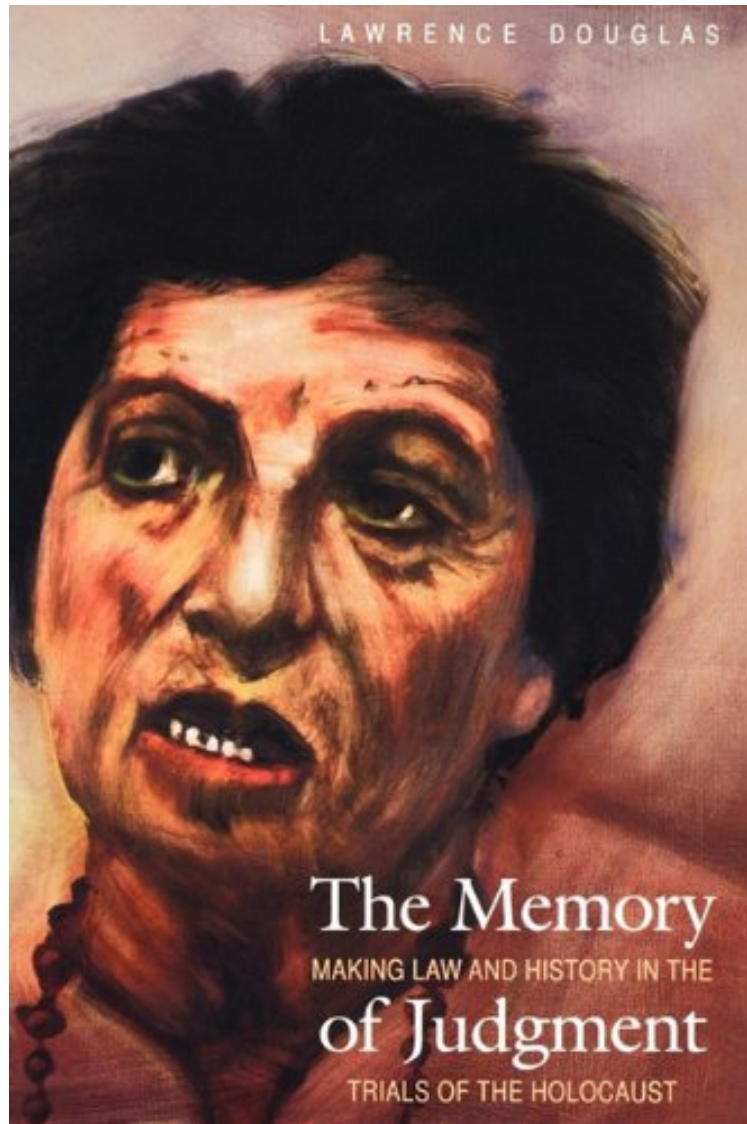


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## The Memory of Judgment: Making Law and History in the Trials of the Holocaust

*Lawrence Douglas*

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**Lawrence Douglas : The Memory of Judgment: Making Law and History in the Trials of the Holocaust** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Memory of Judgment: Making Law and History in the Trials of the Holocaust:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read for students of the holocaustBy CustomerA brilliant and fascinating book. Looks beyond the trials themselves into their broader significance, e.g., on holocaust denial the

argument that there is no such thing as an historical fact. Explores the weaknesses and strengths of the legal process when confronted with unprecedented crimes. 13 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Riveting, Insightful and Timely  
By Ethan Katz  
The Memory of Judgement is a terrific and very timely book. Lawrence Douglas offers an exciting, compelling account of major Holocaust Trials from the Nuremberg and Eichmann Trials up through the recent trials of Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel. Douglas' historical account is very compelling reading, from the standpoint of an exciting, well-crafted narrative, and, more impressively, because it steadily offers insight on very tough questions surrounding how to bring the perpetrators of atrocities to justice in a manner that also educates the larger public. As a reader, I was struck by the clarity with which the author describes the awesome, complex challenges facing prosecutors in six different trials that span more than fifty years, and by the convincing lines of connection drawn between these trials which vary greatly in setting and context. At a time when we are in the process of bringing Slobodan Milosevic to trial for his crimes in Kosovo; at this moment when we are struggling with how to best bring the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks of September 11 to justice, this book is a provocative take on the grave challenges and responsibilities in using the courtroom to do legal and educational justice to atrocity. Ultimately, one finishes Douglas' book with a fascinating new framework for understanding these contemporary issues, realizing that past trials, if their lessons are applied, can serve as models when approaching present perpetrators. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful Book (As discussed on my Radio Program)  
By Mike Feder  
I read Mr. Douglas's book carefully and with fascination. It is, in my opinion, a profoundly important book; not just about the Holocaust but about many of the other issues it addresses, political, psychological, legal and historical. It is essential for anyone studying or practicing (or just interested in) International Criminal Law and Politics to read this book. What we now take for granted as life and death international issues: Crimes Against Humanity, Genocide, etc. had their foundations in the Nuremberg, Eichmann and other trials discussed in this book. It's a serious book, not for reading in the Dentist's office but will open your mind in any number of directions. A superb achievement. Mike Feder/(...)

This powerful book offers the first detailed examination of the laws response to the crimes of the Holocaust. In vivid prose it offers a fascinating study of five exemplary proceedings: the Nuremberg trial of the major Nazi war criminals, the Israeli trials of Adolf Eichmann and John Demjanjuk, the French trial of Klaus Barbie, and the Canadian trial of Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel. These trials, the book argues, were show trials in the broadest sense: they aimed to do justice both to the defendants and to the history and memory of the Holocaust. With insight Lawrence Douglas explores how prosecutors and jurors struggled to submit unprecedented crimes to legal judgment, and in so doing, to reconcile the interests of justice and pedagogy. Against the attacks of such critics as Hannah Arendt, Douglas defends the Nuremberg and Eichmann trials as imaginative, if flawed, responses to extreme crimes. By contrast, he shows how the Demjanjuk and Zundel trials turned into disasters of didactic legality, obfuscating the very history they were intended to illuminate. In their successes and shortcomings, Douglas contends, these proceedings changed our understandings of both the Holocaust and the legal process, revealing the value and limits of the criminal trial as a didactic tool.

"A worthy participant in the debate begun by Hannah Arendt. . . a very good book about a very important topic." -- Robert A. Burt, Yale Law School  
"Douglas fuses a rigorous legal critique with razor-sharp literary and historical sensibilities. The result is a vivid and gripping account." -- James E. Young, University of Massachusetts, author of *The Texture of Memory* and *At Memory's Edge*  
"This remarkable book argues powerfully that the law can not only render justice, but also educate . . . brilliant and authoritative." -- Michael R. Marrus, University of Toronto  
"With exquisite grace, technical brilliance, and philosophic insight . . . a worthy successor to Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*" -- Owen Fiss, Yale University  
[A] unique and well-written account of the various trials involving the genocide of European Jewry. -- Choice  
From the Inside Flap  
This powerful book offers the first detailed examination of the law's response to the crimes of the Holocaust. It presents a vivid, fascinating study of five historic proceedings: the Nuremberg trial of the major Nazi war criminals, the Israeli trials of Adolf Eichmann and John Demjanjuk, the French trial of Klaus Barbie, and the Canadian trial of the Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel. These trials, the book argues, were "show trials" in the broadest sense: they aimed to do justice both to the defendants and to the history and memory of the Holocaust. In a riveting account, Lawrence Douglas explores how prosecutors and jurors struggled to submit unprecedented crimes to legal judgment, and in so doing, to reconcile the interests of justice and pedagogy. Against the attacks of such critics as Hannah Arendt, Douglas defends the Nuremberg and Eichmann trials as imaginative, if flawed, responses to extreme crimes. By contrast, he shows how the Demjanjuk and Zundel trials turned into disasters of didactic legality, obfuscating the very history they were intended to illuminate. In probing their success and shortcomings, Douglas reveals how these remarkable proceedings changed our understanding of both the Holocaust and the legal process. And in the process, he boldly challenges prevailing views of the value and limits of the law as a didactic tool.  
About the Author  
Lawrence Douglas is associate professor in the department of law, jurisprudence and social thought at Amherst College.