



# **Birth, Sex and Abuse: Women's Voices Under Nazi Rule (Winner: Canadian Jewish Literary Award, CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title and USA National Jewish Book Award)**

*By Beverley Chalmers*

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## **AWARD WINNING BOOK**

This book, awarded the National Jewish Book Award for Women's Studies, the Canadian Jewish Literary Award for Holocaust Literature, and a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award in 2015, is a fascinating and gripping examination of birth, sex and abuse during the Nazi era. Dr Chalmers' unique lens on the Holocaust provides a stunning and controversial exposé of the voices of both Jewish and non-Jewish women living under Nazi rule. Based on twelve years of study, the book takes an inter-disciplinary view incorporating women's history, Holocaust studies, social sciences and medicine, in a unique, cutting-edge examination of what women themselves said, thought and did.

Dr Chalmers (DSc(Med);PhD) has dedicated her life to studying women's experiences of giving birth in difficult social, political, economic and religious environments. During her distinguished academic career, she has held professorial appointments in both the Medical and Social Sciences and has served, for decades, as a maternal and child health consultant for numerous United Nations and other global aid agencies. Her inter-disciplinary focus and extensive international experience provide a novel perspective on the Nazi era and on the neglected issue of the Nazi abuse of childbearing and sexuality.

"This book should be a 'must' for everybody dealing with the cruel chapters of the Holocaust, especially for those who are dealing with research about the subject of women and children, and medicine, during the Shoah" (Prof. Dr. Miriam Gillis-Carlebach, Director, The Joseph Carlebach Institute, Bar-Ilan University, Israel).

"This book has an utterly unique, in-depth focus on all aspects of sexuality and reproduction during the Nazi regime; the author has written the first-ever,

comprehensive tome on the treatment of women and infants that is essential for many disciplines" (Prof. Caroline Pukall, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Director of SexLab and the Sex Therapy Service, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada) "Throughout *Birth, Sex and Abuse* Chalmers' meticulous record of events, stories and untold atrocities provides readers with access to new understandings of the horrors of the Holocaust. The impressive bibliography and collection of notes at the end further provides readers access to an underrepresented topic in Jewish history....it is an excellent addition to classes about Jewish history or Women and Judaism and for anyone interested in Holocaust studies...Chalmers does an impressive job..." (Prof Rachel Silverman, Embry Riddle University, Daytona Beach, Florida. *Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 2015, 12(1), 1-4.)

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