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Review of the book Dictionary of the Holocaust: Biography, Geography, and Terminology

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Epstein, Eric Joseph. **Dictionary of the Holocaust: biography, geography, and terminology**, by Eric Joseph Epstein and Philip Rosen. Greenwood, 1997. 416p bibl index afp ISBN 0-313-30355-X, \$49.95

Each of the nearly 2,000 entries provides short, factual information on places, terms, and people associated with the Holocaust, including Righteous Gentiles and non-Jewish victims. Entries are arranged alphabetically, offer many *see* and cross-references, and contain suggested readings (with full publication information given in the extensive bibliography of English-language sources). For non-English terms and expressions, the language of origin is identified, along with both their literal meaning and a definition. Although it lacks the "handbook" aspect, this volume is much better

organized than the dictionary half of Abraham J. and Hershel Edelheit's *History of the Holocaust: A Handbook and Dictionary* (CH, Feb'95), which does not cross-reference from English to original terms. Thus, readers looking for a brief explanation of the "stab-in-the-back" myth will be referred by Epstein/Rosen from "stab" to "Dolchstoß," while the Edelheits include it only under the original German. This well-designed dictionary fills a niche between Israel Gutman's expensive *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* (4 v., CH, Jun'90) and the many reference works on WW II, although a discussion of historiographical issues, such as the debate between "functionalists" and "intentionalists" over the origins of the Final Solution, would have made it even better. General and academic readers, all levels.—J. A. Drobnicki, CUNY York College