

## HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Most people all over the world of various ages are aware of the notion Holocaust and extreme sufferings it brought to millions of people. This is one of the darkest spots in the history of mankind, which however under no condition should be forgotten or underestimated. Due to the fact, that history always goes in circle, it is vitally important to remember the terrible facts about Holocaust in order to avoid its repetition in the future. Unfortunately, nowadays, not all people even believe in Holocaust as real historical tragedy: "...94% of the French, 84% of the English, and only 62% of Americans believe that the Holocaust really happened..." (Fein, 3). Further we are going to prove, that younger generations should also know about Holocaust and be able to prevent it.

The term Holocaust was taken from the Greek word - holokauston, it means an offering consumed by fire. Usually historians applied this term to destruction of Jews and other nationalities by Nazi Germans during the years of the Second World War. The terrible statistics of Holocaust states, that between the years 1933 and 1945 around six million of Jews, Gypsies, Slaves were killed. This figure is considered to be approximate, as nowadays it is not possible to trace the exact number of people, who died during Holocaust any more. Adolph Hitler developed the special program for mass murdering of social minorities. For this sake special death camps were organized and operated. The six most well known were

Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, Treblinka. Nowadays there are various assumptions as for the main reasons, why Hitler took such a horrible decision - to kill all Jews, but he managed to do a lot for it. There is a theory, that Hitler considered Jews to have plans for world dominance, whereas his idea - was the dominance of Aryan race. The stereotype, related to Jews, as Christ - murderers, also is said to play some role. For all Jews life was spread into two periods - before the war and after it, if somebody survived. But even those, who survived, lost their homes, family members, mothers were not able to find their children, because they were sent to different camps, sisters didn't know if their brothers were alive and so on. Often Holocaust is seen as extermination of adult people, however, around 1.5 million children were also murdered. This included Jewish children, Gypsy children, handicapped children, actually those, who were not able to work for Nazis in their camps and ghettos. Racial persecution touched not only Jews, but also Gypsies, the statistical data varies from 200.000 up to 600.000 of killed Gypsies and their children. Some sources state, that in 1942 Himmler planned to unite two tribes of Gypsies in order to create "pure race", but this attempt was a failure and all these people were also later sent to Auschwitz.

As homosexuality was considered deviant in western culture, homosexuals were also the targets of discrimination

and violence. "...the political "logic" which allowed Himmler and his SS troops to arrive at an extermination policy for homosexuals stands as one of the most fascinating examples of the manipulation of ideology in modern history..." (Hilberg, 113).

This was certainly only some brief statistical overview of the Holocaust years. In reality this is a long history of bloody years brought by Holocaust. Most historians agree, that these years were the awful years of racial, political, ideological persecution, which served as basis for further development of anti-Semitism and racial intolerance. The "cleaning" conducted by Adolph Hitler and his people was one of the brightest examples of racial hatred and inhuman treatment of people. Surprising is the fact, that irrespective of the number of historical documents about Holocaust, there are still numerous questions, concerning all possible reasons of this phenomena, the way it could spread so quickly and remain unpunished and so on. And this is one of the reasons, why Holocaust should never be forgotten or kept back from younger generations. Young people should be aware of the possible outcomes of racial intolerance and war. In the modern world, there is no Holocaust any more, however there are enough racial/ethnic conflicts, wars, political, racial, religious confrontation. Young people nowadays are to learn, how to live in peaceful, human relations with all nationalities all over the world, do their best to refrain

from repetition of the mistakes of the past. Holocaust should leave its message in everybody's heart, find response in everybody's soul. That's why it is so important for younger generations to be aside from religious and racial intolerance and opposition, as the future of international and civil relations is in their hands.

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