

R E V I E W

Holocaust and Genocide Studies: An International Journal. Vol.1 - Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1986. US\$55.00 per annum/US\$104.00 two years.

Perhaps only Robert Maxwell could publish a journal with such a bizarre and curiosity-generating title - and succeed. Produced in association with the US Holocaust Memorial Council and Yad Vashem, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum not only for study of the Holocaust but also for scholarly analysis of genocide more generally. As the editors suggest, one cannot be examined without reference to the other, particularly if one looks at the Holocaust as an example of genocide in our own century. And there are other examples - North American Indians, Australian Aborigines, Armenians, etc. All of these, one presumes, will fall within the scope of this journal, which purposely concentrates on the twentieth century. The Editor-in-Chief, Yehuda Bauer of the Hebrew University, reminds us that "we are dealing not with just any problem to which academic standards need to be applied. We are dealing here with one of the central issues that affect contemporary humanity, if not the most central one: ... can it avoid the ideological, religious, social, economic and political pitfalls that may cause part of it to annihilate other parts in the name of false gods?"

Obviously, then, this journal has been founded out of more than academic interest, yet its scholarly credentials are impeccable: Elie Wiesel, Martin Gilbert and Franklin Littell, among others, are on the Editorial Board; the Editorial Advisory Board includes such eminent theologians as Robert McAfee Brown and Rosemary Ruether. Given the broad spectrum of disciplines and interests represented on these boards, one is not surprised by the range of topics treated in the nine substantive articles in the first issue: Himmler's SS, Holocaust and ghetto photography, literature of the camps, the Mississippi Choctaw, etc. And there are even two articles to interest theologians in particular: Roy Eckardt's "Is There a Way Out of the Christian Crime? The Philosophic Question of the Holocaust" and John Conway's "Protestant Missions to the Jews 1810-1980: Ecclesiastical Imperialism or Theological Aberration?" The five book reviews (a rather small number) contain nothing that immediately attracts one's eye, yet there have been several important theological studies in recent months: *Theologians under Hitler: Gerhard Kittel, Paul Althaus and Emanuel Hirsh* by Robert Ericksen, *Christian Faith and Public Choices: The Social Ethics of Barth, Brunner and Bonheffer* by Robin Lovin. Both appear in the two page listing of recent books, and one hopes that such titles will be reviewed regularly.

From the standpoint of theological libraries this journal is likely to be worth serious consideration. Clearly the editorial policy seeks to include a theological perspective on genocide, and the initial articles within this rubric suggest that a qualitatively high standard has been set for contributions. If the explicitly theological content were to increase to thirty per cent on average and if the reviews were to include theologically relevant titles, then those libraries which seek to expand the multidisciplinary content of their collections should be interested in subscribing to this journal. Compared with other scholarly serials, the price is reasonable. Please note, however, that *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* is not yet indexed in *Religion Index One*. Recommended with caution.

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