

From Auschwitz to the International Court of Justice in the Hague

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Thomas Buergenthal survived Auschwitz as a young child, an experience which was potentially very humiliating. His father and grandparents were killed, and it took until December of 1946 before he was reunited with his mother. Given the horrors of his incarceration and the loss of family members, Buergenthal might have been scarred for life. Instead, he was indeed lucky in the adults who entered his life. As a result, instead of struggling with feelings of humiliation, he was able to forge a postwar career as an international jurist dedicated to the task of helping people in other countries who are suffering as he did during the Holocaust. His memoir, *A Lucky Child* (2007) illustrates how complicated recovery can be and how inspiring.