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Assignment #8

Hist 201

Museum Reviews

In reading the different purposes and programs of the four to five Museum reviews you can see that they focused on brining to light four different subjects in their own ways. These four museums were the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw Poland, The Liliesleaf Trust, Liliesleaf, Johannesburg, South Africa, The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration; The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Montgomery, Alabama, and Lastly The Two Mississippi Museums: Museum of Mississippi History; Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Jackson, Mississippi. Each Museum in its own way attempts to highlight and bring awareness too a different subject in history.

The First Museum: POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw Poland, was reviewed by Janine Hole. The purpose of this museum based on the information on the review is of noble notoriety as the Museum its self stands to bring light to the life of the Jews in Poland during the Second World War and expose antisemitism in Poland during this time as the Nazis carried out the beginnings of what we become known as the Jewish Holocaust in Poland's country side. This is noble as Poland's government has become very nationalistic and would like to keep the plight of the Jewish out of the spotlight, and market Poland history as an ethnically non-Jewish people unified by constant conquest from outside forces. The museum itself, which is located in the same location as the pole Jewish ghettos of the Second World War, brings to life

Jewish life during that time through photographs, video reels, primary documents (Writing and such), and public notices backing Nazi policies, in order to make sure the people of Poland are aware this happened and they never forget.

The Liliesleaf Trust, Liliesleaf, Johannesburg, South Africa is a historical buy back program aimed at buying back three buildings where the Military Wing of the African National Congress met in order to preserve the sites where South Africa's path of liberations began as the region went through segregation and the African apartheid. The goal was to present Liliesleaf to the public as it was in the 1960 showing its strategic importance and to also highlight the activist movement through the contributions of the operatives that treaded the grounds. Some criticism has been lobbed at the site as the history is present about the male operatives and only one section is about the women who helped pave the way, but they are working to rectify the situation to give the women their due.

The Legacy Museum of Montgomery Alabama programs purpose is to bring undying attention to the struggle of African Americans in America through the narrative subjects of enslavement, lynching, segregation, and mass incarceration. This is done by the blending research, art, and advocacy. The main goal of the museum is to not only educate the visitor, but to also shock them into action as a New York newspaper puts it "It may upset your stomach, if it upsets your complacency on the subject it will have been successful." This is because the museum holds no punches as the museum and companion memorial narrative scream violence as the medium uses video, art, and depictions to display the previously alluded too narrative subjects with shocking affect in order to prevent the patron from forgetting what they have just experienced. A truly awesome method.

Last up is The Two Mississippi Museums: Museum of Mississippi History; Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Jackson, Mississippi. The Two Museums focus on the same period but present information from different perspectives. The Two museums born out of Political compromise focused one museum on perspectives of Civil Rights History by Conservative White Politicians and the other on those of African American Activist. The two museums ended up joined together under the leadership of former Mississippi Governor William F. Winter on the 50th anniversary of the freedom rides. The different perspectives of the museums work perfectly as the overall theme is “One Mississippi- Many Stories” making it so that the patron is exposed to not one linear perspective on Civil Rights history but multiple perspectives. This in turn makes it so no one perspective is seen as superior and that the artifacts and exhibits speak for themselves and allow the patron to choose what to believe.

Looking back on the museums presented in the American Historical Review 2018, you can see the goal of each museum in its effort to highlight a specific time or era in history. These four museums were the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw Poland, The Liliesleaf Trust, Liliesleaf, Johannesburg, South Africa, The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration; The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Montgomery, Alabama, and Lastly The Two Mississippi Museums: Museum of Mississippi History; Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Jackson, Mississippi. Each Museum in its own way attempts to highlight and bring awareness to a different subject in history while presenting a wide variety of information and facts.