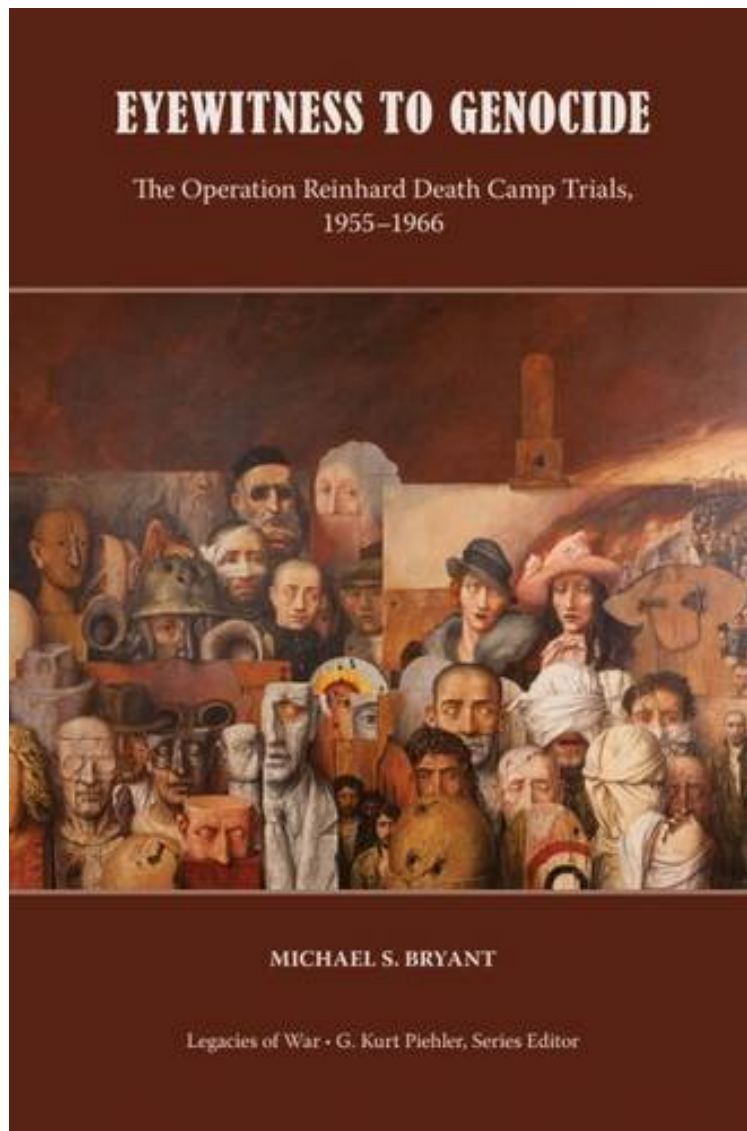


[Read free ebook] Eyewitness to Genocide: The Operation Reinhard Death Camp Trials, 1955-1966 (Legacies of War)

## **Eyewitness to Genocide: The Operation Reinhard Death Camp Trials, 1955-1966 (Legacies of War)**

*Michael Bryant*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#2526430 in Books 2016-08-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 1621902625312 pages | File size: 44.Mb

**Michael Bryant : Eyewitness to Genocide: The Operation Reinhard Death Camp Trials, 1955-1966 (Legacies of War)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eyewitness to Genocide: The Operation Reinhard Death Camp Trials, 1955-1966 (Legacies of War):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books on the subject By Alexander Alabin "Operation Reinhard is one of the least known stages of Holocaust to the general public. While almost everybody is aware of Auschwitz, most of people don't have a clue, when someone mentions Belzec, Sobibor or even Treblinka. There are some books which make us know about these camps and what happened there, but almost none tells about the fate of the perpetrators of the most horrible crimes against humanity as well as about their deeds. This particular work fills a huge gap on the subject, I can only wish it would also be published in a Kindle format.

One of the deadliest phases of the Holocaust, the Nazi regime's "Operation Reinhard" produced three major death camps-Belzec, Treblinka, and Sobibor-which claimed the lives of 1.8 million Jews. In the 1960s, a small measure of justice came for those victims when a score of defendants who had been officers and guards at the camps were convicted of war crimes in West German courts. The conviction rates varied, however. While all but one of fourteen Treblinka defendants were convicted, half of the twelve Sobibor defendants escaped punishment, and only one of eight Belzec defendants was convicted. Also, despite the enormity of the crimes, the sentences were light in many cases, amounting to only a few years in prison. In this meticulous history of the Operation Reinhard trials, Michael S. Bryant examines a disturbing question: Did compromised jurists engineer acquittals or lenient punishments for proven killers? Drawing on rarely studied archival sources, Bryant concludes that the trial judges acted in good faith within the bounds of West German law. The key to successful prosecutions was eyewitness testimony. At Belzec, the near-total efficiency of the Nazi death machine meant that only one survivor could be found to testify. At Treblinka and Sobibor, however, prisoner revolts had resulted in a number of survivors who could give firsthand accounts of specific atrocities and identify participants. The courts, Bryant finds, treated these witnesses with respect and even made allowances for conflicting testimony. And when handing down sentences, the judges acted in accordance with strict legal definitions of perpetration, complicity, and action under duress. Yet, despite these findings, Bryant also shows that West German legal culture was hardly blameless during the postwar era. Though ready to convict the mostly working class personnel of the death camps, the Federal Republic followed policies that insulated the judicial elite from accountability for its own role in the Final Solution. While trial records show that the "bias" of West German jurists was neither direct nor personal, the structure of the system ensured that lawyers and judges themselves avoided judgment.

"This is a superb book that promises to make a major intervention in a crowded field. Bryant promises to bring together two rather distinct strands of analysis in the literature the political and the legal. To a greater extent than any volume I'm aware of, Bryant brings these two strands together in a coherent and cogent way." --Devin Pendas, author of *The Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, 1963-1965: Genocide, History, and the Limits of the Law* About the Author Michael S. Bryant is a professor of history and legal studies at Bryant University. He is the author of *Confronting the Good Death: Nazi Euthanasia on Trial, 1945-1953*.