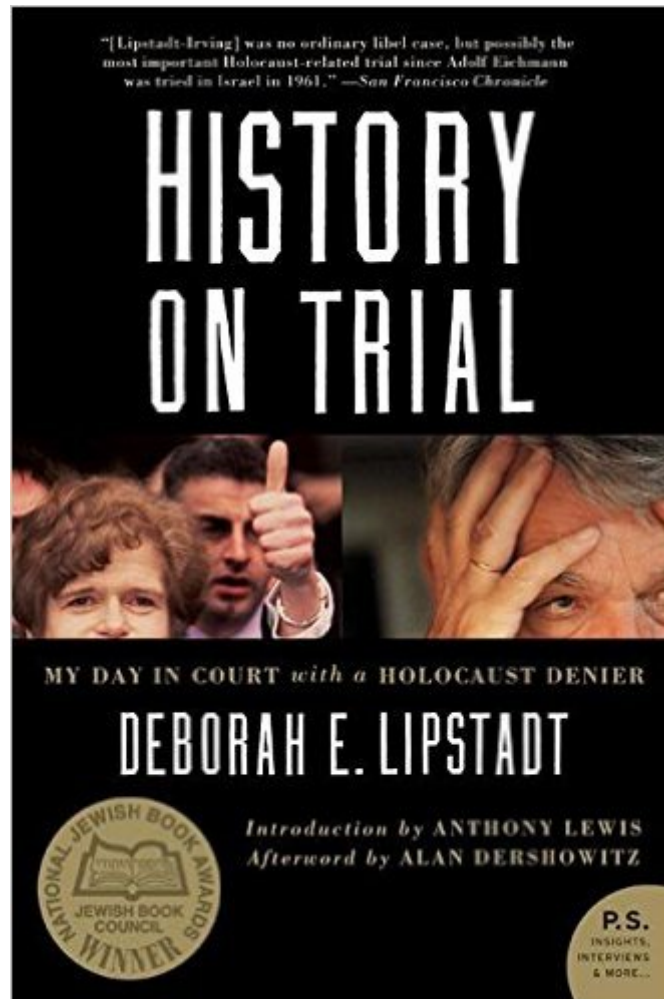


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History On Trial: My Day In Court With A Holocaust Denier



Synopsis

In her acclaimed 1993 book *Denying the Holocaust*, Deborah Lipstadt called putative WWII historian David Irving "one of the most dangerous spokespersons for Holocaust denial." A prolific author of books on Nazi Germany who has claimed that more people died in Ted Kennedy's car at Chappaquiddick than in the gas chambers at Auschwitz, Irving responded by filing a libel lawsuit in the United Kingdom -- where the burden of proof lies on the defendant, not on the plaintiff. At stake were not only the reputations of two historians but the record of history itself.

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Customer Reviews

As a Holocaust survivor (a hidden child in WWII Czechoslovakia), I am sensitive to the lies perpetuated by those who choose to deny that the systematic murder of six million Jews by the Nazis took place. I was somewhat familiar with David Irving and his twisted, made-up history of a war which cost my family twenty-five lives. In doing research for my own memoir of war experiences, I had read Deborah Lipstadt's "Denying the Holocaust." However, I was unaware of the libel suit brought against her by the British anti-Semite, Irving. I was surprised to learn that, in England, unlike in the U.S., the burden of proof in a libel suit is on the defendant. In other words, upon bringing the suit, Irving did not have to prove that he was not a Holocaust denier, as he claimed; Dr. Lipstadt had to prove that he was. "History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving" is a gripping, moving story of her ordeal. In the past, Irving had often used the threat of libel suits to intimidate and discourage other authors. No doubt, he expected this lady to back off as others had

done and to let his lies go unchallenged. Instead, she and her publisher decided to take a stand, and friends, colleagues, and the Jewish community rallied around her. An outstanding defense team was formed to do battle against Irving, who chose to represent himself in court. The beautifully, touchingly written courtroom drama describes in great detail how the defense exposes, piece by piece, Irving's fraudulent misrepresentations and distortions of facts as he attempts to exonerate Hitler and his henchmen of their crimes against humanity. For a week, while reading the book, I felt as though I was in the room with Dr.

This is one of the most gripping courtroom dramas I ever read, and I have read it a number of times. Deborah Lipstadt, an Emory University professor, wrote a book, "Denying the Holocaust," ripping the lid off of critters who distort one history's most horrific episodes of genocide and organized slaughter, turning it upside down, presenting it as a hoax, making the victims into blood-sucking liars and the perpetrators into innocents or heroes. The purpose of denying the Holocaust, of course, is to make Nazism a legitimate political force and continue Jew-hating. Remove the Holocaust, and Nazism goes from being a genocidal sadistic kleptomania to a tough, rough, but viable form of ethnic nationalism, which builds good roads and fights Communism. After Professor Lipstadt published her book, one of the people she assailed (almost in passing), Englishman David Irving, whose career as a historian was on the downswing because of his open support of Holocaust denial, sued Prof. Lipstadt. Irving did so in a British court, which places a heavy burden on defendants -- they have to prove the plaintiff is wrong, instead of the plaintiff having to prove he is right. As matters turned out, Prof. Lipstadt whupped Irving pretty effectively. She assembled a crack team of historians, who presented reports that ripped Irving's research and knowledge of history bloody. Her barrister, Richard Rampton, tore Irving apart on the witness stand. At the end, the judge ruled for the defendants, shredding Irving's reputation as a historian, calling him a liar and a racist. Prof.

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