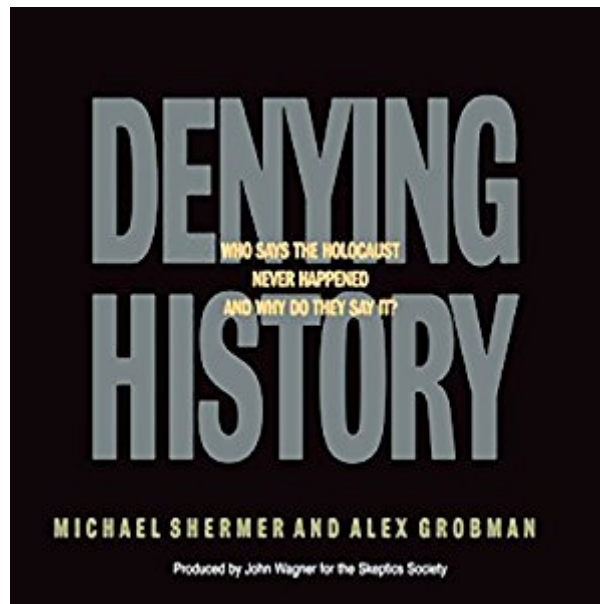


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# Denying History: Holocaust Denial, Pseudohistory, And How We Know What Happened In The Past



## Synopsis

Denying History takes a bold and in-depth look at those who say the Holocaust never happened and explores the motivations behind such claims. While most commentators have dismissed the Holocaust deniers as antisemitic neo-Nazi thugs who do not deserve a response, historians Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman have immersed themselves in the minds and culture of these Holocaust "revisionists." They have conducted personal interviews with the deniers, read their literature, monitored their Web sites, attended their conferences, engaged them in debate, and even traveled around Europe to conduct research at the Nazi extermination camps. Uncovering a complex social movement, the authors go much deeper than ever before in not only trying to understand the motives of the Holocaust deniers, but also refuting their points one by one. In the process, they show how we can be certain that the Holocaust happened and, for that matter, how we can confirm any historical event. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

You will not find a more straightforward Holocaust book than Denying History: Who Says the Holocaust Never Happened and Why Do They Say It. The authors' basic argument is this: The extermination of six million Jews during the Second World War is a historical fact. Those who deny it are wrong. It's hardly a provocative thesis. But ask yourself this: Would you be able to refute a Holocaust denier? The fact of the Holocaust is like the spherical Earth: Every reasonable person accepts it, but few can prove it. That is why Skeptic magazine publisher Michael Shermer teamed

up with historian Alex Grobman to write *Denying History*. They believe thinking people have a duty to fight Holocaust denial head on; and they want them to come to the battle armed with historical facts. When the eyes of the public are upon them -- such as during the 1985 trial of Canadian Holocaust denier Ernst Zündel, or the famous 1994 Donahue episode that pitted two Holocaust deniers against Shermer and an Auschwitz survivor -- deniers often get the best of staged confrontations. The most prominent deniers know a lot about the Holocaust, especially arcane subjects like the chemistry of Zyklon-B gas and the architecture of gas chambers. Many of the sound bites they spit out are quite true. It is a fact, for instance, that the Nazis never manufactured soap from Jewish bodies on a mass scale -- contrary to urban legend. Deniers are also correct when they claim that there is no known Holocaust order bearing Hitler's signature. David Irving, the on-again off-again denier who recently lost a defamation suit in Britain, has never had to make good on his \$1,000 challenge to any historian who could produce such a document.

In the wake of World War II, a series of prosecutions were leveled against the then living administrators of Germany's "final solution" or Holocaust against Europe's Jews. Significantly, no Nuremberg defendants attempted to claim that the Holocaust, a specific government sponsored program to kill Jews that actually resulted in some six million Jewish deaths, actually occurred. This remained the state of affairs even fifteen years later when Adolf Eichmann, was captured and put on trial in connection with his role in the final solution. It was even the state of affairs some thirty years after that when John Demjanjuk was extradicted to Israel to face trial on allegations that he was one in same with concentration camp guard Ivan the Terrible. However, as is made clear in this book, there are those who deny that the Holocaust occurred. As might be expected those denying the Holocaust almost always hail from anti semitic circles from which they are funded and supported. Not surprisingly the methods employed by these Holocaust deniers involve slip shod resesarch and reasoning. One example of this type of slip shod research and reasoning, as explained in this book, can be found in the Leuchter report, a report done by Fred Leuchter (a self described engineer) who went to Auschwitz where he illegally took wall samples from the area where inmates had been gassed to see if they contained traces of Zyclon B, the gas used to kill them. According to Leuchter his samples did not contain evidence of the lethal substance. However, the samples Leuchter took were from areas that had been subject to exposure to the elements for some fifty years.

It is both puzzling and painful to recognize that there are still serious(?) people abroad in the world

who loudly deny the veracity of the historical record concerning the Holocaust. As if to extend the unconscionable cruelty of the world yet longer for the millions of victims of this century's most heinous and tragic phenomenon, some actually continue to claim that either the Holocaust never happened, or that its dimensions and scope were much more limited and constrained than so-called Jewish revisionist historians would like the public to believe. This book puts the lie to all this nonsense, giving those who would deny the truth and accuracy of the history of the Holocaust an exceptionally thorough trip to the intellectual back shed to give them the whipping of their cranial careers. With this volume, historians Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman have presented a virtual tidal wave of substantiating evidence of the nature of the complex social movement that the Holocaust deniers comprise. The authors trudge through a depressing tour of every aspect of this social movement, and go deeper into every aspect of the deniers and their social network in an effort to both better understand what motivates them as well as how to finally and authoritatively refute their claims. In so doing, they not only illustrate how shallow, self-serving, disingenuous, and disreputable these claims and positions are, but also provide much more substantial proof of the existence of the Holocaust. In some ways this tour into the deep underbelly of continuing hate, bigotry, and ignorance is a descent into a Dante-like inferno, one the reader tends to recoil from because of its 'in-your-face' portrayal of such rampant and continuing racial hate and conflict.

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