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5.0 out of 5 stars **The Heartbreaking True Story of Post WWII Displaced Persons**, October 23, 2012

By

[G. Leisen "romantic dreamer"](#) (Minnesota) - [\(REAL NAME\)](#)

This review is for: SILENT NO MORE: Personal Narratives of German Women who survived WWII Expulsion and Deportation

As a child I heard about the DP Camps in Western Germany after World War II. I assumed these people were all refugees fleeing from Soviet Communism. But the story was much more complex and disastrous for ethnic Germans who were living outside the boundaries of Germany. For many centuries there were pockets of German villages spread all over eastern Europe, and they had been successful farmers, merchants and citizens. Following the beginning of the collapse of the Nazi/German war machine, these eastern countries embarked on a campaign to purge their countries of these ethnic German citizens through mass deportations to Russian gulags as slave laborers, and through confiscation of all their properties. These formerly good citizens became pariahs in their own countries. Slave labor camps, raping, pillaging, starvation, torture, and murder became commonplace between 1945 to about 1956.

The book is divided into sections by country. Several maps in the back of the book help the reader to understand the geography of eastern Europe, as well as the changing boundaries. Each section includes a brief history of the German settlements in that country. This collection of 34 stories sheds light upon this post WWII period, when a war weary world was preoccupied with recovering emotionally and economically from the war destruction. The western world assumed the atrocities were over and done with. We now have a new document about the terrible decade following WWII when a large group of people were treated in an inhumane way, and who, until now, have not had their voices heard in the English speaking world.

Erika Vora has compiled a powerful collection of stories from these people, mostly women. They are now elderly, and many had never before spoken of their terror, and of the deep pain of remembering those events. What a treasure it is to have these testimonies before their voices are silenced by forever. Thanks to Erika, I now understand better that the Displaced Persons

who were flooding into Western Germany after the war were not just fleeing communism, but were literally fleeing for their lives.