



# recommended



## RECOMMENDED LITERATURE, MOVIES & MUSIC

### P O L A N D

#### Academic Sources: Books

- > Davies, Norman. (2005). *God's Playground: A History of Poland: 1795-present. Vol. I & II*. Oxford University Press.  
The best available academic source on Polish history, from 1795 to the contemporary period.
- > Dylewski, Adam. (2010). *Polish Jews and Their Culture: An Illustrated Guide*. Bielsko-Biała.  
An excellent serious study with suggested routes for touring purposes.
- > Gutman, Yisrael. (1982). *The Jews of Warsaw 1939-1943: Ghetto, Underground, Revolt*. Indiana University Press.  
The most important source on the Warsaw Ghetto by an Israeli academic who lived in Warsaw at the time.
- > Kagan, Joram. (2001). *Poland's Jewish Landmarks: A Travel Guide*. New York.  
A readable handbook covering the whole of Poland.
- > Zimmerman, Joshua (Ed.). (2003). *Contested Memories. Poles and Jews During the Holocaust and its Aftermath*. Rutgers University.  
A collection of essays reassessing the historiography of Polish-Jewish relations before, during and after World War II, and challenging the commonly held views on both sides.

#### Academic Sources: Articles

- > Michlic, Joanna Beata & Melchior, Malgorzata. (2013). "The Memory of the Holocaust in Post-1989 Poland: Renewal – Its Accomplishments and Its Powerlessness". In: John Paul Himka and Joanna Beata Michlic (Eds.). *Bringing the Dark Past to Light*. University of Nebraska. Pp. 403-450.
- > Valley Eli. (1999). "Warsaw: City of Monuments". *The Great Jewish Cities of Central and Eastern Europe*. New Jersey. Pp. 149-255.
- > Valley, Eli. (1999). "Cracow: The City of Legends". *The Great Jewish Cities of Central and Eastern Europe*. New Jersey. Pp. 259-371.
- > Young, James Eduard. (1993). "The Rhetoric of Ruins: The memorial Camps at Majdanek and Auschwitz". *The Texture of Memory*. New Haven. Pp. 119-154.

#### Recommended Literature on Poland

- > Aharon Applefeld. (2006). *Katerina*.  
A fictional story of a Polish housekeeper who worked for Jewish families before World War II in an environment of increasing anti-Semitism.



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- > *Halina Birenbaum. (1967). Hope is the Last to Die.*  
The book tells the story of the author, growing up in the Warsaw Ghetto, her deportation and her survival of the death camps.
- > *Jan Gross. (2001). Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland.*  
A controversial book that suggests that the Poles initiated the murder of the local Jews.
- > *Primo Levi. (1958). If This is a Man.*  
The book describes the author's arrest as a member of the Italian anti-fascist resistance during World War II and his deportation to Auschwitz concentration Camp.
- > *Eli Valley. (1999). The Great Jewish Cities.*  
A travel guide and resource book to Prague, Warsaw, Cracow and Budapest, covering all aspects of Jewish history and contemporary life.

### Recommended Movies on Poland

- > *Aftermath. 2012. Director: Wladyslaw Pasikowski.*  
A fictional movie inspired by the July 1941 Jedwabne pogrom in which the Jewish community was murdered by their Polish neighbors. The film raised controversy and debates all throughout Poland about responsibility for the annihilation of Poland's Jews.
- > *In Darkness. 2012. Director: Agnieszka Holland.*  
The movie is based on a true story of a sewer worker in the Nazi-occupied Polish city of Lwow, who provided shelter for a group of Jews in the city's sewer system during the Holocaust.
- > *Little Rose. 2010. Director: Jan Kidawa Blonski.*  
The movie tells the story of a Polish secret serviceman who used his lover to get information for an "anti-socialist" Jewish professor in 1967-1968, a period characterized by a high level of anti-Semitism, resulting in a forced emigration of 15,000 Jews from Poland.
- > *Schindler's List. 1993. Director: Steven Spielberg*  
The renowned movie was adapted from a novel based on the life of Oskar Schindler, a German businessman who saved more than a thousand Jews from death during the Holocaust, by employing them in his factories.
- > *The Pianist. 2002. Director: Roman Polanski.*  
A painful biographical movie about the Polish-Jewish pianist and composer Wladyslaw Szpilman who struggled to survive in the Ghetto Warsaw.



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### P O L A N D

#### Recommended Music of Poland

> *Songs of the Vilna Ghetto / Various Artists*

Yiddish songs from the World War II era performed by Nechama Hendel, Chava Alberstein and Shimon Israeli, accompanied by the CBS Israeli Orchestra and choir.

> *Klezmer and Hassidic Music / The Burning Bush*

Inspired by a wide variety of music from the old Jewish world, this includes folk songs in Yiddish from Poland, Russia and the Ukraine, instrumental dances of East European Klezmer bands and mystical dances of the ultra-orthodox Hasidim.

> *Jewish Folksongs from the Shtetl / Olga Mieleszczuk*

Olga Meileszczuk was born in Warsaw and lives in Warsaw and Jerusalem. The album is inspired by the biography and repertoire of Mariam Nirenberg, a Jewish singer from multi-ethnic Polesia, who rediscovered forgotten Jewish folk songs.

> *Yiddish Songs / Yossele Rozenblatt*

Familiar Yiddish songs and cantorial music performed by the famous cantor and composer Yossele Rozenblatt, including: Eli Eli, Aheim Aheim, Mein Yiddische Meidele, etc.

> *This is Yiddish / Dudu Fisher*

A compilation of songs recorded live in concerts worldwide and in recording studios by Dudu Fisher. Included in the CD are old favorites such as Bellz and My Yiddische Mama.