holocaust: Challenging the Myth of Silence* is the first collection of authoritative, original scholarship to expose a serious misreading of the past on which, controversially, the claims for a 'Holocaust industry' rest. Taking an international approach this bold new book exposes the myth and opens the way for a sweeping reassessment of Jewish life in the postwar era, a life lived in the pervasive, shared awareness that Jews had narrowly survived a catastrophe that had engulfed humanity as a whole but claimed two-thirds of their number. The chapters include: an overview of the efforts by survivor historians and memoir writers to inform the world of the catastrophe that had befallen the Jews of Europe an evaluation of the work of survivor-historians and memoir writers new light on the Jewish historical commissions and the Jewish documentation centres studies of David Boder, a Russian born psychologist who recorded searing interviews with survivors, and the work of philosophers, social thinkers and theologians theatrical productions by survivors and the first films on the theme made in Hollywood how the Holocaust had an impact on the everyday life of Jews in the USA and a discussion of the different types, and meanings, of 'silence'. A breakthrough volume in the debate about the 'Myth of Silence', this is a must for all students of Holocaust and genocide.

who will write our history samuel kassow: Disease and Crime Robert Peckham, 2013-12-04 Disease and crime are increasingly conflated in the contemporary world. News reports proclaim epidemics of crime, while politicians denounce terrorism as a lethal pathological threat. Recent years have even witnessed the development of a new subfield, epidemiological criminology, which merges public health with criminal justice to provide analytical tools for criminal justice practitioners and health care professionals. Little attention, however, has been paid to the historical contexts of these disease and crime equations, or to the historical continuities and discontinuities between contemporary invocations of crime as disease and the emergence of criminology,

epidemiology, and public health in the second half of the nineteenth century. When, how and why did this pathologization of crime and criminalization of disease come about? This volume addresses these critical questions, exploring the discursive construction of crime and disease across a range of geographical and historical settings.

who will write our history samuel kassow: *The Last Ghetto* Anna Hájková, 2020-11-05 Terezín, as it was known in Czech, or Theresienstadt as it was known in German, was operated by the Nazis between November 1941 and May 1945 as a transit ghetto for Central and Western European Jews before their deportation for murder in the East. Terezín was the last ghetto to be liberated, one day after the end of World War II. *The Last Ghetto* is the first in-depth analytical history of a prison society during the Holocaust. Rather than depict the prison society which existed within the ghetto as an exceptional one, unique in kind and not understandable by normal analytical methods, Anna Hájková argues that such prison societies that developed during the Holocaust are best understood as simply other instances of the societies human beings create under normal circumstances. Challenging conventional claims of Holocaust exceptionalism, Hájková insists instead that we ought to view the Holocaust with the same analytical tools as other historical events. The prison society of Terezín produced its own social hierarchies under which seemingly small differences among prisoners (of age, ethnicity, or previous occupation) could determine whether one ultimately lived or died. During the three and a half years of the camp's existence, prisoners created their own culture and habits, bonded, fell in love, and forged new families. Based on extensive archival research in nine languages and on empathetic reading of victim testimonies, *The Last Ghetto* is a transnational, cultural, social, gender, and organizational history of Terezín, revealing how human society works in extremis and highlighting the key issues of responsibility, agency and its boundaries, and belonging.

who will write our history samuel kassow: *Advancing Holocaust Studies* Carol Rittner, John K. Roth, 2020-07-22 The growing field of Holocaust studies confronts a world wracked by antisemitism, immigration and refugee crises, human rights abuses, mass atrocity crimes, threats of nuclear war, the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic, and environmental degradation. What does it mean to advance Holocaust studies—what are learning and teaching about the Holocaust for—in such dire straits? Vast resources support study and memorialization of the Holocaust. What assumptions govern that investment? What are its major successes and failures, challenges and prospects? Across thirteen chapters, *Advancing Holocaust Studies* shows how leading scholars grapple with those tough questions.

who will write our history samuel kassow: *Trauma in First Person* Amos Goldberg, 2017-11-20 An examination of what can be learned by looking at the journals and diaries of Jews living during the Holocaust. What are the effects of radical oppression on the human psyche? What happens to the inner self of the powerless and traumatized victim, especially during times of widespread horror? In this bold and deeply penetrating book, Amos Goldberg addresses diary writing by Jews under Nazi persecution. Throughout Europe, in towns, villages, ghettos, forests, hideouts, concentration and labor camps, and even in extermination camps, Jews of all ages and of all cultural backgrounds described in writing what befell them. Goldberg claims that diary and memoir writing was perhaps the most important literary genre for Jews during World War II. Goldberg considers the act of writing in radical situations as he looks at diaries from little-known victims as well as from brilliant diarists such as Chaim Kaplan and Victor Klemperer. Goldberg contends that only against the background of powerlessness and inner destruction can Jewish responses and resistance during the Holocaust gain their proper meaning. “This is a book that deserves to be read well beyond Holocaust studies. Goldberg’s theoretical insights into “life stories” and his readings of law, language and what he calls the “epistemological grey zone” . . . provide a stunning antidote to our unthinking treatment of survivors as celebrities (as opposed to just people who have suffered terrible things) and to the ubiquity of commemorative platitudes.” —Times Higher Education “Every decade or so, an exceptional volume is born. Provocative and inspiring, historian Goldberg’s volume is one such work in the field of Holocaust studies. . . . Highly recommended.”

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