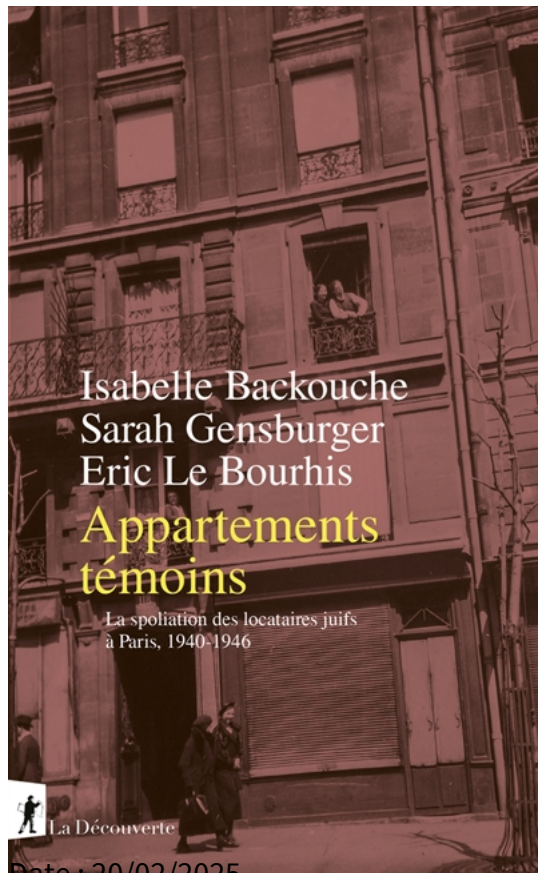




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Silent Witness

The Dispossession of Jews From Their Homes in Paris during the Occupation (1940-1946)

Authors: Isabelle Backouche - Sarah Gensburger - Éric Le Bourhis

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This book revisits the scene of a crime long shrouded in silence, in which tens of thousands of Parisian Jews were forcibly evicted from their own homes.

This expropriation, carried out by both the occupying Nazi regime and collaborating French authorities was ultimately legitimized by the restored Republic following Liberation. How can this be explained? This question lies at the heart of the book, which examines how the Holocaust influenced housing policy. It reveals how public policies designed to tackle Paris's acute housing shortage and provide for those displaced by the Allied bombings exploited Jewish exclusion to drive the real estate market.

After the Liberation, a surge of virulent antisemitism emerged as the return of Jewish families to their apartments disrupted wartime housing arrangements. The French Republic ultimately strove to restrict their right to return.

These apartments bear silent witness to the machinations used to eliminate Jews from Parisian society. This book finally gives them a voice.
