

Holocaust in American Culture

- Until the 1960s, Jewish mass murder was no public topic in American culture
- After the 1960s, things have changed, thinking of...
 - Ø many Holocaust museums which opened during the past 50 years
 - Ø Steven Spielberg's movie "Schindler's List", produced in Hollywood
 - Ø more articles about the Holocaust since 1990 than during the preceding 45 years
 - Ø the "Holocaust Remembrance Day" in Nebraska
- Why no earlier attention?
 - Ø American Jewish people tried hard not being seen as victims: In a nation that won the war and rose to a world power, the Jews did not want to appear as "losers" and therefore they did not identify with their brothers and sisters of belief
 - Ø they aimed at full integration in American society and gained a new feeling of pride
- Anne Frank's diaries were used for theatres and movies and became successful in the 1950s – but for the reasons mentioned above, Jews avoided strongly avoided any references to Judaism and the Holocaust; a universal human appeal was supposed to be central
- Some people started to worry about Jewish identity in the USA because of their complete integration; their religious engagement declined and marriages between Jews and non Jewish people increased
- Today the Holocaust has a multifunctional in daily politics, thinking of...
 - Ø fights against abortion
 - Ø environmental activists
 - Ø president Bush's and Clinton's reasons for intervention in Iraq / Kosovo
 - Ø etc.

In how far is this fictionalization of the Holocaust to criticize?

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