

machinery of destruction in motion. Refutes David Irving's theory that Hitler neither ordered nor wished the destruction of the Jewish people.

Saul Friedlaender. *Reflections on Nazism: An Essay on Kitsch and Death*. Harper and Row, \$13.95. An argument showing how recent films, novels, and biographical and autobiographical works share a fascination with the magic and myth of the Hitler movement. Analyzes the work of George Steiner, Joachim Fest, Lucino Visconti, Hans-Juergen Syberberg and others who have created a "new discourse" about the Nazi movement.

Eberhard Jackel. *Hitler in History*. University Press of New England, \$11.95. This work addresses Hitler's legacy in the context of contemporary European and German history, ultimately concentrating on Hitler's use of power in the Third Reich.

Robert Kirschner. *Rabbinic Responsa of the Holocaust Era*. Schocken Books, \$17.95. By collecting rabbinic responsa, written during the Holocaust, to particularly difficult *she'lot*, the author illustrates the struggle of the religious community to preserve *Halacha* in the face of events that seemingly negate all laws.

Primo Levi. *The Periodic Table*. Schocken Books, \$16.95. Using the chemical elements of the periodic table as an allegorical and guiding motif, the author of *Survival in Auschwitz* self-consciously reconstructs—and thereby finds meaning in—his Italian Jewish past, family, and the events surrounding his deportation to Auschwitz. It is a beautifully crafted, original, and imaginatively powerful book.

Alan Mintz. *Hurban: Responses to*

Catastrophe in Hebrew Literature. Columbia University Press, \$26.00. After looking at the literary responses of Hebrew writers through the ages to massive national catastrophes, from the destruction of the First Temple onward, the author examines and compares the treatment of the Holocaust in contemporary Israeli literature. Central to Mintz's critical view is the manner in which traditional literary constructs reconstruct events and confer meaning onto them.

George Mosse. *German Jews Beyond Judaism*. Indiana University Press, \$20.00 (cloth), \$7.95 (paper). A study of German Jewry after World War I and its efforts to restore reason, enlightenment, and the primacy of culture over politics. According to Mosse, it was this attempt to humanize nationalism—under the darkening shadow of the Nazis—that remains one of the most important legacies of German Jewry.

Alvin Rosenfeld. *Imagining Hitler*. Indiana University Press, \$15.00. In a work similar to Saul Friedlaender's *Reflections on Nazism* (see above), Rosenfeld explores the countless versions of the Fuehrer and Nazism in contemporary high and low culture. He addresses the questions: What accounts for the Nazi hold on our imaginations? Why does Hitler preoccupy us so, and in shapes which are usually fictional? What does Hitler symbolize today?

David Roskies. *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture*. Harvard University Press, \$20.00. Impeccable yet personal in its scholarship, this award-winning study goes beyond Holocaust literary criticism, to establish its own genre of writ-

ing. Focusing on the modern Jewish experience in Eastern Europe, Roskies explores the ways in which Jewish writers and intellectuals seemed to reject traditional modes of response to catastrophe even as they eventually relied on them in their parody and subversion of literary tradition.

Matthias Schmidt. *Albert Speer: The End of a Myth*. St. Martin's Press, \$14.95. In this expert study the author argues that, contrary to Speer's own claims, the former Nazi minister was devoted to all aspects of Nazi rule and was probably responsible for the deportation of 70,000 Berlin Jews.

Nechama Tec. *Dry Tears: The Story of a Lost Childhood*. Oxford University Press, \$6.95 (paper). This is a compassionately rendered autobiography, whose Jewish family found refuge with anti-Semitic Polish Christians during the Holocaust. In learning to pass as a Christian, the young girl of this narrative comes of age with a wisdom far beyond her years.

David S. Wyman. *The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941-1945*. Pantheon Books, \$19.95. Already a celebrated book, and a sequel to Henry Feingold's *The Politics of Rescue*, *The Abandonment of the Jews* makes the charge that President Franklin D. Roosevelt and officials at the State Department were well aware of the plight of the European Jews as early as 1942, but ignored it nonetheless. Wyman argues that American authorities should have known about the Holocaust and that they might have been able to save, if not millions, at least hundreds of thousands of Jews who were tortured and murdered by the Nazis.