

Yizkor Book

A book commemorating a European Jewish community that was destroyed during the Holocaust. Generally, a Yizkor book will concentrate on a large community, but may include chapters on smaller communities located nearby. The first Yizkor book was published in New York in 1943; entitled *Lodzer Yizkor Buch*, it was dedicated to the Jews of Lodz. Since then, more than 900 Yizkor books have been produced.

Most Yizkor books cover the Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. However, there have also been Yizkor books written about the Jewish communities in Western Europe, especially those that thrived in Germany before the Nazi rise to power. Since the late 1970s some non-Jews in Germany have assembled books about the Jews who had lived among them; these often take the form of Yizkor books.

Yizkor books generally include articles on a community's history from before the war, but mainly focus on the war years, including details about life in the Ghettos and the camps, resistance activities, Nazi collaborators and Righteous Among the Nations, and the annihilation of the community members. They also include articles about the post-war years, and may provide information about victims and Survivors. Many books also include personal diaries, poems, and other documents written by Jews during the Holocaust.