

Writing the History of the Holocaust in Poland: Summarizing existing knowledge or providing new innovative insights?

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The Holocaust in Poland is one of the most well-documented and researched topics. Beyond the first attempts even during the Second World War to describe the tragedy of Polish Jews, countless studies researched, analyzed and explored various aspects of the events that occurred in Poland under Nazi Germany occupation. In the following paper, I argue that reassessing well-researched events and placing them within the specific framework of the Holocaust in Poland can contribute to our understanding of much wider questions.

Why was Poland the place where murderous ideas matured into active and efficient extermination facilities and how did this contribute to the development of the Final Solution? What was the impact of deportation methods carried out in Poland on the Jewish communities as well as on local populations? How can analysis of the great diversity of Jewish experiences in Poland – due to geographical, demographic and other varieties - provide a better understanding of the Holocaust?

Exploring these questions within a broad framework and in the light of the extensive existing research on Poland can provide us with new insights and additional questions regarding the Holocaust.