

Research Guide for Holocaust Denial

Introduction to Holocaust Denial

Despite an enormous amount of evidence about the Holocaust and of the Nazi murder of millions of Jews during World War II, shortly after the war some former Nazis began spreading the lie that the Holocaust never occurred. In this research project, your team will look at who denies the Holocaust and what strategies they use to do this.

Preparing Students Through Literature

“Holocaust denial began with the Nazis, who carried out their murderous program in secret and couched it in misleading terminology. But German Nazis, and others of their countrymen later, were not the Third Reich’s most credible defenders. That task would fall to others, European and American neofascists who understood that a Nazi revival was possible only if the accusation of Nazi genocide of the Jews — an accusation backed by mountains of evidence — was somehow eliminated.

In 1966, American Nazi Party founder George Lincoln Rockwell, in a magazine interview, took the argument one step further, saying it was ‘self-defense’ for people to kill Jews. ‘Are you implying that Hitler was justified in exterminating 6 million European Jews?’ Interviewer Alex Haley asked. ‘I don’t believe for one minute that any 6 million Jews *were* exterminated,’ Rockwell replied. ‘It never happened. You want me to prove it?’ Rockwell then offered up statistics purporting to show that there were more Jews alive after the war than before it.”

Excerpted from Kenneth S. Stern’s article “Lying About the Holocaust” in the Intelligence Report, Fall 2001, Issue 103, pages 50-55.

ON THE INTERNET

Holocaust Denial

www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-files/ideology/holocaust-denial

This selection from the Southern Poverty Law Center profiles the key tenets, players and organizations within the Holocaust denial movement.

Holocaust History Project

www.holocaust-history.org

Online archives of documents, photographs, recordings, essays and links regarding the Holocaust, with special emphasis on refuting Holocaust denial and revisionism.

Holocaust Denial on Trial

www.holocaustdenialontrial.org

Informational site centered on the transcripts of the *David Irving v. Penguin Books and Deborah Lipstadt* libel trial of January 2000 and the reports filed for the defense by many eminent Holocaust historians. Allows both simple and advanced keyword searching of the site, including all transcripts, reports and witness statements. Supplements the trial documentation with timelines of Holocaust history and the history of the Holocaust denial phenomenon. Sponsored by Emory University’s Witness to the Holocaust Program and the Institute for Jewish Studies.

Holocaust on Trial (PBS)

www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/holocaust

Companion site to a PBS documentary on the *Irving v. Lipstadt* trial. Includes a timeline of Nazi abuses, the director's story of the making of the documentary and the film's transcript. Also provides information about Nazi medical experiments and flawed science, aimed at refuting Holocaust denial.

Irving v. Lipstadt (The Guardian Special Report)

www.guardianunlimited.co.uk/irving

The *Guardian* newspaper in Manchester, England, closely monitored the *Irving v. Lipstadt* libel trial as it took place in a London courtroom in the early part of 2000. This site includes the collected articles and reports.

Nizkor Project

www.nizkor.org

An online collection of electronic resources on the Holocaust and Holocaust denial and revisionism. Includes the reproduction of numerous primary source materials, detailed information on Nazi documents and evidence presented at the Nuremberg Trials as a means of refuting Holocaust deniers and revisionists. Produced and directed by Ken McVay.

Key People or Concepts to Research

- Holocaust Denial
- Historical Revisionism
- David Irving
- Deborah Lipstadt
- Mark Weber
- Ernst Zundel
- George Lincoln Rockwell
- Institute for Historical Review

Focus Questions

1. Why do people want to deny that the Holocaust happened?
2. What is in it for them?
3. Who are some of the major Holocaust deniers?
4. What do they say happened?
5. Who are some of the key people who dispute what Holocaust deniers say?
6. How is Holocaust denial antisemitic?

Resources

Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory (\$15) by Deborah Lipstadt, is a primer in the study of Holocaust denial.

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