

Contents

Preface	vii
1 Introduction: Sociology after the Holocaust	1
The Holocaust as the test of modernity	6
The meaning of the civilizing process	12
Social production of moral indifference	18
Social production of moral invisibility	24
Moral consequences of the civilizing process	27
2 Modernity, Racism, Extermination I	31
Some peculiarities of Jewish estrangement	33
Jewish incongruity from Christendom to modernity	37
Astride the barricades	41
The prismatic group	42
Modern dimensions of incongruity	46
The non-national nation	52
The modernity of racism	56
3 Modernity, Racism, Extermination II	61
From heterophobia to racism	62
Racism as a form of social engineering	66
From repellence to extermination	72
Looking ahead	77
4 The Uniqueness and Normality of the Holocaust	83
The problem	85
Genocide extraordinary	88

Peculiarity of modern genocide	93
Effects of the hierarchical and functional division of labour	98
Dehumanization of bureaucratic objects	102
The role of bureaucracy in the Holocaust	104
Bankruptcy of modern safeguards	107
Conclusions	111
5 Soliciting the Co-operation of the Victims	117
'Sealing off' the victims	122
The 'save what you can' game	129
Individual rationality in the service of collective destruction	135
Rationality of self-preservation	142
Conclusion	149
6 The Ethics of Obedience (Reading Milgram)	151
Inhumanity as a function of social distance	155
Complicity after one's own act	157
Technology moralized	159
Free-floating responsibility	161
Pluralism of power and power of conscience	163
The social nature of evil	166
7 Towards a Sociological Theory of Morality	169
Society as a factory of morality	170
The challenge of the Holocaust	175
Pre-societal sources of morality	179
Social proximity and moral responsibility	184
Social suppression of moral responsibility	188
Social production of distance	192
Final remarks	198
8 Afterthought: Rationality and Shame	201
Notes	208