

A recent study by the Claims Conference stated that 58% of Americans believe something like the Holocaust will happen again. Why is it important to know about the Holocaust? Where did you learn about the Holocaust? What lessons have you drawn from what you have learned about the Holocaust?

The Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews organized by the Nazi state and its allies. The Holocaust was one of the worst events in history, and it can serve as a reminder to society of how prejudice, discrimination, and dehumanization can lead to such a horrific event. It is important to know why the Holocaust happened and how it has affected the world we live in today. It has taught me to act and speak out against injustice, as indifference and inaction can lead to disastrous consequences.

I first learned about the Holocaust around the time between elementary and middle school. I remember going to the library and checking out *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. At the time, I did not know what the Holocaust was and why it happened. This book piqued my interest and encouraged me to research it more deeply.

World War II, or more specifically, the Holocaust, teaches a critical lesson. The quote, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it..." is attributed to Joseph Goebbels, a German Nazi politician and head of the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, from 1933 to 1945. When World War I ended, about 3 million Germans were killed. Germany lost 13% of its land and 12% of its population to the Allies, and was thrown into economic and social disorder. Adolph Hitler took advantage of the already negative attitude toward Jews and

convinced people, through political propaganda and segregation, that Jews were responsible for Germany's economic state. Art, music, theater, films, books, radio, educational materials, and the press all spread Nazi ideology. Millions of bystanders were convinced by the Nazi regime, and propaganda motivated those who wanted to carry out the mass murder of European Jews. These actions played a key role in disseminating racial antisemitism and the beginning of the Holocaust. It is crucial to be alert and to think critically about information from the news, social media, and other sources.

In summary, to ensure that something like the Holocaust won't happen again, we should remember that differences in race or religion should not stop us from treating others with dignity and respect. Take the Righteous Among Nations, for example - they were non-Jewish individuals who have been honored by Yad Vashem. Despite risking their lives, they saved Jews from extermination by the Nazis. Everyone has the responsibility to prevent, and not to remain silent. More people should be educated about the Holocaust to prevent other atrocities from happening in the future.