A Vaccine Against Holocaust Denial: Knowledge

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A Vaccine Against Holocaust Denial: Knowledge

Riley Andreasen, Honors 3030: Nazi Germany & the Holocaust in American Memory, Advisor: Prof. Christoph Schiessl

What is Holocaust Denial?
Any attempt to negate the established facts of the Nazi genocide of European Jews. It is an act of antisemitism.

Who is denying it?
Fred Leuchter and other "historians"
Neo-Nazis

Why debate with them?
This is not a debate. The claims need to be denied and exposed as lies and falsehoods, not swept under the rug to fester. Data and evidence need to be shown to everyone so that the seeds of doubt coming from these deniers cannot take hold. This is not for the benefit of converting deniers but protecting the public from falling for their lies.

Hitler Did Not Order and Did Not Know about the Extermination of Jews
Hitler was the only one with the authority to give mass orders to do so in the middle of the war. Mein Kampf expressed his need to exterminate the Jews in writing. In the Reichstag speech of 1939, Hitler said, "I would then settle the Jewish problem (by) the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!"

Six Million Murdered is a Lie
The 1939 American Jewish Year-Book gave the world Jewish population as 16,633,675. The 1948 Year-Book listed the number of Jews worldwide as 11,373,350. The Nuremberg trials estimated the number of Jews who died during World War II as 5,700,000. Nuremberg Document PS 2738 is an affidavit from SS Major Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl, quoting Adolf Eichmann at the end of August 1944 saying that, "approximately four million Jews had been killed in the extermination camps while an additional two million met death in other ways, the majority of which were shot."

Auschwitz Was Not a Death Camp
Fred Leuchter supposedly went to Auschwitz, examined the camp, and concluded that it had never had gas chambers. The report was not accepted because a court found that he lacked credentials to admit his findings into evidence. Leuchter has a B.A. in history, not biology or forensics. He also admitted in court that he had misrepresented himself in violation of Massachusetts criminal law.

Psychology and Group Unity
Groups need enemies to unite them. A common enemy can act as a shared goal that connects members of the group. They have a genuine hatred of opponents and most members fully believe in their ideology. They profess to have absolute certainty about the truth and often think that America is controlled by a conspiratorial group. Members of extremist groups have little faith in the democratic process. They display a willingness to deny civil liberties to certain fellow citizens. Holocaust deniers also participate in irresponsible accusations and character assassination.

This cartoon shows a Jewish man holding paper to a pen that represents Holocaust memorialization.

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