

A lesson for our times

Psychogenocide

ERIK THYS

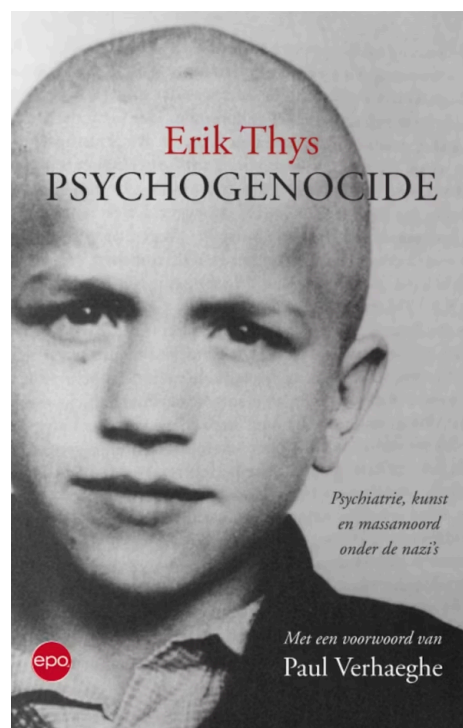
The central theme of this book is the massive sterilization and extermination of psychiatric patients during the nazi regime. Furthermore, it explores the links between nazi medical and cultural policies, between art and psychiatry and between the eugenic roots of the nazi Psychogenocide and modern medicine.

A terribly beautiful book. It is well written, shows art and is scientifically well founded

PAUL VERHAEGHE

On October 1st 1939, the day World War II started, Hitler permitted doctors to kill patients suffering from neurologic and psychiatric disorders. This was the start of Aktion T4, the systematic and industrial killing of handicapped and mentally ill people. All the techniques that we now know from the Holocaust were actually invented for this project: the systematic bureaucratic search for the victims, the gassing with carbon monoxide, the gas chambers disguised as showers, the stealing of the victims' belongings, the cremation of the bodies on-site and the secrecy.

This anonymous, underexposed and underestimated tragedy has all the characteristics of a genocide. Therefore Erik Thys proposes to name it Psychogenocide. It doesn't only deserve more historical attention, but it needs to be viewed — just like the Holocaust — as a warning sign for dangers that still exist today.



AUTHOR



Erik Thys (b. 1961) is a psychiatrist and is associated with PSC St.-Alexius Elsenne and UPC KU Leuven Campus Kortenberg. He also is an artist and musician. He is the co-author of 'The misunderstanding and Sense for nonsense'. He made the drawings for the comics 'The Secret of the Brain Chip. Guide for People with Psychosis', a bestseller in 14 languages, and 'The Secret of the Space Elevator'.

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