

America and the Holocaust - Deceit and Indifference

Film Review Questions

Introduction:

"This documentary examines the role America played in the genocide of the European Jews. As you watch, you may feel a sense of outrage that America could have been so apathetic in the face of Nazi atrocities. Ask yourself, though, where that apathy came from. It has been suggested that German actions grew out of normal human tendencies. As you watch the film, ask yourself whether the American response also grew out of normal human tendencies.

Essential Vocabulary Terms:

Genocide: the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.

Anti-Semitism: hostility to or prejudice against Jews.

Holocaust: the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime

Film Review Questions:

1. Why did the Germans commit genocide specifically against the Jews?
2. What sources of information did the U.S government have about the persecution of the Jews before the mass murder began?
3. What specific things did the American government do to try to stop the Holocaust?
4. Why do you think the American Government didn't act sooner?
5. What could America have done differently to prevent or stop the Holocaust?

6. To what extent were Americans responsible for the Holocaust?

7. If a new Hitler came to power today, how do you think America would respond?

8. Could there be another Holocaust?

9. How relevant is the video to current affairs?

10. How was the film different from what you expected? How did it change or expand your understanding of the Holocaust, and of the role of the United States in World War II?

Writing Response

“The Holocaust illustrates the consequences of prejudice, racism and stereotyping on a society. It forces us to examine the responsibilities of citizenship and confront the powerful ramifications of indifference and inaction.” Tim Holden

Write a paragraph response to the above quote using evidence from the film to support your answer.
