

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910133144303321
Titolo	Foreign consular offices in the United States
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Washington, D.C.], : Dept. of State, United States of America, 1920-
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Collana	Department of State publication
Disciplina	327.2
Soggetti	Diplomatic and consular service - United States Service diplomatique et consulaire - États-Unis Diplomatic and consular service DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE DIRECTORIES Registers (Lists) United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Periodico
Note generali	Some issues distributed to depository libraries on microfiche and print version. No longer distributed to depository libraries in a physical form after <2002> issue.

2. Record Nr.

UNINA9910778218903321

Titolo

The neighbors respond [[electronic resource]] : the controversy over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland / / edited by Antony Polonsky and Joanna B. Michlic

Pubbl/distr/stampa

Princeton, N.J., : Princeton University Press, c2004

ISBN

1-282-15858-9
9786612158582
1-4008-2581-4

Edizione

[Course Book]

Descrizione fisica

1 online resource (503 p.)

Classificazione

15.70

Altri autori (Persone)

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Disciplina

940.53/18/09438

Soggetti

Jews - Persecutions - Poland - Jedwabne
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) - Moral and ethical aspects - Poland -
Jedwabne
Antisemitism - Poland - Jedwabne - History - 20th century
Jedwabne (Poland) Ethnic relations

Lingua di pubblicazione

Inglese

Formato

Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Monografia

Note generali

Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto

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Sommario/riassunto

Neighbors--Jan Gross's stunning account of the brutal mass murder of the Jews of Jedwabne by their Polish neighbors--was met with international critical acclaim and was a finalist for the National Book Award in the United States. It has also been, from the moment of its publication, the occasion of intense controversy and painful reckoning. This book captures some of the most important voices in the ensuing debate, including those of residents of Jedwabne itself as well as those of journalists, intellectuals, politicians, Catholic clergy, and historians both within and well beyond Poland's borders. Antony Polonsky and Joanna Michlic introduce the debate, focusing particularly on how Neighbors rubbed against difficult old and new issues of Polish social memory and national identity. The editors then present a variety of Polish voices grappling with the role of the massacre and of Polish-Jewish relations in Polish history. They include samples of the various strategies used by Polish intellectuals and political elites as they have attempted to deal with their country's dark past, to overcome the legacy of the Holocaust, and to respond to Gross's book. The Neighbors Respond makes the debate over Neighbors available to an English-speaking audience--and is an excellent tool for bringing the discussion into the classroom. It constitutes an engrossing contribution to modern Jewish history, to our understanding of Polish modern history and identity, and to our bank of Holocaust memory.
