

Assignment #6

Online Database

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March 28, 2019

The area I chose to use for this assignment, is the Holocaust. I will be studying abroad this summer in Poland, on the Holocaust, and one of our assignments for this trip is, we need to create a “cheat” sheet of sites and/or books that will help in guiding/ reference when it comes time to research particular information. I’m not focusing on one particular area of the Holocaust because honestly, you cannot, and usually, not one site alone will have all the information you require. Each area, whether it is the Gestapo, Einsatzgruppen, Sonderkommando, children, or the roundups, each intertwine with one another, somehow. The information I chose for this paper comes from scholarly sites, books and websites. They range from scholarly articles, testimonial videos, Hollywood type productions, and documentary films alongside the references of the good old fashion, books.

As for myself, I would start off with material that would explain the understanding of the Holocaust, and the meaning of what the Holocaust was. By doing so, *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* by Doris Bergen or the film, *Engineering Evil* by Erik Nelson, offer a brief overview of the Holocaust.

If one were to look into particulars, for example, Sonderkommando. These were the Jews that had to clean up the mess after the gas chambers were used. Recently, a film was created on the Sonderkommando and what life was like over a two-day period for Saul. In *Son of Saul* by László Nemes, he created a controversial film that displayed the darkest side of a Jew taking on the heartbreaking task of hearing the cries of people, while locked in the chambers, awaiting their death. Then, having to extract the bodies, afterwards and clean up the mess to prepare for the next wave of individuals. I would then, follow-up with an article from the Indiana University Press, *The Sonderkommando Photographs* to understand how dangerous it was for the

Sonderkommando to get these few photos leaked out to the world, so the world would know what the Germans were doing.

If one were wanting to focus on a particular country, France, for instance, a semi-biography film was created. *The Roundup* by Rose Bosch was a film of French Jews that were rounded up on July 16-17, 1942 and brought to the Vel d' Hiv, a sports arena outside of Paris where their fate awaited them. The film is based off the testimonies of the medical staff and the neighboring tenants, outside the Vel d' Hiv, because the French had very little documentation of the Jews and WWII.

There are countless testimonies in so many different media forms. Primo Levi wrote about his ten-month imprisonment at Auschwitz in *Survival in Auschwitz*. Father Patrick Desbois wrote about the victims of children, Ukrainian children that were forced by the Einsatzgruppen, during the war to partake in the mass killings in *Holocaust by Bullets*. Claude Lanzmann taped over three hundred and fifty hours of testimony, and after three years of editing, he was able to cut it back *Shoah* to almost ten hours.

Ultimately, if one wanted to know more about the Holocaust and had no clue where to begin, with technology we have today, YouTube and Google can also offer so many more avenues, in video and articles with just a click of button. However, the best resource out there is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's (USHMM) website. There is an abundance of information and links to help guide anyone in any direction one would want to explore.

Bibliography

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United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) – <https://ushmm.org/collections/the-museum-collections>