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Rehearsing for Murder: The Beginning of the Final Solution in Lithuania in June 1941

Konrad Kwiet

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Abstract

Lithuanian Jews were among the first victims of the Holocaust and likewise their German executioners among the first perpetrators. Konrad Kwiet thus views Lithuania as an Ideal case study for the organization and implementation of the Final Solution after the onset of Operation Barbarossa. In this broadly conceived article, he examines both local and German killing initiatives, the chain of command for the Nazis' murderous policies, the role of antisemitic propaganda and the Judeo-Bolshevik myth, and finally the psychological effects on both the Jewish victims and their German killers. Kwiet's research reveals patterns of behavior which, over the course of the next four years, were refined to ensure the success of the Nazi Holocaust.

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