

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Why Study the Holocaust?

The question “Why study the Holocaust?” deserves to be asked. It is, perhaps, the defining event of the 20th century, whose aftereffects surround us still today. It cannot be denied, or ignored, or even explained in any regular way. It poses the greatest moral challenge of modern times. No other subject challenges us so deeply and existentially, or requires so much from us in terms of our commitment to the whole truth, our need for moral insight into the human condition, our balance and perspective in historical analysis, and our faith in the goals and ends of our labors. What we hope to achieve by studying these events is the creation of a permanent historical record and an understanding that, while good does not come out of evil, yet the good persists and overcomes and outlasts the evil, as long as we maintain our commitment to remembering and showing the truth.

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Remarks at a Reception Honoring the Ike and Roz Friedman Family Foundation and Announcing the Forthcoming Publication of the Comprehensive History of the Holocaust Series by the University of Nebraska Press

February 17, 2003

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