

Museums and memorial sites are built for a reason ... to educate. All of these museums struggle with the context of the historical “pasts scarred by racial persecution and trauma.”<sup>1</sup> Each one of these museums has the sense of being politically motivated. Injustice was the motivation for each tragic event to happen, and that is what created the memorial site for each museum. To teach the country and world what had happened in history. Hopefully, as a society, one can learn from historical mistakes.

POLIN – By Janine Holc

Janine describes the museum as a politically-based display. The description for much of the museum as one enters the main floor, one will see propaganda, Nazis regime-based material, how Poland viewed the Jewish race in Poland. Many of the exhibits were from 1919-1932, preterm war. Even with the gruesome, historical past of Poland and the Jews, Poland today, is *still*, racial in a political battle. The Polish government wants the “narrative” of Poles to be defined as, “ethnically non-Jewish.”

LILIESLEAF – By Dawne Y. Curry

Liliesleaf is described as what the slaves of the south used to escape slavery, “Underground Railroad.” Liliesleaf was dissimulation as a farm, in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg. This make-shift farm was the perfect place for disguised operations that concealed the African National Congress (ANC). These “rebellions” both, men and women were fighting for liberation. The eras of segregation and the apartheid, were eras of that were filled with

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<sup>1</sup> “Museum Reviews: Introductory Note”. *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 123, No. 4, October 2018, 1267.

erosion of political, social, and economic rights for any race and gender. As much as the “Liliesleaf is a historical monument, it is also innovation of contemporary present.”<sup>2</sup>

As Curry stated with Liliesleaf, “encourages further engagement with the liberation struggle, not only as a living testament of the past, but also as an example of the future, especially in regard to memory, heritage, and oral history.”<sup>3</sup> This statement describes anyone of the reviews of these museums and the reasoning to why they pay tribute. The tribute of not forgetting what happened and who helped make that change, for future generations.

#### THE LEGACY MUSEUM – By Jason Ward

The review of the Legacy Museum describes the museum as interactive. The museum is built for visitors to get the feeling of what it was like to be a slave in the south at the peak of slavery. Ward describes the tunnel that’s the entrance into the museum as dark and gloomy, and upon entering, it begins in the prison cells. These cells have television sets up with life size figures of men, women, and children awaiting their fate. The Legacy museum is a museum that is set up to be a “narrative museum.”

#### TWO MISSISSIPPI MUSEUMS – By Glenn Eskew

The review for the Two Mississippi Museums explains how the two museums, Mississippi Department and of Archives and History and the Civil Rights museum were individual settings. However, African-Americans believed that the state’s telling would tamper the truth. It wasn’t until the Governor pushed to have the project of the two museums, combined. The museum, as a whole educates the individual of each era of slavery from the cotton gins and

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<sup>2</sup> “Museum Reviews: Introductory Note”. *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 123, No. 4, October 2018, 1269.

<sup>3</sup> “Museum Reviews: Introductory Note”. *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 123, No. 4, October 2018, 1269.

cash crops to the Civil War and how the Jim Crow laws were the loop hole of the thirteenth amendment. Although, the display of the KKK robes and the church ladies' hats, are displayed next to each other as if these were fashion statements. Unfortunately, during the earlier twenty-first century, they were. Each sector of the museum educates with the displays in the life of an African-American and the leaps and bounds an individual succumb through the era of *that* generation. Even though the review fir the Two Mississippi Museums is more on the political side, it still is highly educational to the adolescent on what life was like, during the last hundred years.

## Bibliography

“Museum Reviews: Introductory Note”, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 123, No. 4, October 2018, 1267-75.