



Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust

By Charles Patterson



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This book explores the similar attitudes and methods behind modern society's treatment of animals and the way humans have often treated each other, most notably during the Holocaust. The book's epigraph and title are from "The Letter Writer," a story by the Yiddish writer and Nobel Laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer: "In relation to them, all people are Nazis; for the animals it is an eternal Treblinka." The first part of the book (Chapter 1-2) describes the emergence of human beings as the master species and their domination over the rest of the inhabitants of the earth. The second part (Chapters 3-5) examines the industrialization of slaughter (of both animals and humans) that took place in modern times. The last part of the book (Chapters 6-8) profiles Jewish and German animal advocates on both sides of the Holocaust, including Isaac Bashevis Singer himself.

The Foreword is by Lucy Rosen Kaplan, former attorney for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and daughter of Holocaust survivors. Her foreword, the Preface and Afterword, excerpts from the book, chapter synopses, and an international list of supporters can be found on the book's website at: www.powerfulbook.com



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Isaac Bashevis Singer first suggested that "for the animals, it is an eternal Treblinka." Charles Patterson (*Anti-Semitism: The Road to the Holocaust and Beyond*) expands on that risky analogy in his latest book, *Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust*. Patterson hypothesizes a risky causal relationship, too, when he writes, "since violence begets violence, the enslavement of animals injected a higher level of domination and coercion into human history by creating oppressive hierarchical societies and unleashing large-scale warfare never seen before." Was human "enslavement" of animals the first step on the road to the Holocaust? Patterson doesn't say as much, but it's clear that he feels our inhumanity to the nonhuman is one of our greatest evils.

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Review

"...sheds light on violence against animals and humans so that we might one day put an end to it." -- *Moment Magazine*, June 2002

"Compelling, controversial, iconoclastic...strongly recommended...a unique contribution." -- *Midwest Book Review*, May 2002

"Eternal Treblinka is an eye-opening, thought-provoking book that I highly recommend." -- *The Gantseh Megillah (Montreal)*, April 2002

"Important and timely...written with great sensitivity and compassion...I hope that *Eternal Treblinka* will be widely read." -- *Martyrdom and Resistance*, March/April 2002

"There are good books...great books...and important books...*Eternal Treblinka* is all three." -- *Satya Magazine*, June/July 2002

From the Author

I'm dedicating the book to the great Yiddish writer Isaac Bashevis Singer (1904-91), the first major writer to focus on the "Nazi" way we treat animals. The first two parts of the book (Chapters 1-5) put the issue in historical perspective, while the last part (Chapters 6-8) profiles Jews and Germans whose animal advocacy has been, at least to some extent, shaped by the Holocaust.

The conviction of Albert Camus that "it is a writer's responsibility to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves" helped me persevere through the writing of this book. When it looked as if I might never find a publisher brave enough to publish it (some said the book was "too strong"), I took comfort from Franz Kafka's view: "I think we ought to read only books that bite and sting us. If the book we are reading doesn't shake us awake like a blow to the skull, why bother reading it in the first place? So it can make us happy? Good God, we'd be just as happy if we had no books at all....A book must be the ax for the frozen sea within us."

If the issue of the exploitation and slaughter of animals moves to center stage in the twenty-first century the

way the issue of human slavery did in America in the nineteenth century--and I think it will--my hope is that this book will be in the thick of the debate. --from Preface

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Pearl Sanders:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for all of us. The book Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust ended up being making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The book Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust is not only giving you far more new information but also to become your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with all the book Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust. You never experience lose out for everything when you read some books.

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