

NECHAMA TEC

*Award-winning Author • Keynote Speaker
Professor of Sociology • Holocaust Scholar*

biography

Nechama Tec, Professor Emerita of Sociology at UConn, received her PhD from Columbia University. A Holocaust scholar for years, Tec's research and publications have concentrated on the intricate relationships between self-preservation, compassion, altruism, rescue, resistance, cooperation and gender.

Her books have expanded and deepened our understanding of the Holocaust by venturing into overlooked territory such as the Christian rescue of Jews (*When Light Pierced the Darkness*), Jewish and Christian identity (*In the Lion's Den*), Jewish wartime heroism (*Defiance*) and most recently, gender and survival (*Resilience and Courage*). This fascination with the unexplored began with her own memoir (*Dry Tears*) which is unusual for its candid exploration of the ways in which a false identity can become all-consuming. Tec's next book will undertake a comparative analysis of Jewish and non-Jewish resistance during the war.

Tec is the recipient of two honorary degrees of Doctor of Humane Letters: one from Seton Hall University and the most recent from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. In 2002, she was appointed by the President to the Council of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C. Tec also serves on the Academic Advisory Committee at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. In 1997, she was a Senior Research Fellow at the Miles Lerman Center for the Study of Jewish Resistance, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. In 1995, she was a Scholar-in-Residence at the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.

Her books have been translated into Dutch, French, Hebrew, German, Italian and Polish.

Nechama Tec is also the author of over seventy scholarly articles and continues to be a frequent lecturer at international and national meetings and conferences. Over the years Tec's research has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Social Science Research Council, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and others.

Tec's book *Defiance*, was adapted for the screen in 2008 by Writer/Director Edward Zwick. The motion picture stars Daniel Craig, Jamie Bell and Liev Schreiber and is released by Paramount Vantage.

Two of her books have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. *Resilience and Courage* won the National Jewish Book Award in 2003. *In the Lion's Den* won the Christopher Award in 1993. *When Light Pierced the Darkness* received the Merit of Distinction Award from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

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press quotes

WHEN LIGHT PIERCED THE DARKNESS:

CHRISTIAN RESCUE OF JEWS IN NAZI-OCCUPIED POLAND

“To read *When Light Pierced the Darkness* is to encounter the Holocaust anew from a unique and bewildering angle.”

—NEWSWEEK

“Not only is Tec’s book the first thorough treatment of the subject, but it is also charged with poignancy that only a survivor can summon.”

—PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

“Tec offers valuable new insights into why certain individuals rose to the heights of human altruism in a milieu marked by human cruelty and barbarism.”

—LIBRARY JOURNAL

“What is unusual about this book is that it both emphasizes Polish rescue efforts and reveals ubiquitous hostility towards Jews. The strongest points of the book derive from the author’s personal knowledge of what it meant to be a Jew in Nazi-occupied Poland.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Are the names of those who harbored Anne Frank known to many? In the literature of the Holocaust, little is known about such selfless protectors. Tec’s masterful study presents evidence about the characteristics of people apt to risk their lives for others.”

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

DRY TEARS:

THE STORY OF A LOST CHILDHOOD

“A sensitive memoir of the Holocaust years.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

“Distinguished by fine psychological insights and the restraint with which she relates her experience. A moving book.”

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“A tale of bravery, sadness, and terror.”

—PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

IN THE LION’S DEN:

THE LIFE OF OSWALD RUFEBISEN

“Nechama Tec has a good eye for detail. She illuminates the Russian partisan movement and its connection to the Jewish resistance fighters. The portrait of Oswald Rufeisen that emerges from *In the Lion’s Den* is that of a humanist still desperately searching for a way to fathom the Holocaust.”

—NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

“Rufeisen’s story is extraordinary, especially as recreated by Tec.”

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

DEFIANCE:

THE STORY OF THE LARGEST ARMED RESCUE OF JEWS BY JEWS DURING WWII

(now a major motion picture directed by Edward Zwick, starring Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jamie Bell. Released by Paramount Vantage)

“*Defiance* is an accomplished and startling work of Holocaust documentation... [Tec] has assembled [the partisans’] vivid firsthand testimony into a comprehensive study of a long-neglected aspect of the Holocaust.”

—NEWSWEEK