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0521812879 - *Buried by The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper*

Laurel Leff

Frontmatter

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## BURIED by THE TIMES

*Buried by The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper* is an in-depth look at how the *New York Times* failed in its coverage of the fate of European Jews from 1939 to 1945. It examines the many decisions that were made up and down the chain of command at the *Times* – decisions that ultimately resulted in the minimizing and misunderstanding of modern history's worst genocide. The fascinating and tragic narrative of *Buried by The Times* is unfolded by Laurel Leff, a veteran journalist and professor of journalism. She recounts how personal relationships at the newspaper, the assimilationist tendencies of the *Times*' Jewish owner, and the ethos of mid-century America all led the *Times* to consistently downplay news of the Holocaust. It recalls in precise detail how news of the Nazis' "Final Solution" was hidden from *Times* readers and – because of the newspaper's profound influence on other media – from the larger American public. *Buried by The Times* is thus required reading for anyone interested in the Holocaust and America's response, as well as for anyone curious about how journalists determine what is newsworthy.

Laurel Leff has been a faculty member at Northeastern University since 1996. Prior to her university appointment, she was a professional journalist for 18 years, reporting for the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Miami Herald*. She also served as an editor for American Lawyer Media and the *Hartford Courant*.

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### Advance Praise:

“Laurel Leff has written an exceptional study of one of the darkest failures of the *New York Times* – its non-coverage of the Holocaust during World War II. How could the best newspaper in the United States, perhaps in the world, underestimate and underreport the mass killing of more than 6,000,000 Jews? Read this book, which provides answers and in the process stands tall in scholarship, style, and importance.”

– Marvin Kalb, Senior Fellow at Harvard's Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy

“This is the best book yet about American media coverage of the Holocaust, as well as an extremely important contribution to our understanding of America's response to the mass murder of the Jews.”

– David S. Wyman, author of *The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust*

“This important book answers – in a compelling fashion – some of the questions which have long been asked about the *New York Times*' coverage of the Holocaust. Probing far behind the headlines, Leff tells the fascinating story of how the Sulzberger family was rescuing its relatives from Germany at the same time that it was burying the story of the Holocaust in the inner recesses of the paper.”

– Deborah E. Lipstadt, author of *Beyond Belief: The American Press and the Coming of the Holocaust*

“Laurel Leff has written an engrossing and important book about the abject failure of the world's most influential newspaper, the *New York Times*, to report on the Holocaust that its owner and key figures knew was occurring. Her book tells us much about America at the time, the level of anti-Semitism, and the assimilationist desire of the Jewish owner of the *Times* to avoid stressing the unique Jewish nature of the genocide. It is part and parcel with the same mindset of the Roosevelt Administration. One can only wonder in great sorrow at how many lives might have been saved if the nation's and the world's conscience had been touched by full and complete coverage by the *Times* of what remains the greatest crime in world history.”

– Stuart E. Eizenstat, a former senior official in the Clinton Administration and the Special Representative of President Clinton on Holocaust-Era Issues, author of *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor and the Unfinished Business of World War II*

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# Buried by The Times

## The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper

*Laurel Leff*

Northeastern University



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*Dedicated to the Memory of*

*Sarai K. Ribicoff*

*1957–1980*

*and*

*Ricardo Hunter Garcia*

*1957–2004*

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## Acknowledgments

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My children gave me hope during what was often a dark and disturbing endeavor: Jason Paul, through his dedication to tikkun olam (repairing the world), and Russell Paul, through his determination to recognize the best in others.

A final note in the interest of disclosure and remembrance. On June 26, 1942, the *New York Times* published a two-paragraph story on page five reporting that half of Slovakia's estimated 100,000 Jews had been sent to ghettos in Poland and Russia. Among them were my great aunt and uncle, Anna and Jacob Heda; their daughter, Vilma Kaufmann; my great aunt and uncle, Rudolfina and Armin Grunmann; and their 13-year-old daughter, Judit. Only Vilma, who was in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, survived.

## Note Abbreviations

### Archives

AJA	American Jewish Archives
AJHS	American Jewish Historical Society
BU	Brandeis University
CAHJP	Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People
CU	Columbia University
CZA	Central Zionist Archives
FDRL	Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
HI	Hoover Institution
HU	Harvard University
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LC	Library of Congress
NA	National Archives
NYTCA	New York Times Company Archives
PU	Princeton University
WSHS	Wisconsin State Historical Society
YIVO	Yiddish Scientific Institute
YU	Yale University

### Collections

ACJ	American Council for Judaism
AHS	Arthur Hays Sulzberger
AK	Arthur Krock
AS	Abba Hillel Silver
BB	Berlin Bureau
BGR	Bernard G. Richards

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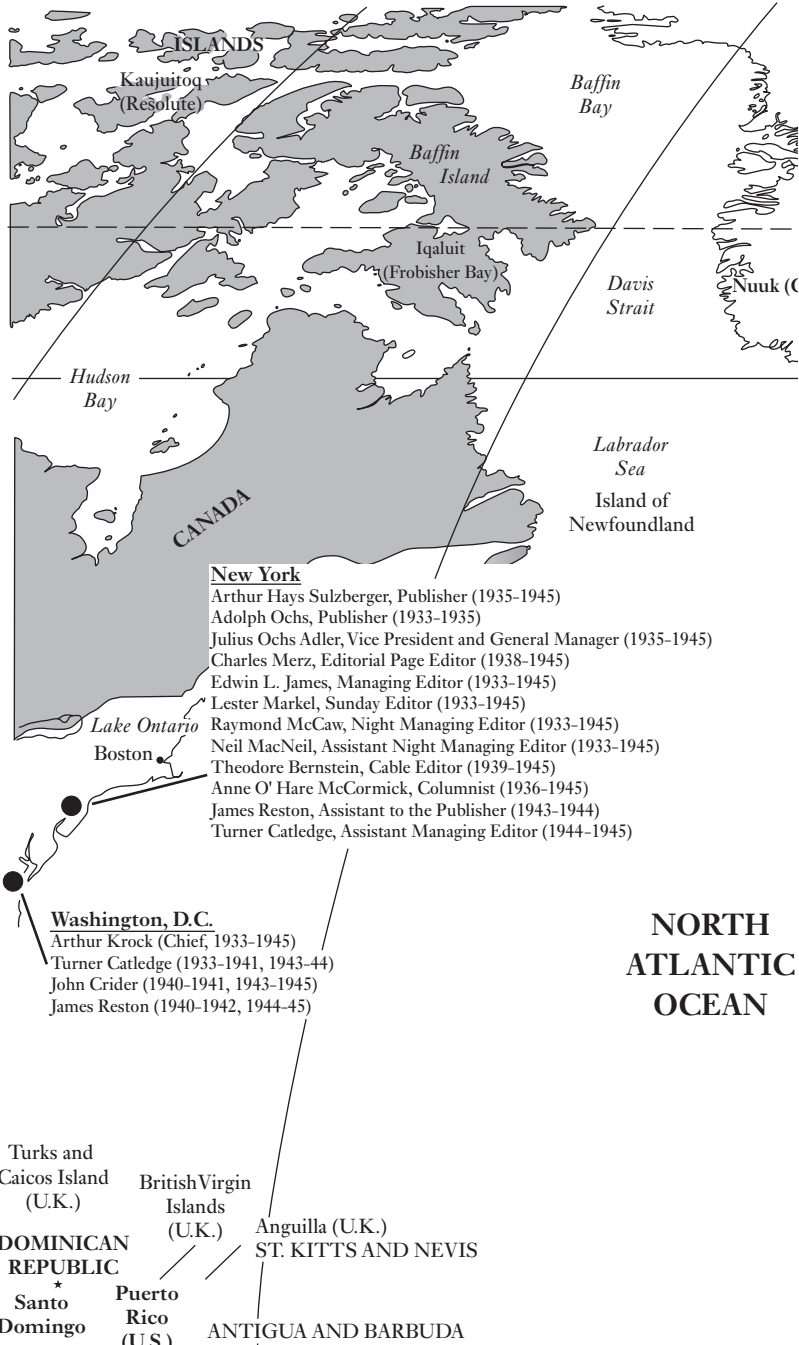
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BV	Bernard Valery
CH	Cordell Hull
CLS	Cyrus L. Sulzberger
CM	Charles Merz
DB	Daniel Brigham
DN	David Niles
EK	Eugen Kovacs
ELJ	Edwin L. James
EPS	Ernest and Paul Sulzberger
FDR	Franklin D. Roosevelt
FF	Felix Frankfurter
FMS	Fred M. Sulzberger
FTB	Frederick T. Birchall
GHA	Gaston H. Archaumbault
JGM	James G. McDonald
JJ	Jews and Judaism
JLM	Judah L. Magnes
JM	Julian Meltzer
JML	Joseph M. Levy
JSS	Jules S. Sauerwein
JTA	Jewish Telegraphic Agency
LCR	Leo C. Rosten
MB	Moscow Bureau
MSL	Morris S. Lazaron
NM	Neil MacNeil
OWI	Office of War Information
PZ	Palestine and Zionism
RB	Ray Brock
RD	Raymond Daniell
RM	Raymond McCaw
SSW	Stephen S. Wise
SW	Sumner Welles
WRB	War Refugee Board

## Other

NYHT	<i>New York Herald Tribune</i>
NYT	<i>New York Times</i>

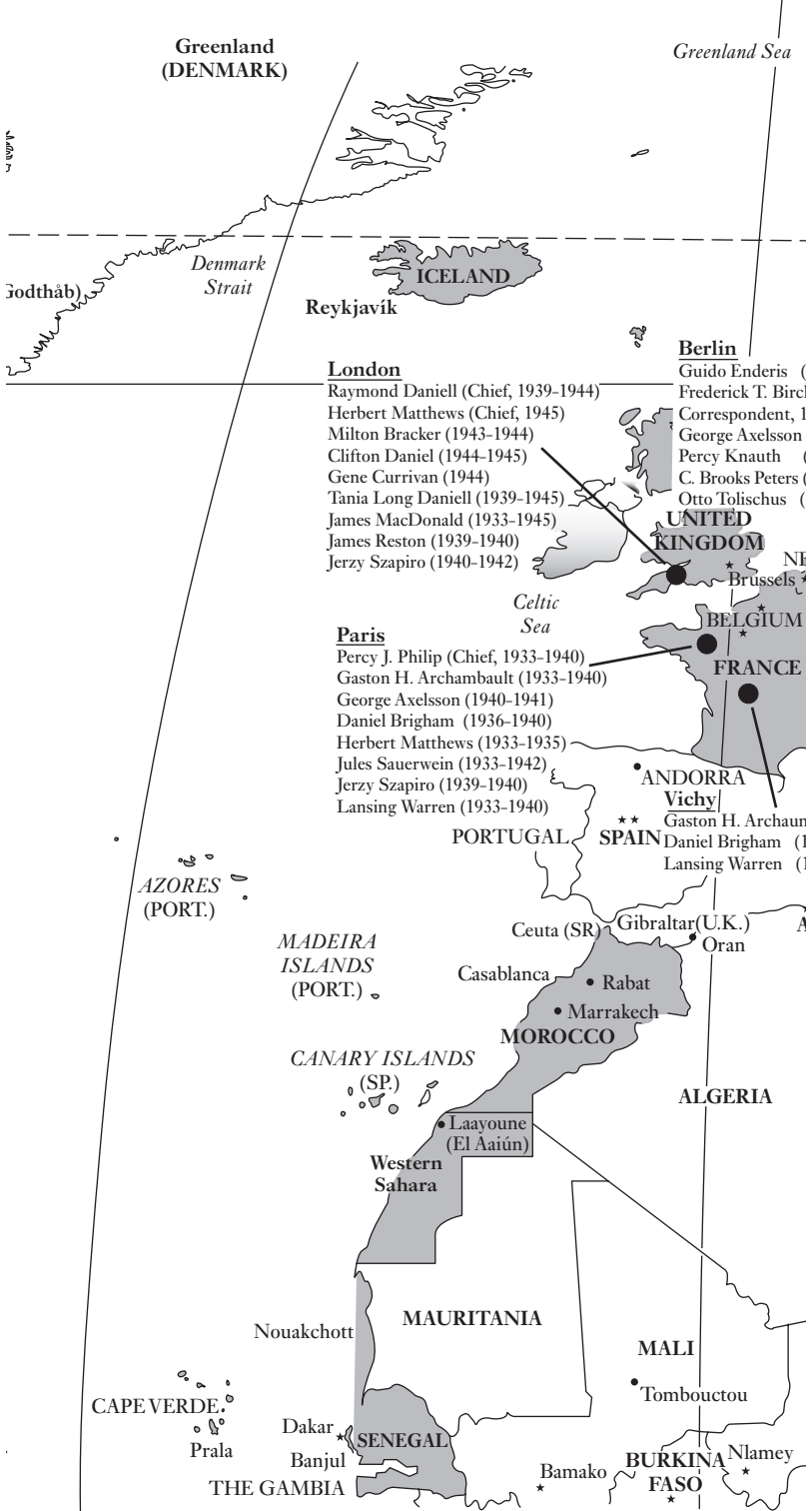
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\*The dates listed cover only the years 1933 through 1945. In some cases, the journalists held their positions before and/or after this time period. They also may have held other positions with the *Times*. In addition, some reporters left these bureaus for extended periods either to cover combat or to travel throughout a region.

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