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The U.S. and the Holocaust – II

Lead: The enormity of the Holocaust only became clear after the war. Yet, Allied leaders knew that to stop it, they had to destroy the Nazis.

Intro: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: After the beginning of World War II, the Jews remaining in Europe were unable to escape. They were caught, and many millions would soon become victims of the grim German death nightmare. It was an instrument so indomitable that even as

Hitler was taking the coward's way out in his suicide bunker, his disciples were still hard at work operating the killing machine.

The Allies were aware something terrible was happening, though the extent of the Holocaust would be revealed only after the war was over. They concluded that the only way to stop it was the complete destruction of Germany and that any diversion of resources in a largely futile attempt to rescue the victims would be folly.

One such suggestion was for the Allies to bomb the death camps, such as Auschwitz, or the railroads delivering Jews to the camps. In reality there was almost no support for such

endeavors among Jews in the United States or Palestine at the time. The idea that Allied bombers would deliberately kill Jews in these camps, so the survivors of the bombing could escape to nowhere, was rejected by military authorities as nigh onto impossible and would have probably just given the Nazis an excuse to blame their deaths on the bombing, not on the killers themselves. In the end, the only way to end it was to end the regime that perpetrated the horror.

At the University of Richmond's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I'm Dan Roberts.

Resources

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