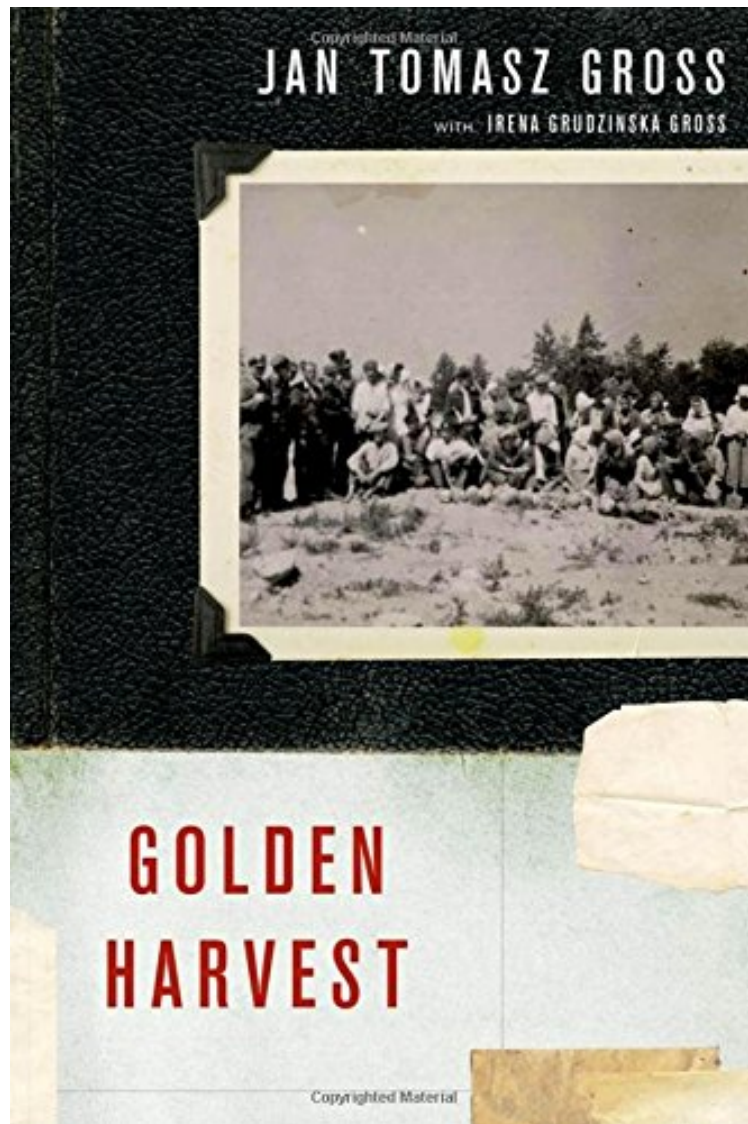


(Download pdf) Golden Harvest: Events at the Periphery of the Holocaust

## Golden Harvest: Events at the Periphery of the Holocaust

*Jan Tomasz Gross*

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#967581 in Books 2012-04-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 5.70 x .80 x 8.30l, .70 #File Name: 0199731675160 pages | File size: 15.Mb

**Jan Tomasz Gross : Golden Harvest: Events at the Periphery of the Holocaust** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Golden Harvest: Events at the Periphery of the Holocaust:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lingering ScornBy Eric MaroneyGolden Harvest: Events at the Periphery of the Holocaust by Jan Tomasz Gross and Contributions by Irena Grudzinska Gross explores the photograph on the cover, widely believed to be taken at the Treblinka death camp shortly after the war. Here, peasants

are digging up the remains of Jews killed at the camp in search for valuables (mostly gold and silver). They stop for a semi-causal snapshot before human remains, arranged for the camera. As the subtitle suggests, the book investigates how the outrages of the Holocaust continued well after the war was over. This true not only of the dead, but of the living. In many instances Jews were killed in Poland and elsewhere following as they tried to settle in their former towns or retain lost property. This books shows that not even the dead were safe. Their graves were desecrated with casual disregard and/or outright scorn. People who study the Holocaust know this well; this book will not come as a surprise. Most of the Operation Reinhard camps in Poland continued to be desecrated until present times (all but Sobibor are museums and protected now, but in the past access to the sites were unrestricted). This photo, although shocking and savage, is only a small slice of the lingering, shameful events of the post-Holocaust era. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Atrocities Suffered by Polish Jews during World War II By Dr. Jerrold Katz This was an excellent description of the behavior of many Polish people towards the Polish Jewish population during World War II. The book is well written and provides a thorough description of the atrocities suffered by the Jewish population in Poland during World War II. It provides descriptions of individual incidents rather than a broad brush description. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By TVery touching book.

It seems at first commonplace: a group photograph of peasants at harvest time, after hard work well done, resting contentedly with their tools behind the fruits of their labor. But when one finally notices the "crops" scattered in front of the group, what seemed innocent on first view become horrific skulls and bones. Where are we? Who are the people in the photograph, and what are they doing? The starting point of Jan Tomasz and Irena Grudzinska Gross's *Golden Harvest*, this haunting photograph in fact depicts a group of peasants--"diggers"--atop a mountain of ashes at Treblinka, where some 800,000 Jews were gassed and cremated. The diggers are searching for gold and precious stones that Nazi executioners may have overlooked. The story captured in this grainy black-and-white photograph symbolizes the vast, continent-wide plunder of Jewish wealth that went hand-in-hand with the Holocaust. The seizure of Jewish assets during World War II occasionally generates widespread attention when Swiss banks are challenged to produce lists of dormant accounts, or national museums are forced to return stolen paintings. But the theft of Europe's Jewish population was not limited to conquering armies, leading banks, or museums. It was perpetrated also by local people, such as those pictured in the photograph. Lyrical and often heartbreaking, *A Golden Harvest* takes readers across Europe as it exposes the economic ravaging of an entire society. Beginning with a simple group shot, the authors have written a moving book that evokes the depth and range, as well as the intimacy, of the Final Solution.

"lucid and chilling book" --The New Yorker "extraordinarily powerful account" --Neal Gendler, *The American Jewish World* "[*Golden Harvest*] is a remarkable, stunning work." --Gila Wertheimer, *Chicago Jewish Star* "Starting from a disturbed posed photograph of peasant gleaners in search of "post-Jewish" gold in the soil of Treblinka death camp, Jan Tomasz Gross and Irena Grudzinska Gross have created in this profoundly moving volume a chilling, sometimes shocking, passionate, and yet always balanced examination of the extent to which plunder of Jewish possession was often a communal enterprise in wartime and post-war Poland." --Madeline G. Levine, Kenan Professor of Slavic Literatures Emerita, University of North Carolina "Jan and Irena Gross guide us expertly through the "Heart of Darkness" that was wartime Poland. Using a single, deeply disturbing photograph, this book captures brilliantly the whole terrifying rapaciousness of Polish -- and European -- society as the Jews face the specter of elimination." --Norman M. Naimark, Robert and Florence McDonnell Professor of East European Studies, Stanford University About the Author Jan Tomasz Gross is Professor of History at Princeton University. He is the author of *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. Irena Grudzinska Gross is Associate Research Scholar in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Princeton University.