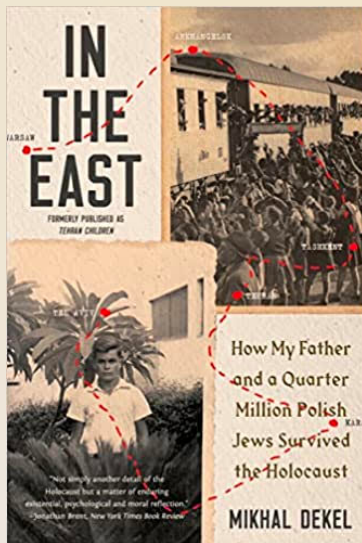


# In The East, published by W.W. Norton in 2021, is the first comprehensive history of Polish Jews who died in Soviet gulags or survived them to become refugees in Central Asia and the Middle East. This virtually unknown history should be included in Holocaust studies.

A finalist for the 2020 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, the National Jewish Book Award for Writing Based on Archival Material and the Chautauqua Prize for Significant Contribution to the Literary Arts.



“... not simply another detail of the Holocaust but a matter of enduring existential, psychological and moral reflection.”

— Jonathan Brent, The New York Times

“It is startling to discover in a book written by a stranger answers you have always been seeking, even unconsciously, to the most fundamental personal questions.”

The New York Review of Books

“What makes Dekel’s study so valuable...with its mass migrations of desperate people fleeing conflict and hardship only to meet inflamed nativism and the desire to shift responsibility for their fate from one country on to the next.”

— Saskia Baron, The Guardian

“Rejecting the binary of victim and perpetrator, Dekel finds complexity in relationships shaped by changing material conditions as well as prejudice.”

— Julia M. Klein, The Forward

formerly published 2019 as Tehran Children

Roughly a quarter million Polish Jews, among them the author’s father, were deported during WW2 - not by Nazi Germany to concentration camps, but by Soviet Russia to gulags. Yet after the war, which was won through a Soviet defeat of the Nazis, the story of the terrible fates of Holocaust victims on the Soviet side was largely suppressed. Dekel, a distinguished professor of literature, blends memoir, travel reportage, and archival research to reconstruct the story of two thirds of all Polish Jewish survivors, who spent the war years in Russian gulags, and in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, India and Mandatory Palestine. A virtually unknown account of the Holocaust, hers is also a great WW2 refugee epic, a timeless meditation on the nature of belonging and identity of refugees, deportees, and evacuees.

*In The East* includes a new Epilogue by the author; an expository Afterward by Kontstanz University Professor Aleida Assmann; and an informative Q&A with McArthur fellow and Chicago University Livingston Professor of East European History Tara Zahra. It will be an invaluable addition to any course on WWII history, the Holocaust, history of migrations, refugees studies, and the history of Eastern and Western Jews.

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