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- **Books: Public Message to Edwin Black (Randy Black, US)**

Posted on September 27th, 2009 JE [No comments](#)

Randy Black writes:

To Edwin Black and the World Association of International Studies global community:

On November 30 and December 1, 2005, I responded to a post from another WAIS member who brought our attention to a book published in 2001 that supported claims that IBM and its CEO Thomas Watson in the USA supported the Nazis regarding their genocide on Hitler's European enemies, including the millions of Jews who perished in the gas chambers, death camps and at the hands of the Nazi firing squads.

The book, **IBM and the Holocaust, the Strategic Alliance between Nazi Germany and America's Most Powerful Corporation**, was written by American author Edwin Black, a descendant of Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust. Mr. Black, according to his Website, has more than one million books in print on a range of interesting and significant topics and which have been translated into dozens of languages. I share a surname with the author but we are not related.

My four-year-old post is still on the Internet. In that post, I passed along as unqualified fact, the published opinion of Frederick Allen, senior editor for *Forbes Magazine* and editor of *American Heritage Magazine*. It was Mr. Allen's view that parts of the **IBM and the Holocaust** book were not accurate. I have now seen Mr. Black's detailed feedback completely debunking that review point-by-point. Personally, I did no original research on the topic and based all my statements on published reviews and what I had read.

Today, after reviewing these matters with Mr. Black and personal soul searching, I am inclined to conclude that Edwin Black's writing and research efforts were thorough, accurate and strongly support the thesis of his writings.

In that light, I would like to apologize to Edwin Black for my post, which could denigrate his reputation, and request that our Webmaster delete that November 2005 posting.

I will close with a statement that I am sorry that Edwin Black took offense with the nature of my post and assure him that no harm was intended. I had no malice in mind when I responded to the earlier WAIS message on this important topic. As part of my apology for the original post in 2005, I direct readers who wish to know more about the topic to the following URLs where they can read the comments of dozens of other historians and eyewitnesses, and other information. Those URLs at this writing can be found at:

ibmandtheholocaust.com

edwinblack.com