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The Holocaust 1933-1945

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John Simkin

Yesterday, 08:12 AM

Post #16

Super Member



Group: Admin
Posts: 2806
Joined: 16-December 03
From: Worthing, Sussex
Member No.: 7

QUOTE(UlrikeSchuhFricke @ Feb 4 2005, 10:24 PM)

Denis, what do you mean by "questioning the holocaust"? What is there to be questioned? What are the questions?

Full details of this Canadian law is given in this thread:

<http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=3097>

John Simkin

Biography: <http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=1365>

Website: <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk>



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John Simkin

Yesterday, 08:42 AM

Post #17

Super Member



Group: Admin

Posts: 2806

Joined: 16-December 03

From: Worthing, Sussex

Member No.: 7

QUOTE(UlrikeSchuhFricke @ Feb 4 2005, 10:24 PM)

Referring to your previous posting: Does it really matter how many people were murdered every day in Auschwitz? The problem of the holocaust is not one of numbers but of the political idea and plan behind it: the idea of a master race who has every right of the world to destroy the races which this master race and its ideologists defined as being inferior. Couple this ideology with the proverbial German efficiency and you have the industrialized mass murder of innocent people which went on in Auschwitz. Every single person who died in the German concentration camps -be it Jews, Jehovas Witnesses, Sinti, homosexuals, those who opposed the system - is one too many. Not only people were killed the holocaust also exterminated a language (Yiddish)and a culture which had been an integral part of European culture and academic life for centuries.



There are of course several different interpretations of what went on in Nazi Germany. Some people place a great deal of emphasis on the anti-Semitic nature of Nazism. In this case numbers actually matter. The number of Jews who died as a result of the government's policies is an indication of its barbarity. People who stress this aspect of Nazism are especially hostile to those Nazis today who claim that the Holocaust did not take place. This has resulted in the Canadian law where people can be imprisoned for being Holocaust deniers. It is also the reason why some have argued that Holocaust deniers should not be members of this forum.

Other interpretations of Nazi Germany have placed emphasis on the political aspects of this political philosophy. They will highlight the fact that the first people to be sent to the concentration camps were Hitler's left-wing political opponents. They will also place emphasis on the behaviour of the German Army in the Soviet Union. Numbers are also important to these people. They will claim that millions of "communists" were killed during this period of history.

These different interpretations can result in different lessons being learnt from this period of history. Those who place the emphasis on the religious aspects of Nazism are likely to be in favour of denying people the freedom to be Holocaust deniers.

However, others believe we should concentrate on the political aspects of Nazism. These people will argue that the main thing we should learn is that people should have the freedom to hold political opinions that are different from that of the government.

My own political views are diametrically opposite to those of the Nazis (past and present). However, I am totally against the idea that people should be imprisoned for holding these repulsive views.

Recently a teacher in the UK was sacked because he was a member of the National Front (a neo-Nazi political party in the UK). No evidence was provided to show that these political views had been expressed in the classroom. It was just enough to show that he was a party member. Few people were willing to defend the rights of this man to hold political views that were different from that of the government.

It is a very unpopular to defend the human rights of Nazis. Emotionally, I have difficulty doing this. However, if we are really living in a free and open democracy, I do believe that we have a duty to defend the rights of those who hold political opinions different to own own.

In many ways Nazis are in a different category from other political groups. They have a history of carrying out appalling crimes. However, conservatives and liberals did appalling things in the 19th century. Communists did terrible things in Eastern Europe in the 20th century. Are all groups to be continually punished for crimes their predecessors have committed?

As I have said I am in totally agreement with the idea of people being punished for expressing and encouraging racial or religious hatred (although I do not believe someone criticising the policies of the Israeli government is guilty of anti-Semitism). However, I do not believe people should be punished for holding deviant political opinions. After all, Jesus Christ was executed because of his deviant political views, as well as his deviant religious opinions.

[John Simkin Biography](http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=1365): <http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=1365> [Website](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk): <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk>



UlrikeSchuhFricke

Yesterday, 09:41 AM

Post #18

Experienced Member



Group: Members

Posts: 140

Joined: 30-December 03

From: Braunschweig, Germany

Member No.: 94

Although I think it is a dangerous and at the same time disgusting situation that once again NeoNazis are Members of a German Landtag I also think that in a democracy even those must be granted the essential Human Rights and that the problem cannot be solved by censoring or making these parties illegal (which is possible in Germany).

But I do support the German law that punishes holocaust denial, even though I also know that there is a Neo-Nazi underground where these ideas are spread and published mainly via the Internet.

I think we owe this law to the victims - those who died and those who have survived. I personally see every denial of the holocaust as an attempt to minimize and even to ridicule the suffering of the victims, their families and offspring. Denying the holocaust once again infringes upon their human dignity and thus violates the first article of our constitution which states: "(1) Human dignity is inviolable. To respect and protect it is the duty of all state authority."



Evan Burton

Yesterday, 11:46 AM

Post #19

Experienced Member



Group: Members

Posts: 57

Joined: 20-January 05

Member No.: 2326

QUOTE(UlrikeSchuhFricke @ Feb 4 2005, 11:24 PM)

For me as a German there are many questions relating to the holocaust: how could it happen in a country which can be proud of its poets and philosophers and its contribution to the ideas of the Enlightenment and liberalism and socialism; why did people actively or passively support this system knowing full well what was going on in Germany and what happened to the Jews and the other groups mentioned above; how could those who had killed hundreds and thousands of people on a daily basis not feel any guilt; can such a thing happen again. These are the questions I have concerning Nazism and Auschwitz.



There is a book you might like to have a look at sometime :

"HITLER'S SCIENTISTS - Science, War, and the Devil's Pact" by John Cornwell.

It discusses how different people dealt with the rise of the Nazis. Some embraced it, some used it, some left their country, some ignored it, some tried to fight it, and some felt that despite hating the Nazis they had to support their country.

It talks about the various ethics in science, and whether we have changed at all today.

Highly recommended.

This post has been edited by **Evan Burton**: Yesterday, 12:06 PM

Biography: <http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=2957>



Evan Burton

Yesterday, 12:05 PM

Post #20

Experienced Member



Group: Members
Posts: 57
Joined: 20-January 05
Member No.: 2326

It's a strange conundrum, isn't it?

Our democratic ideals of freedom and liberty allow people to use those very ideals to destroy it, yet if we suppress those same people we violate our own ideals.

The methods used by the Nazis to achieve the killings were masterful. They used hatred (these people are subhuman and should be destroyed), pride (the need for German racial purity), deception (these people are being relocated) and even humanity itself (to let these people continue to live is inhumane; to kill them is merciful).

It's frightening to think that they nearly succeeded in conquest, and even more frightening to think of what they did as they were being defeated.

Biography: <http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=2957>



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