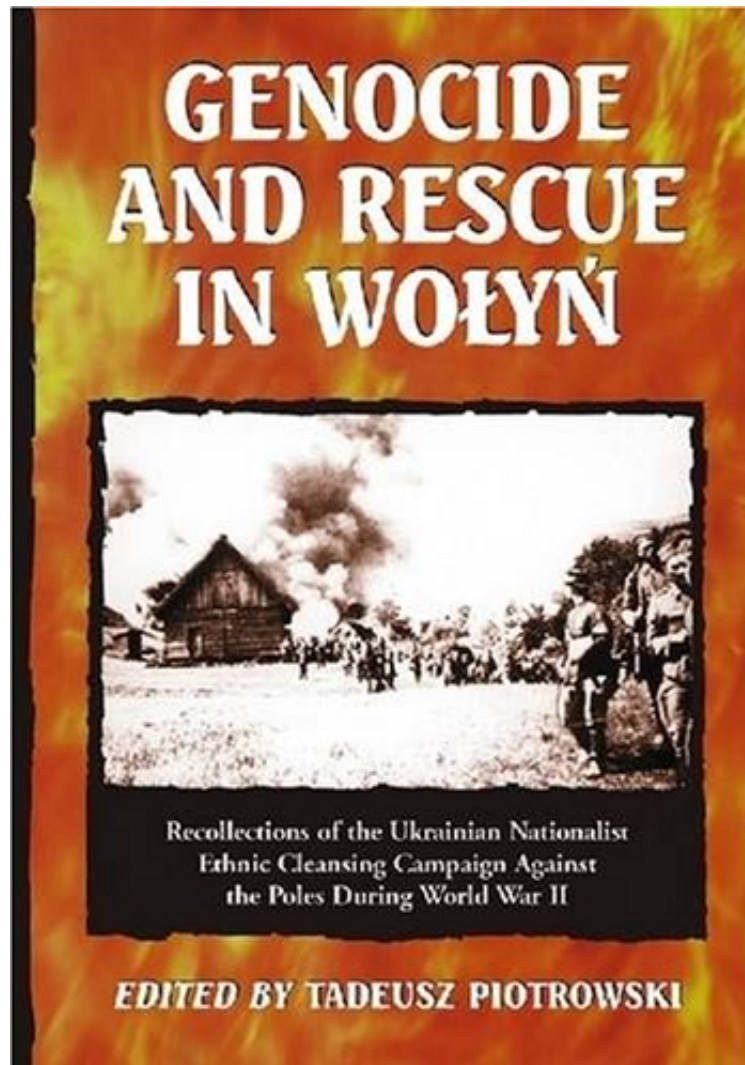


[Library ebook] Genocide and Rescue in Wolyn: Recollections of the Ukrainian Nationalist Ethnic Cleansing Campaign Against the Poles During World War II

Genocide and Rescue in Wolyn: Recollections of the Ukrainian Nationalist Ethnic Cleansing Campaign Against the Poles During World War II

Tadeusz Piotrowski

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Tadeusz Piotrowski : Genocide and Rescue in Wolyn: Recollections of the Ukrainian Nationalist Ethnic Cleansing Campaign Against the Poles During World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Genocide and Rescue in Wolyn: Recollections of the Ukrainian Nationalist Ethnic Cleansing Campaign Against the Poles During World War II:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bringing the Truth to Light of The Wolyn (Volyn) Massacre By Darlene Fields Informative book that I bought for my mother a survivor of the Wolyn Massacre. She was so happy to get the book but so sad and read the book and told me how what was written was true and I knew it was as she had told me the story all my life. She was a little girl in Poland and later came to the USA. I'm glad someone has written and brought to light what happened to the people there. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. important book, but really depressing By Jiri Mensik The book is a collection of stories of Poles who managed to survive the systematic genocide in Volyn (roughly the north west region of today Ukraine) committed by Ukrainian nationalists. The history is repeating - people from the same region are doing similar things again. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A democratic socialist genocide? By Ashtar Command Tadeusz Piotrowski is a Polish-American professor based in New Hampshire. His book "Genocide and Rescue in Wolyn" deals with a little known campaign of ruthless ethnic cleansing during World War II in Volhynia, an area in the western part of the Ukraine. During the interwar years, Volhynia had been controlled by Poland. During the war, control over the area shifted several times between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. The Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) was active in Volhynia. The UPA was the armed wing of the OUN-B, a fascist and terrorist organization led by the notorious Stepan Bandera. The OUN-B had a record of collaboration with Nazi Germany, but also had several fall outs with the Germans. Nominally, the UPA was an independent force, fighting both the Nazis and the Soviets. In reality, they concentrated their attacks on the Communists, while attempting to win Nazi support. Professor Piotrowski documents that the UPA had other interests as well. They waged a ruthless war of extermination against Polish villages in Volhynia. By killing men, women and children of Polish nationality and burning down their settlements, the UPA hoped to create an ethnically pure Ukrainian region. Unsurprisingly, they also attacked Jews. Interestingly, the UPA systematically terrorized the Ukrainian population as well, more or less forcing the local peasants to enlist in the UPA on pain of death. Naturally, they also killed Ukrainians who were brave enough to aid the Poles, not to mention Ukrainians suspected of Communist sympathies. Finally, UPA also forced two competing nationalist groups, OUN-M and another "UPA", to join their forces. The leader of the other "UPA", Taras Bulba, complained that the UPA spend more time attacking Polish civilians than waging a war against Communists and Nazis! "Genocide and rescue in Wolyn" contains both eye witness accounts of the massacres, county by county, a general historical overview of the OUN-B and the UPA, and excerpts from various contemporary documents. In some documents, the UPA blames the Poles for collaboration with the Nazis. Piotrowski admits that thousands of Poles in Volhynia did join the Nazi-controlled local police forces, but only after the *Ukrainian* collaborators had quit and joined the UPA! Besides, it was the OUN-B and the UPA which were guilty of most of the Nazi collaboration. Also, the ethnic cleansing campaign against the Poles of Volhynia started long before the Nazi decision to recruit Poles, and had always been a stated aim of the OUN, a predecessor to the OUN-B. I admit that this book might strike the general reader as very obscure, and will perhaps mostly interest advanced students of Polish or Ukrainian history. (The anti-Jewish activities of the UPA are mentioned mostly in passing.) My interest in this subject is due to the fact that the UPA attempted to pass themselves off as "democratic socialists" (!). Some left-wing groups were fooled by these pretences after the war, including the Fourth International and the supporters of Max Schachtman in the United States. The primary conduit seems to have been one Ivan Majstrenko, a refugee from the Soviet Union who formed a small left-wing group on arrival in the United States. I believe it was called the UPRP. Still during the 1990's, some left-wing magazines published glowing accounts of the "democratic socialist" UPA which fought both Hitler and Stalin. This is quite absurd, indeed, even perverse. Piotrowski's book isn't the first scholarly exposure of the UPA. Unfortunately, many left-wingers don't want to be weaned from their little myths. Perhaps "Genocide and rescue in Wolyn", written by a survivor of the terrible carnage in Western Ukraine, can open the eyes of some people.

After the 1939 Soviet and 1941 Nazi invasions, the people of Southeast Poland underwent a third and even more terrible ordeal when they were subjected to mass genocide by the Ukrainian Nationalists. Tens of thousands of Poles were tortured and murdered, not by foreign invaders, but by their fellow citizens--sometimes neighbors, relatives, and former friends. The children who survived them vividly remember these atrocities and now, many decades later, tell their tragic tales. These accounts, never before published in English, describe the brutal murders these children witnessed, their own miraculous survival, and the heroic rescues that saved them.

From Booklist After the German and Soviet invasions of Poland during World War II, the Polish Christian residents of the province of Wolyn were subjected to a policy of systemic genocide by Ukrainian Nationalists. Piotrowski, a native of Wolyn, lived under both the Soviet and the German occupation of Poland's eastern territories until August 1943; his family's home was burned to the ground and his relatives were killed. Each of the book's chapters represents one of the counties in Wolyn province. In interviews, survivors tell of the brutal torture and murder of thousands of Poles. Polish wives and their "half-Polish" children were murdered by their Ukrainian husbands and fathers. Some Ukrainian clergymen not only actively supported the Nationalists, they also participated in the atrocities. Yet some Ukrainians risked their lives to help save the Poles. These accounts, relatively free of rancor and bitterness, vividly document a

terrifying episode in history. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Survivors tell of the brutal torture and murder of thousands of Poles...vividly document[s] a terrifying episode in history." -- Booklist/RBB "The most complete account...one of the few books telling of this horrific episode published in English. The intensity of the brutality...is both consistent and mindboggling. The excerpts are both poignant and heart-rending." --Against the Grain "Sobering...useful and detailed chronology." --Stone Stone Second World War Books "The most complete account...one of the few books telling of this horrific episode published in English. The intensity of the brutality...is both consistent and mindboggling. The excerpts are both poignant and heart-rending." --Against the Grain "Sobering...useful and detailed chronology." --Stone Stone Second World War Books About the Author Tadeusz Piotrowski is a professor of sociology at the University of New Hampshire in Manchester where he also teaches courses in anthropology and the Holocaust, and where he served as the Associate Dean of Faculty. He has received many awards including the Outstanding Associate Professor Award. He lives in Manchester.