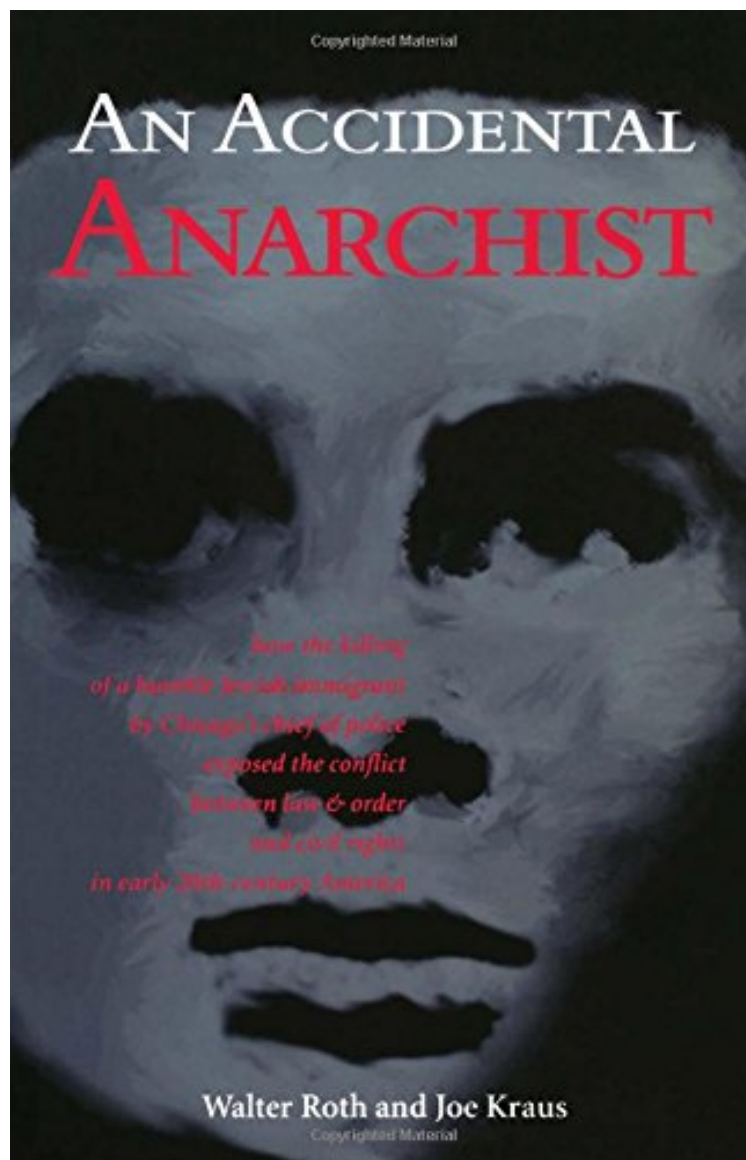


(Library ebook) An Accidental Anarchist: How the Killing of a Humble Jewish Immigrant by Chicago's Chief of Police Exposed the Conflict Between Law Order and Civil Rights in Early 20th Century America

An Accidental Anarchist: How the Killing of a Humble Jewish Immigrant by Chicago's Chief of Police Exposed the Conflict Between Law Order and Civil Rights in Early 20th Century America

Walter Roth

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *An Accidental Anarchist: How the Killing of a Humble Jewish Immigrant by Chicago's Chief of Police Exposed the Conflict Between Law Order and Civil Rights in Early 20th Century America*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This Bosnian writer (non-aligned with any religion) writes in beautiful English and is in a position to understand the ...By Michelle Jacques This is the legal facts of the matter. For an insightful literary treatment of the incident read Alexander Hemon's novel, *The Lazarus Project*. This Bosnian writer (non-aligned with any religion) writes in beautiful English and is in a position to understand the anxiety of an immigrant. 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. History behind the fiction By Mom and reader An *An Accidental Anarchist* is well-written, thoroughly researched account of the death of Lazarus Averbach. It's an excellent companion to A. Hemon's "*The Lazarus Project*," giving the reader insight into the historical, cultural, social and political climate surrounding the 1908 murder.

From Kirkus sA sober analysis of the case, now little more than a historical footnote, that came to be known as the Averbuch Affair. On March 2, 1908, a Russian immigrant named Lazarus Averbuch, recently settled with his sister, Olga, in the Jewish ghetto of Chicago's West Side, traveled to Chief of Police George Shippy's North Side home for reasons that remain unknown. Shippy met Averbuch in the front entryway, and a struggle ensued that left the Russian dead. The event made front-page news. In a statement printed in that afternoon's newspaper, Shippy, "a hardened foe of labor and social unrest," claimed to have shot Averbuch--who was quickly labeled an "anarchist"--in self-defense after Shippy was knifed and his son wounded by a bullet. The Chicago police initially announced that they would not investigate the killing. "In other words," write Roth and Kraus, "the government would not police its own"--an attitude that might have reminded Olga Averbuch and her kin of the Russian-style policing from which they had fled. The officials' attempt to link Averbuch to an anarchist conspiracy was unsuccessful, but a coroner's inquest did validate Shippy's original story. The authors (Roth is president of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, Kraus the editor of the society's journal) don't dare proclaim Averbuch's innocence. (One theory favoring this is that he'd gone to Shippy's hoping to obtain, per Russian custom, a certificate of good behavior that might allow him to find employment outside Chicago.) But they do conclude that he should be seen in a more benign light than he was. They substantiate their position with facts, unearthed from published and unpublished sources, that suggest there's not enough evidence to support the police chief's contention that he acted in self-defense. The authors have skillfully removed the dust from an obscure but troubling episode. -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. About the Author Walter Roth is a senior partner in the law firm of DAncona Pflaum in Chicago. He is president of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society and has written many articles for *Chicago Jewish History*, *the Sentinel*, and *JUF News*.