

Lucy Dawidowicz Dead At 75; Famed Holocaust Historian

by Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK (JTA) — Lucy Dawidowicz, one of the premier historians of the Holocaust, died in her New York apartment recently of liver cancer. She was 75 years old.

"I really believe her loss is immeasurable," said Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, who knew Dawidowicz for 30 years. "She was among the first to teach the history of that tragedy with passion, lucidity and objectivity. Her contribution to the cause of remembrance is incomparable."

In the preface of her best-known work, *The War Against the Jews, 1933-1945*, which has become a classic text of the Holocaust, Dawidowicz wrote,

"The Final Solution transcended the bounds of modern historical experience. Never before in modern history had one people made the killing of another the fulfillment of an ideology."

A personal memoir published last year, *From that Place and Time, A Memoir 1938-1947*, won the National Jewish Book Award for 1990 in the autobiography/memoir category.

Dawidowicz, born Lucy Schildkret in New York on June 16, 1915, was a lifelong Yiddishist. A product of the Sholem Aleichem Institute schools, she was a graduate of Hunter College and received her master's degree from

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Dawidowicz

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Columbia University.

Dawidowicz was also the author of *The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life and Thought in Eastern Europe*; *Politics in a Pluralist Democracy*, an analysis of ethnic voting in the 1960 presidential election; co-editor of *For Max Weinreich on his 70th Birthday: Studies in Jewish Languages, Literature and Society*; *The Holocaust Reader*; *The Jewish Presence*, a collection of essays; *On Equal Terms*, a History of America's Jews; and *The Holocaust and The Historians*.

Lucy
DAWIDOWICZ