

Abstract: Dr. Marcus discusses the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish self-concept from the viewpoint of an American Jew personally untouched by the events in Nazi Europe. Drawing on the existential, theological, and psychoanalytic literature, the author presents his post-Holocaust conception of Jewish identity. Using existential notion of authenticity as a focal point, Marcus offers the portrait of the authentic post-Holocaust Jew. This individual does not shy away from confronting the significance of Nazi brutality, nor does he deny that Auschwitz has posed painful and difficult dilemmas for his Jewishness. The authentic Jew, however, attempts to create a Jewish identity based on a positive framework of meaning--albeit with now necessary modifications. Marcus discusses these ideas as they relate to current criteria of mental health and with reference to the outcome of a successful psychoanalysis. He argues that such an analogy not only can be made but that the therapist's sensitivity to the Jewish components of the patient's self-representation has important implications to the therapeutic process.