

The Social Inheritance of the Holocaust

Gender, Culture and Memory

Anna Reading

palgrave
macmillan

100 Brook Hill Drive
Aldershot, MA 01901
USA

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xiii</i>
1 Introduction	1
Remembering Men, Petrifying Women	1
Hanging on to the Past	2
The Gender Memory Gap	5
Old Lady Meng's Soup	7
Which Memories, Whose past?	10
The Holocaust, Gender and Memory	15
Scope and Aims of the Book	16
Methods of Research	19
Establishing Terms	22
About the Book	24
2 The 'Wrong' Question: Historiographies	29
Why History?	29
History and Memory	31
Silences in Holocaust Historiography	34
Gendering Holocaust History	37
Experiences Before the War	39
Experiences in the Ghettos	41
Women and Men in the Resistance	42
Experiences in the Camps	43
Liberation and Aftermath	46
Silences in Gendered Historiography	47
The Reception of History	48
Conclusion	50
3 The Demolition of a Man: Autobiographies	51
Autobiography and Memory	51
Theoretical Approaches to Autobiography	53
The Familiar and the Strange	56
Forgetting Rape	57
Forbidden Love	59
Stripping and Reclotting	61
Complex Masculinities	66

The World Divided	67
Demolishing Manhood	70
The Liberated Man	72
Conclusion: The Genocidal Jigsaw	74
4 Moving Memories: Propaganda, Documentary and Holocaust Feature Films	77
Film and Memory	77
Critics and Holocaust Films	79
Shooting Obscenity	80
Witnessing Murder	84
Realizing Atrocities	89
Dramatizing Survival	94
Conclusion	100
5 The Absence of Women's Hair: Memorial Sites and Museums	102
Museums and Public Memory	102
Framing Museums and Memorial Sites	104
Artefacts in Auschwitz	105
The Green Field in Birkenau	109
Accidentally a Boy	114
Undeveloped and Unpronounced	117
Hearing Voices	121
Photos from The Shtetl of Eishishok	123
Women's Hair	124
On Intimacy	126
On Restoring Context	128
The Liberation Dress	130
Silences	131
Intervening into Memory	132
On the Value of Mindfulness	133
Conclusion	140
6 Grandma's Tales: Young People's Configurations of Holocaust Memory	143
Generations of Memories	143
Inheriting Memories, Using History	144
The Importance of (Grand)Mothers	147
Men's Images, Women's Words	156
Feeling Facts	159
The Fixed, the Forgotten and the Unsaid	163

Identification And Identity	170
Conclusion	172
7 Conclusions: (Dis) Articulations of Gender, Culture and Memory	175
Giving Life	175
Integrating Gender Into Holocaust Memory	176
Looking Back	182
Looking Forward	184
<i>Notes</i>	189
<i>Bibliography</i>	194
<i>Index</i>	212