

Creditable source



The New York Times

Magazine

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION



HANDSOMER



SHARPER



LESS EXPENSIVE

Qualified, expert author



WHAT MADE THIS MAN? MENGELE

By Robert Jay Lifton; Robert Jay Lifton is Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. This article is adapted from a book on Nazi doctors scheduled for publication next year by Basic Books.

Published: July 21, 1985

30 years old! This matters in a scientific text.



HIS BONES DO NOT SATISFY. JOSEF Mengele had come to symbolize the entire Nazi killing project. The need was to capture him and put him on trial, hear his confession, put him at our mercy. For many, that anticipated event took on the significance of confronting the Holocaust and restoring a moral universe.

For Mengele has long been the focus of what could be called a cult of demonic personality. He has been seen as the embodiment of absolute evil, a doctor pledged to heal who kills instead. But this demonization made him something of a deity, a nonhuman or even superhuman force, and served as a barrier to any explanation of his behavior. One reason Auschwitz survivors have hungered for his capture and trial is to divest him of this status. One of them, for

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE+

EMAIL

SHARE

PRINT

SINGLE PAGE

REPRINTS

mistress america