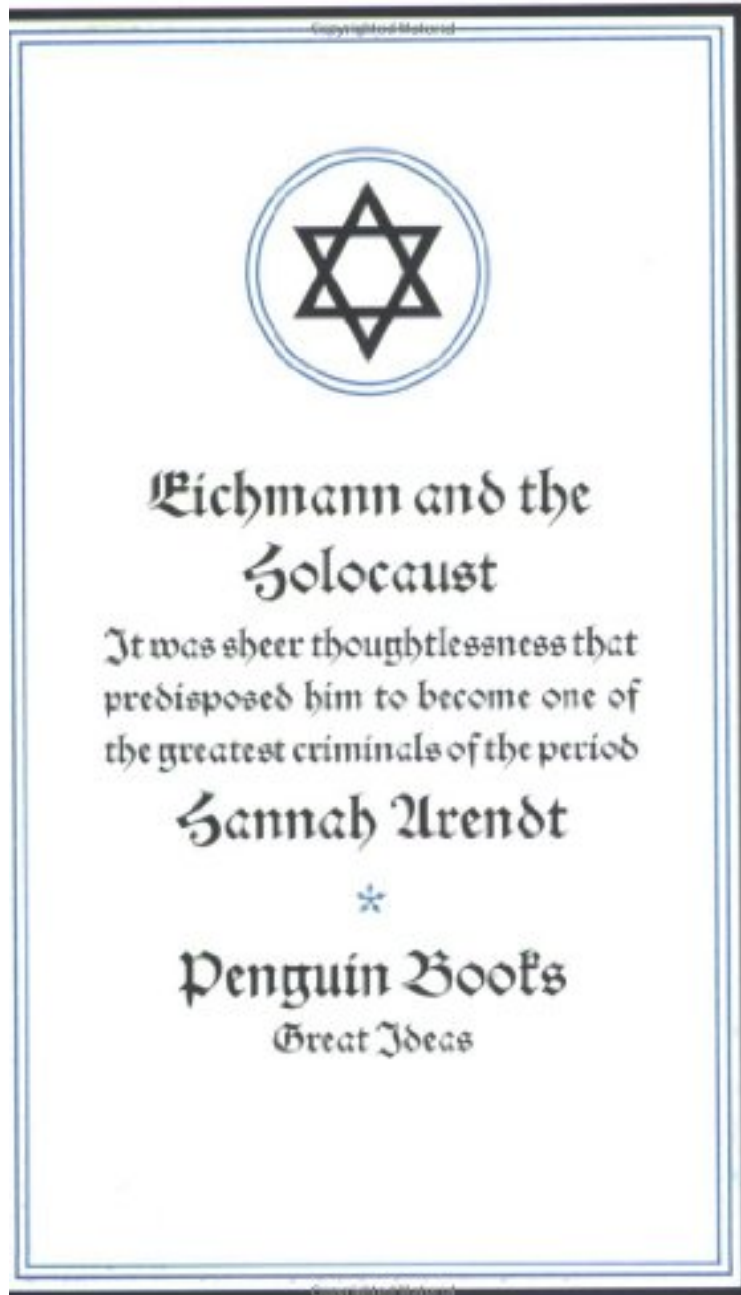


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## Eichmann and the Holocaust (Penguin Great Ideas)

*Hannah Arendt*

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#1120334 in Books Arendt, Hannah 2006-05-30 2006-05-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.10 x .40 x 4.341, .24 #File Name: 0143037609144 pages | File size: 29.Mb

**Hannah Arendt : Eichmann and the Holocaust (Penguin Great Ideas)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eichmann and the Holocaust (Penguin Great Ideas):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I purchased this because I wanted a shorter treatment of ...By Theyreplayinggoodstuff81 @I purchased this because I wanted a shorter treatment of the subject by Arendt, who is a formidable writer. I have limited time to read. I wanted to get my feet wet until I have time to read this author extensively. One of these days I hope to be able to read *The Origins of Totalitarianism*.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. 50-Years Later and No Lessons LearnedBy RWordplay"Eichmann and the Holocaust" is an important read, if only because the book, collected from her "Reporter at Large: A five-part article commissioned by "The New Yorker" and excerpted from Arendt's more comprehensive: "Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil" reminds us that we have not in half a century, come to terms with the nature of war crimes, or crimes against humanity. Arendt offers a combination of reportage and critical analysis of her subject, Adolf Eichmann, and the context in which he performed his diabolical work. It is a story that we all assume we know, if only because the phrases "banality of evil, holocaust, genocide and crimes against humanity have become such commonplace descriptions in a world that has grown too familiar and, so, too indifference to horrible acts committed to advance one ideology or political party or another. It's always important to return to the source to understand an author's thesis and this slender book enables us to look closely at the man and the Officer, as well as those who gave and who followed his orders. In this context it's also important to understand the evolution of the Nazi's "Final Solution." Anti-Semitism may have been at the center of the Nazi ideology, but genocide was not a given, nor was a machine put in motion from 1933 when Hitler took power. There were precedents to the mass murder of Jews and its important to keep in mind that they were neither the first put to death, nor sent to concentration camps. Arendt's story and analysis is a helpful corrective to the sentimental fairytale told by Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List." Evil was far less pervasive and considerably more seductive and complex than the usual representations of the perpetrators of Shoah. If I understand Arendt correctly, then the Nazi's found more through trial and error than analytics the means to accomplish their ends. But the famous "machine" metaphor is less apt than I previously thought. The whole range of human attributes and qualities were necessary, put into place by 1,000s of people--across the political, social and religious spectrum--made Eichmann the committed and successful bureaucrat he proved to be. Which is to say that Eichmann could not have famously been just a "cog" in the machine, if the machine, however Rube Goldbergesque, was not in place and maintained, in a surprisingly slipshod manner. And, maintained, ironically, as much by the victims as by the perpetrators of the Holocaust, as Arendt, without blaming the victims, makes clear. She suggests that perhaps as many of half the victims of Shoah would have survived had they not participated in their own extermination. Another important element of the book, which still resonates today, involves the controversy of the Trial itself. Whether the State of Israel had the right to try and judge, sentence and execute Eichmann. While acknowledging the man was a criminal and guilty of terrible crimes, Arendt asks us to contemplate what were the natures of Eichmann's crimes: Crimes against the Jews, or crimes against humanity, or crimes against his conscience? Yes, she concludes the "court in Jerusalem succeeded in in fulfilling the demands of justice," but it did so without giving us an unambiguous process that would help us to seek and deliver justice in the future. The proof of this is how we find ourselves today, limited to metaphors such as "regime change," to eliminate uncooperative or failed states, or to firing missiles from drones, to kill an enemy deemed by those others in power a threat to our way of life.6 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A disertation of Eichman and his behaviorBy William D. TompkinsThis is essentially an excerpt from a larger study. This focuses on the 'why' Eichman was the person responsible for such horror. An in depth study is taken to look at the specifics of the holocaust, its organization by Jews, the normalcy of those prosecuted at the end of the war and Eichman's arrogant demeanor at trial.

The perfect books for the true book lover, Penguin's Great Ideas series features twelve more groundbreaking works by some of history's most prodigious thinkers. Each volume is beautifully packaged with a unique type-driven design that highlights the bookmaker's art. Offering great literature in great packages at great prices, this series is ideal for those readers who want to explore and savor the Great Ideas that have shaped our world. Inspired by the trial of a bureaucrat who helped cause the Holocaust, this radical work on the banality of evil stunned the world with its exploration of a regime's moral blindness and one man's insistence that he be absolved all guilt because he was 'only following orders'.

Great Ideas... is the right name for these slim, elegant paperbacks... They are written with precision, force, and care. ("The Wall Street Journal") Penguin Books hopes to provide an economical remedy for time-pressed readers in search of intellectual sustenance. ("USA Today") About the Author Hannah Arendt (1906-1975) was for many years University Professor of Political Philosophy in the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research and a Visiting Fellow of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. She is also the author of *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, *On Revolution*, and *Between Past and Future* (all available from Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics).