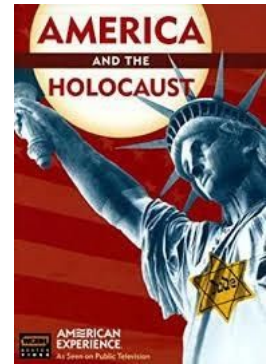


# U.S. History Week 3: April 20-24

## Big Idea: America and the Holocaust

**Big Questions:** *What was America's Universe of Obligation during World War II? How did it shift/shrink? What is America's Universe of Obligation right now during this global pandemic?*



## This week we will learn about:

America's political and social interference (or lack thereof) with the Holocaust

### **Background:**

Many Americans know of the unspeakable tragedy of the Holocaust that took more than 6 million lives in Europe. However, many do not know just how much our government knew at the time and what little they did to stop it. While historians argue over the extent to which the Americans could have stopped the Holocaust, the fact remains that many European Jews sought refuge in the United States, only to be denied entry. The United States was founded as a safe haven for those escaping persecution, yet the question over who and when we choose to help refugees is as relevant today as it has ever been. As you make your way through this week's lessons, think about our framing questions of the week: *What was America's Universe of Obligation during World War II? How did it shift/shrink? What is America's Universe of Obligation right now during this global pandemic?*

## **YOUR TASK THIS WEEK: 2 Parts!**

**PART I: Complete the following 3 Assignments.** These lessons are for the whole week and intended to be accessed in this order:

- **Lesson 1: Background Reading-Textbook chapter:**
  - To build background knowledge, please read:
    - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-W6u5wdc3B7kb20F0nji7moEDZeYd8BG/view?usp=sharing>
- **\*Lesson 2: Watch the Documentary: America and the Holocaust**
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZG1GR61qkls>
- **\*Lesson 3: Watch the Clip from the TV show "Band of Brothers"**
  - *In this clip, you will watch American troops discover a concentration camp for the first time after only hearing rumors of their existence. Band of Brothers, while stylized for television, is based on a book by American historian Stephen E Ambrose, who compiled the story from extensive interviews with veterans of the "Easy Company", the Airborne's 506th Regiment.*
    - <https://vimeo.com/120597804>
- **Lesson 4: Operation Paperclip**
  - Overview reading: <https://www.history.com/news/what-was-operation-paperclip>
  - For further reading, check this out: : <https://time.com/5627637/nasa-nazi-von-braun/>

***\*Please be warned that these videos include some disturbing images depicting the atrocities of the Holocaust.***

## **PART II: Journal Response**

**Directions:** Each week, you will write a thoughtful journal response that SYNTHESIZES all the readings/assignments from the week.

### **NEW:**

**Requirements:** For each of the reflection questions, include evidence from **the lessons listed above** to support your answers.

### **Week 3 Journal Reflection: America and the Holocaust (Turn in on Canvas!)**

1. According to the textbook chapter, why did many Jews remain in Germany even though they were persecuted?
2. From the documentary, *America and the Holocaust*:
  - a. What were some examples of anti-semitism in the United States?
  - b. How did some people try to bring more awareness to the Jewish massacre?
  - c. The War Refugee Board recommended that the gas chambers be bombed. The War Department refused. What was their reasoning? Why was that misleading?
3. When do you think the United States government should have become involved in helping the Jews? What should have been done?
4. Historian David Wyman asks about America's reaction to the Holocaust, "Would the reaction be different today? Would Americans be more sensitive, less self-centered, more willing to make sacrifices, less afraid of differences now than they were then?" What do you think? Consider our attitudes/reactions to other populations who have suffered (Syrian refugees, immigrants, etc.)
5. What is an argument that supports Operation Paperclip? What is an argument against Operation Paperclip? What do you think?