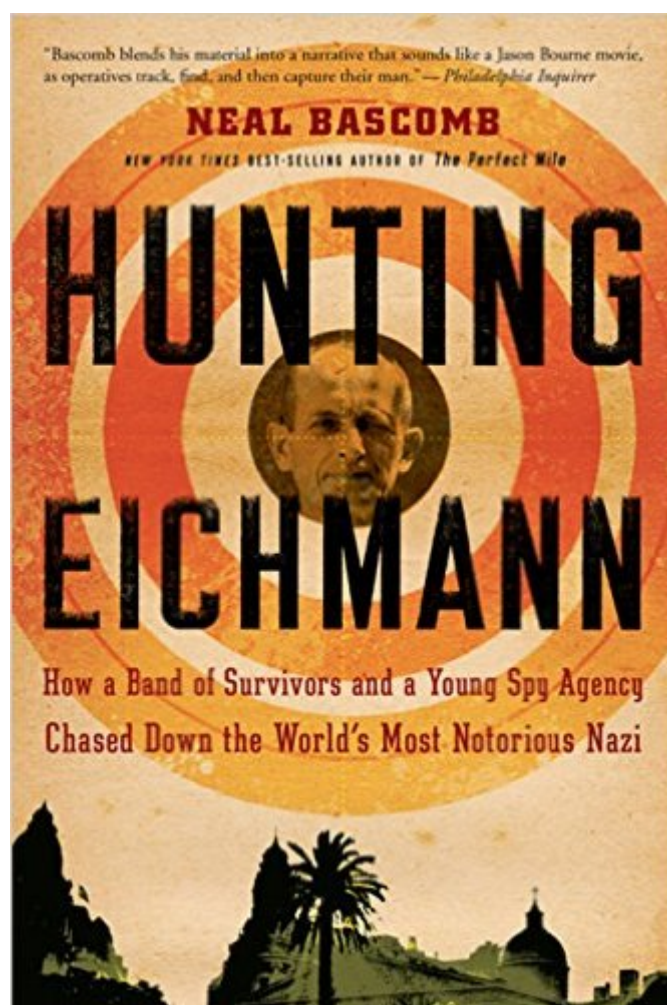


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Hunting Eichmann: How A Band Of Survivors And A Young Spy Agency Chased Down The World's Most Notorious Nazi



Synopsis

Hunting Eichmann is the first complete narrative of a relentless and harrowing international manhunt. When the Allies stormed Berlin in the last days of the Third Reich, Adolf Eichmann shed his SS uniform and vanished. Following his escape from two American POW camps, his retreat into the mountains and out of Europe, and his path to an anonymous life in Buenos Aires, his pursuers are a bulldog West German prosecutor, a blind Argentinean Jew and his beautiful daughter, and a budding, ragtag spy agency called the Mossad, whose operatives have their own scores to settle (and whose rare surveillance photographs are published here for the first time). The capture of Eichmann and the efforts by Israeli agents to secret him out of Argentina to stand trial is the stunning conclusion to this thrilling historical account, told with the kind of pulse-pounding detail that rivals anything you'd find in great spy fiction.Â

Book Information

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Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Fascism

Customer Reviews

Bascomb's "Hunting Eichmann" is a revelation, a light shone in dark and hidden corners, for those of us who were electrified by the news of his capture back in 1960. Israel was little more than a decade old at that point, and the stunning victory of June 1967 remained in the future. Bascomb's access to the dwindling band of operatives who planned and executed this master stroke of international justice is a real service to modern history. These actors were both dedicated and self-effacing in their service to justice for the slaughtered millions. It is good to know their names and see their faces. Their persistence in the face of many false trails and of skepticism that justice would or could ever be done, their self-control in bringing Eichmann to trial, the loathing and dread

they felt in his presence, banal as that presence was (whether taking his picture in close-up surveillance or sitting next to him on the El Al escape flight) -- these and much more are compellingly conveyed by Bascomb. I was particularly struck by Bascomb's ability to hold so many narrative threads in his hand and to play them out so clearly and in a way that left the reader engaged.

I very much enjoyed reading Mr. Bascomb's book. True to its title, "Hunting Eichmann" offers a detailed accounting of the efforts of Mossad in tracking down, capturing, and bringing to justice the world's most wanted criminal at that time. The book is easily read, offers little known and detailed information and perspectives from the participants involved, and holds the reader's attention. I was surprised that my perception of the Adolf Eichmann I thought I knew changed after reading this book. Since my teens in the late 1960's, I have read numerous books on the Third Reich and the Holocaust, including the great works of Sir Martin Gilbert, William Shirer, and Nazi insider Albert Speer. As a result, I saw Adolf Eichmann through a concrete looking glass... a 20th century boogey man; a black and white, one dimensional monster of epic proportions whose organizational skills, robotic ability to follow orders, and sociopathy made him a perfect choice for the tasks he eagerly carried out and was to eventually answer for. Although the focus of this book was obviously the manhunt, Bascomb managed to humanize Eichmann through short biographical flashes, at least as much as one can humanize the inhumane. He did so by offering insight into the flawed man that Eichmann was... a true case study in contradictions: a ne'er do well who found ambition and drive at the worst possible moment. A philandering husband revered by his long-suffering wife. A stern father, both loved and respected by his sons. A man able to extinguish a million lives with the mere stroke of a pen, yet who shuddered at the prospect of his own execution.

"THE ACCUSED, DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1939 TO 1945, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS, CAUSED THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS OF JEWS AS THE PERSONS WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF THE NAZIS FOR THE EXTERMINATION OF THE JEWS, A PLAN KNOWN BY ITS TITLE "THE FINAL SOLUTION OF THE JEWISH QUESTION."... this was part of the indictment brought by the State Of Israel against Adolf Eichmann on April 11, 1961 at 8:55 A.M. This intricately... historically detailed book tracks Eichmann from his days during the Holocaust as he despicably and callously... and with great personal pride... sets forth to wipe out every Jew in Europe. In a Hungarian ghetto Eichmann announced to Jewish prisoners: "JEWS: YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WE WANT

ONLY THE BEST FOR YOU. YOU'LL LEAVE HERE SHORTLY AND BE SENT TO VERY FINE PLACES INDEED." Those Jews were then forced into freight cars in which one entire village of one-hundred-three Jews were crammed into a single car that would have fit eight cows." The train of course led to one of many concentration camps where families were separated... and most... never saw each other again... as the chimneys of the crematoriums belched the smoke of Jewish death. At the war's end Eichmann and many other Nazi's escaped from Germany and some were helped on their escape route by the Vatican. The author comprehensively re-creates the many twists and turns that lead to Eichmann's numerous living arrangements... under many different aliases... that eventually culminate in Argentina under the name of Ricardo Klement. During this time period the Nuremberg Trials take place... and there is a great deal of damning testimony regarding Eichmann that will be used against him down the road...

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