

Dear Governor Inslee,

Hi, my name is Ethan and I believe that the Holocaust should be taught in all Washington Schools. I think this because it is important to learn from the mistakes humans have made in previous decades so that we can prevent things like the Holocaust from ever happening again.

One of the main reasons that all Washington students should be taught about the Holocaust is because it demonstrates the dangers of prejudice, discrimination and dehumanization, the antisemitism that fueled the Holocaust and other forms of racism and intolerance. Study of the Holocaust underlines that genocide is a process which can be challenged or even stopped rather than a spontaneous event. The Holocaust demonstrated how a nation can utilize its civic structures, processes and technical expertise while engaging multiple segments of society to implement policies over time ranging from exclusion and discrimination to genocide.

After World War I, many Germans did not accept that their country had been defeated, which gave birth to the stab-in-the-back myth. This implied that it was disloyal politicians, mainly Jews and communists, who had orchestrated Germany's surrender. Inflaming the anti-Jewish sentiment was the apparent over-representation of Jews in the leadership of communist revolutionary governments in Europe. This means that the Nazi Party could keep falsely accusing the Jews and socialists/communists of their economic status until its people believed what they were telling them was true which eventually developed into the genocide of ethnic, differently-racial, religious, and disabled people in Germany and Nazi Germany-Occupied countries.

The genocide of German Jews in the 1940s was over 80 years ago, but the effects of racism and discrimination still haunts us even to this day. Take a look at the Somalian War and Rwandan genocide. In Somalia, entire groups of people were being annihilated because they were from the "Wrong tribe," and in Rwanda Tutsis were being slaughtered by the Hutus both because of scapegoating and building hate from discriminatory acts to genocides. And as recently as 2009, when the president of Sudan, Omar Bashir, ordered genocide in Darfur. There are still 2.7 million people in Darfur that have been displaced and living in camps. The U.N. estimated that 4.7 million people are still affected by the situation and denied basic human rights.

Currently today in the United States, we are seeing protests against police violence and racial injustice. I have also experienced racial prejudice by classmates as I am Asian-American. Personally, I feel uneasy about the racial intolerance as shown by the violence that has been acted out on Asian-Americans due to COVID-19.

It is imperative to teach all students in Washington State about the Holocaust. Please take action to ensure every school state-wide has access to the resources to teach their students about the Holocaust and how it is applicable today.

Sincerely,
Ethan Self-LoBosco