

“Never shall I forget the small faces of the children whose bodies I saw transformed into smoke under the silent sky” is a phrase no one should ever say(34). But, it is not until you hear or read a story of a Holocaust survivor, that we truly understand what this means. Every second, people were burned into ashes: children, men, and women. In the time it takes to read this essay hundreds, if not thousands of people, were being burned alive. Once you have one of these experiences, you are compelled to share what you learned with others to ensure they too learn about the Holocaust. Millions of Jews were killed. The only way to ensure this travesty does not repeat itself, we must share our experiences with others.

The Holocaust seemed unreal to many. It makes sense; who would think that a person would want to exterminate an entire population. People were naive and followed others because nobody knew better. Now, we know better. We know how to prevent similar events from occurring in the future. When the Holocaust took place, the Germans did not come and take everyone at one time. They took people in stages. In Night, in the town of Sighet, the foreign Jews who were taken first. When one of the Foreign Jews escaped after being taken, Moishe the Beadle returned to his village to tell his story. The only problem was “Some even insinuated that he only wanted their pity, that he was imagining things”(7). Why should they believe such atrocities? They were productive members of their community. This fate would certainly not befall them. However, as more people were taken, it became too late to act. There was no longer a place to flee or people to seek help from. The Germans took a small amount of people that were easily managed. Once the Germans had control, they threatened to kill anyone if they retaliated. Through force and fear, there was nothing the Jews could do. It was too late. By

sharing the atrocities of the Holocaust, we are educating people that yes, this can happen, and next time, it might be you. We want to prevent such hatred from spreading to the point of annihilating a group. We want to shed light on this horror to teach tolerance and acceptance. The lives lost during this dark period in history wiped out future generations. The survivors lost whole families, suffered from survivor's guilt, and the world lost innovations in science, art, and technology.

Humans are born humans for a reason. They are not animals. Throughout the Holocaust the Germans dehumanized Jews. Not only were they slaughtered in the thousands every day but before their death they "Went to work as usual and loaded the heavy stones onto the freight cars"(73). The Jews would be forced to work long hours with no food or water. If they were tired they were beaten or shot. The conditions the Germans created for the Jews are not only inhumane but should never be replicated again. Since we have all seen pictures and heard first hand accounts of this event we must tell others to ensure these events "Never Again" happen.

As of now, about eighty years after the Holocaust, events like the Holocaust continue to happen. If we search China on the news, we will come across the Uighur Muslims who are being held captive. This could be considered a "Modern Holocaust." Similar to the Jews' religious buildings getting burned or bombed, the Muslims are not allowed to grow beards, which is one of their religious symbols. They too are slowly taken into detention centers because they are considered a threat to security due to their religion. After the Holocaust occurred, we hoped after "The SS had fallen and the resistance had taken charge of the camp" this would be the last time people would need to be freed from imprisonment for their religious beliefs(115). Clearly, this is not the case. Just like the Jews, it is too late to save the Uighur Muslims. World leaders need to put human rights on their agenda and talk to countries who are not upholding these rights. The

world has known for years about China's treatment of the Uighur Muslims, but influential world leaders have taken no action. Former President Trump reportedly gave permission to build the concentration camps because he was in the middle of a trade deal with President Xi Jinping. It is not morally right to put business over the freedom and rights of humans. Unfortunately, citizens can only influence others to an extent. If there is no military behind the protests, no change can occur. As citizens, we can discuss these events with the people around us so that we can make change on a small scale. We hope that the more we discuss the events of the Holocaust, dehumanization, and acceptance these events will "Never Again" happen in the future.

The genocides that continue to occur today need to be stopped. The Nazi officers instilled tremendous fear into the camp prisoners. When someone stepped out of line, a punishment rapidly followed. "There. I was face-to-face with the Angel of Death . . . No. Two steps from the pit, we were ordered to turn left and herded into barracks"(34). Weisel was so close to "the pit," death was in sight. The quote illustrates the strict rule that the Jews, the victims, were under in the Holocaust. Since Wiesel was only steps away from death, one wrong action could send him into the pit. It is impossible to try to put ourselves in his place. To understand that degree of fear, death, and dehumanization. We have the moral obligation to stop this from occurring again. If we value our lives, we must value all life. We must stand up for the rights of everyone. While today, the Uighur Muslims may not be facing the same punishments the Jews did, they are still facing inhumane conditions due to their religious beliefs. Not only are they not allowed to practice their religion, but they are forced to go against it: to eat pork and chant sentences against Islam. The torture continues as, Muslims are forced to take injections that render them infertile to shrink the Muslim population. This is an ethnic cleansing. These events bring us back to a

life-lesson we learned as a child, treat people the way you want to be treated. It is our duty to help others by raising awareness of these atrocities and participating in national protests to expose the issue to create much needed change.