REPENTANCE FOR THE HOLOCAUST

signale modern german letters, cultures, and thought

Series editor: Peter Uwe Hohendahl, Cornell University

Signale: Modern German Letters, Cultures, and Thought publishes new English-language books in literary studies, criticism, cultural studies, and intellectual history pertaining to the German-speaking world, as well as translations of important German-language works. Signale construes "modern" in the broadest terms: the series covers topics ranging from the early modern period to the present. Signale books are published under a joint imprint of Cornell University Press and Cornell University Library in electronic and print formats. Please see http://signale.cornell.edu/.

REPENTANCE FOR THE HOLOCAUST

Lessons from Jewish Thought for Confronting the German Past

C. K. Martin Chung

A Signale Book

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS AND CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
ITHACA AND LONDON

Cornell University Press and Cornell University Library gratefully acknowledge the College of Arts & Sciences, Cornell University, for support of the Signale series.

Copyright © 2017 by Cornell University

All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations in a review, this book, or parts thereof, must not be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher. For information, address Cornell University Press, Sage House, 512 East State Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

First published 2017 by Cornell University Press and Cornell University Library

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Chung, C. K. Martin, author.

Title: Repentance for the Holocaust: lessons from Jewish thought for confronting the German past / C.K. Martin Chung.

Description: Ithaca: Cornell University Press: Cornell University

Library, 2017. | Series: Signale : modern German letters, cultures, and thought | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017020179 (print) | LCCN 2017023970 (ebook) | ISBN 9781501712531 (pdf) | ISBN 9781501712524 (epub/mobi)

| ISBN 9781501707612 (cloth : alk. paper) | ISBN 9781501707629 (pbk. : alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Holocaust, Jewish (1939–1945)—Moral and ethical aspects. | Holocaust, Jewish (1939–1945)—Influence. | Repentance—

aspects. | Holocaust, Jewish (1939–1945)—Influence. | Repentance— Judaism. | Memory—Religious aspects—Judaism. | Historiography— Moral and ethical aspects—Germany. | Holocaust, Jewish

(1939–1945)—Public opinion, German. | Public opinion—Germany. Classification: LCC D804.7.M67 (ebook) | LCC D804.7.M67 C47 2017

(print) | DDC 940.53/18—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2017020179

Cornell University Press strives to use environmentally responsible

suppliers and materials to the fullest extent possible in the publishing of its books. Such materials include vegetable-based, low-VOC inks and acid-free papers that are recycled, totally chlorine-free, or partly composed of nonwood fibers. For further information, visit our website at www.cornellpress.cornell.edu.

Cloth printing 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Paperback printing 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Die große Schuld des Menschen sind nicht die Sünden, die er begeht—die Versuchung ist mächtig und seine Kraft gering! Die große Schuld des Menschen ist, daß er in jedem Augenblick die Umkehr tun kann und nicht tut.*

RABBI BUNAM

Christen wünschen nicht, der Buße oder dem Chaos zu entgehen, wenn Gottes Wille es über uns bringen will. Wir müssen dieses Gericht als Christen annehmen.**

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

^{* &}quot;The major guilt of human beings is not the sins they have committed—for the temptation is powerful and their power little! The major guilt of human beings is that in every moment they can repent but do not." Quoted in "Die große Schuld," *Freiburger Rundbrief* 15, no. 57/60 (1963/1964): 32.

^{** &}quot;Christians ask not to escape from repentance or chaos if it is what the will of God has in store for us. We must accept this proceeding as Christians." Quoted in George K.A. Bell, "Die Ökumene und die innerdeutsche Opposition," *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte* 5, no. 4 (1957): 369.