

# HUMANITY IN DOUBT

REFLECTIONS AND ESSAYS

*Philip Weiss*



*In 1991 Philip Weiss was awarded the Prix Manitoba by the provincial government for distinguished service in cross-cultural awareness; in 1994, he was awarded the Bloomfield Medal from the Jewish National Fund for Outstanding Contributions to the Jewish people, and the Dr. Percy Bursky Humanitarian Award from the Canadian Shaarey Zedek Hospital Foundation; and in 1998, the Canadian Jewish Congress Award, as one of the fifty Canadian Holocaust survivors who have greatly contributed to the betterment of Canadian society. In recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of Holocaust education in Manitoba, Philip Weiss was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws, by the University of Winnipeg, in 2003. The first memorial on public grounds anywhere in Canada was spearheaded by Philip Weiss, as Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Committee. The monument is dedicated to the memory of Manitoba family members who perished in the Holocaust, and sits today on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature.*

*Born in Drohobycz, Poland, Philip, and his family were placed in a ghetto, and then he was imprisoned in a succession of three labour camps and two concentration camps, before being liberated in 1945. Philip Weiss has made it his life's work to bear personal witness to the devastation of the Holocaust. In all of this work, he has promoted the values of tolerance and respect for all other groups.*

*As part of his journey to rebuild his own humanity, Philip has chosen to try to put meaning and context to his experiences, by devoting considerable time to researching the political, social, and cultural underpinnings of the Holocaust.*

*In essence, this book is both a personal odyssey and a collection of Philip Weiss's essays he has delivered on thematically organized topics, relating to the Holocaust. What is unique about this book is that the reader is first introduced to the man, in his own words, so that he or she can better connect with and understand the perspective he brings to his intellectual considerations of the hard questions on the Holocaust.*

*It is Philip's greatest wish that the book will open the eyes of those who have little or no knowledge of the Holocaust. The personal odyssey and essays provide a baseline of knowledge on this most dark period of human history, a period where man's*

Journalism/Politics

Since my liberation from Mathausen, on May 5, 1945, I have been torn between the urge to describe those events and the sense of futility in doing so. Would a shattering and numbing silence be the best response to the unspeakable horror of the Holocaust? And even if justice demands that truth be exposed, the question we survivors need to answer is: can we find adequate words to describe the unspeakable? Has post-Holocaust mankind become better because of this knowledge? Has the telling ennobled and strengthened us as survivors? Has it redeemed our souls?

For me personally, my journey ends with *Humanity in Doubt*, penned with greatest of hope that you, the reader, shall offer some of your valuable time to contemplate our fragile humanity of Then, Now, and of our Future.

*- Excerpt from My Spiritual Journey, Humanity in Doubt*

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