

Murderous Medicine

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MURDEROUS MEDICINE

**Nazi Doctors, Human
Experimentation, and Typhus**

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More than 1.5 million concentration camp prisoners died of typhus, a preventable disease. Despite advances in public health measures to control and prevent typhus outbreaks, German doctors, fuelled by their racist ideology and their medieval approach to the disease, would use the disease as a form of biological warfare against Jews, Slavs, and gypsies. Jewish hospitals in ghettos would be burned - along with patients and staff - if typhus was present. In camps, even suspected typhus cases would be killed in the gas chambers or through intracardiac injections, along with their circle of associates. Typhus vaccine would be tested on prisoners deliberately infected with typhus. Only a handful of doctors would ever be prosecuted for their crimes. Against all odds, Jewish health providers would struggle to avoid the worst taking innovative steps to save lives. Despite the removal of their equipment, drugs and other resources, they organized health care administrations and took sanitary hygiene measures. Doctors were forced to conceal cases, and falsify diagnoses and cause of death in order to save lives. This important study explores the role of the International Red Cross in the typhus epidemics of the early 20th century. It details the widespread complicity of foreign companies in the Nazi typhus research. Finally, the author stresses the importance of monitoring and holding accountable the medical profession, researchers, and drug companies that continue to invest in research on biological agents as weapons of war.

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