

The Ambiguity of Virtue: Gertrude van Tijn and the Fate of the Dutch Jews

Book Presentation

The *The Ambiguity of Virtue* touches on some of the central moral-historical issues of the twentieth century. Gertrude van Tijn was a German-born social worker who served on the Amsterdam Jewish Refugees Committee from 1933 to 1941. In the course of her work, she faced difficult moral choices. Some called her a heroine others denounced her as a collaborator. Drawing on a wealth of contemporary documentation, including German and Dutch archives as well as Van Tijn's personal papers, the book raises crucial questions about German policy towards the Jews, about Jewish reactions to the Nazi menace, and about Dutch, American and British responses to the genocide of the Jews.



BERNARD WASSERSTEIN

The Ambiguity of Virtue

GERTRUDE VAN TIJN AND THE
FATE OF THE DUTCH JEWS

Bernard Wasserstein teaches modern history at the University of Chicago. He is an expert on the Middle East, and modern Jewish issues in particular. He is the author of over 12 books the most recent of which is *The Ambiguity of Virtue*. His early work focused on the history Zionism and the British Mandate in Palestine. More recently he has published on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including a book on Jerusalem, as well as on the history of Jews in 20th century Europe.

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Arts A, room 108, 4:30pm

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