Lessons of The Holocaust

Beginning in the 1930's, the German economy was in a state of depression. This allowed Hitler to rise to power on the premise of rebuilding Germany. He promoted strong nationalistic pride and used racism against the Jewish people to justify his thoughts on why he felt Germany was in decline. What followed was the mass extermination of Jews, which is known as the Holocaust, it began in 1941 and lasted until 1945. This event is important for mankind to remember as a way to teach future generations how to prevent further genocides. It helps us understand how to fight prejudice, discrimination, and helps us to learn to understand the value of diversity. The Holocaust also helps us to learn about how individuals in society can be pressured, or motivated by political leaders to act or not act in the face of the unjust.

The Holocaust started as the rounding up of Jewish people, and putting them in areas known as "Ghettos". This was meant to exclude them from the rest of German society. The Nazi's believed that the world had superior and distinct races. They believed that the Jewish race was the most dangerous, and threatening to their German society. The persecution of Jews came in many forms such as: forced labor, confiscation of Jewish property, personal belongings, valuables, physical displacement, various forms of public exclusion and identification. The most extreme atrocities were captured, and can still be viewed in the gut wrenching photos of Jewish camps where many died from: disease, starvation, and other inhumane conditions.

These extreme acts that the Jewish community endured have helped future generations ensure these atrocities are never to happen again. It helps current generations recognize the face

of evil, and the steps that are necessary to combat it, and why religious freedom and expression are so important to the framework of the American constitution, and its people. Today laws also help to ensure citizens are protected from Government overreach. Representatives in leadership positions must always remember humanistic values while having empathy in order to ensure a free society. Education can help societies and leaders learn on how to avoid policies that can create division among societies today, which can lead to future genocides.

The first fourteen Amendments of the U.S. Constitution helps protect America's freedoms from unfair treatment from the Government while ensuring religious freedom and human rights. These amendments help society to avoid genocides in the future. They focus on protecting the rights of the people, religious freedoms and property while ensuring that everyone has due process. Although the Constitution was written prior to the Holocaust it wasn't till after that these Amendments had a more profound meaning. They display the power of freedom and what can happen when societies are easily influenced by propaganda. This protection is invaluable to Americans as well as other countries. That we, as Americans, have to protect not only our society but the citizens of less fortunate countries. The Holocaust taught us what the evils of humans can do under harsh circumstances when influenced by the wrong leaders.

Prompt 3

What are the lessons learned from the Holocaust and how could they be implemented today

Sources:

Smoke and Ashes

https://holocaustcommission.jewishva.org/

https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/