

COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM WITH ARTS

WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE® **FIRST DRAFT A PROPOSAL CONFIDENTIAL** A Dialogue with Deborah Esther Lipstadt and Samuel Bak

- To be moderated by Steve Ludsins or Michael Berenbaum or...
- To establish a partnership with The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center ARTS & IDEAS and the Miami Beach Jewish Community Center, and to bring this project to the attention of the Jewish Community Center Association.



Deborah Esther Lipstadt (born March 18, 1947) is an American historian and academic, best known as author of the books [Denying the Holocaust](#) (1993), *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* (2005), *The Eichmann Trial* (2011), and [Antisemitism: Here and Now](#) (2019). She has served as the [United States Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism](#) since May 3, 2022. Since 1993 she has been the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at [Emory University](#) in [Atlanta, Georgia](#), US.^{[1][2]}

Lipstadt was a consultant to the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#). In 1994, [President of the United States Bill Clinton](#) appointed her to the [United States Holocaust Memorial Council](#), and she served two terms.^[3] On July 30, 2021, President [Joe Biden](#) nominated her to be the [United States Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism](#).^{[4][5]} She was confirmed by voice-vote on March 30, 2022 and sworn in on May 3, 2022.^{[6][7]} - Wikipedia

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Samuel Bak ([Hebrew](#): שמואל בק; born 12 August 1933) is a Lithuanian-American painter and writer who survived the [Holocaust](#) and immigrated to [Israel](#) in 1948. Since 1993, he has lived in the [United States](#).

Samuel Bak was born in [Wilno](#) (Vilnius), [Second Polish Republic](#), on August 12, 1933. Bak was recognized from an early age as having artistic talent. He describes his family as secular, but proud of their [Jewish](#) identity.^[1] - - Wikipedia

The **Vilna Ghetto**^[a] was a [World War II Jewish ghetto](#) established and operated by [Nazi Germany](#) in the city of [Vilnius](#) in the modern country of [Lithuania](#), at the time part of the Nazi-administered [Reichskommissariat Ostland](#).^[1]

During the approximately two years of its existence [starvation](#), [disease](#), street executions, maltreatment, and deportations to [concentration](#) and [extermination](#) camps reduced the ghetto's population from an estimated 40,000 to zero.

Only several hundred people managed to survive, mostly by hiding in the forests surrounding the city, joining [Soviet partisans](#),^{[2][3]} or [sheltering with sympathetic locals](#).

[Vilna Ghetto - Wikipedia](#)

[Partisans of Vilna: Zog Nit Keynmol. - YouTube](#)

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Stephen Ludsin, child of a Survivor and a charter member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, discusses why he dedicated his life to preserving the memory of the Shoah through his Remembrance of the Holocaust Foundation. ." STEPHEN LUDSIN, president and founder of the Remembrance of the Holocaust Foundation;

Jimmy Carter - *39th President of the United States: 1977 - 1981* President's Commission on the Holocaust Appointment of the Membership and Advisers to the Commission. November 08, 1978. The President today announced the 24 persons he will appoint as members of the President's Commission on the Holocaust. The Commission was announced by the President on May 1 at the White House reception in honor of Israel's 30th anniversary and was formally established by Executive order on November 1. The purpose of the Commission is to make recommendations on establishing and funding an appropriate memorial to victims of the Holocaust, and to recommend ways for the Nation to commemorate April 28 and 29, 1979, the "Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/presidents-commission-the-holocaust-appointment-the-membership-and-advisers-the-commission>

Michael Berenbaum (born July 31, 1945, in [Newark, New Jersey](#)) is an American scholar, professor, [rabbi](#), writer, and filmmaker, who specializes in the study of the [Holocaust](#). He served as deputy director of the President's Commission on the Holocaust (1979–1980), Project Director of the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) (USHMM) (1988–1993), and Director of the USHMM's Holocaust Research Institute (1993–1997).

Berenbaum played a leading role in the creation of the USHMM and the content of its permanent exhibition. From 1997 to 1999, he served as president and CEO of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, and subsequently (and currently) as Director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust, located at the [American Jewish University](#) (formerly known as the University of Judaism), in Los Angeles, California. **Michael Berenbaum** is a Professor of history at Zachor Institute for the Holocaust, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut

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- **January 27:** The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau – as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

The President today announced the 24 persons he will appoint as members of the President's Commission on the Holocaust – among them Stephen Ludsin and Michael Berenbaum.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

January 27 is designated by the United Nations General Assembly as International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD). Since 2005, the UN and its member states have held commemoration ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism.

KEY FACTS

- 1 The purpose of International Holocaust Remembrance Day is two-fold: to serve as a date for official commemoration of the victims of the Nazi regime and to promote Holocaust education throughout the world.
- 2 Since 2010, the UN has designated specific themes for the annual commemorations that focus on topics such as collective experiences and universal human rights.
- 3 In addition to International Holocaust Remembrance Day, many countries hold national commemoration ceremonies on other dates connected to the Holocaust.

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- **Note 1. “Fighting”** Designed , intended or train to fight in combat
 - **Note 2. “ Combatting”** Fighting between individuals or groups – Active fighting in a war – Conflict /controversy. – Casualties suffered in combat
 - **Note 3. “Antisemitism”** (also spelled **anti-semitism** or **anti-Semitism**)^[a] is hostility to, prejudice towards, or discrimination against [Jews](#).^{[2][3][4]} A person who holds such positions is called an **antisemite**. Antisemitism is considered to be a form of [racism](#).^{[5][6]}
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Antisemitism has historically been manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of [hatred](#) of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized [pogroms](#) by mobs, [police forces](#), or [genocide](#). Although the term did not come into common usage until the 19th century, it is also applied to previous and later anti-Jewish incidents. Notable instances of [persecution](#) include the [Rhineland massacres](#) preceding the [First Crusade](#) in 1096, the [Edict of Expulsion](#) from England in 1290, the 1348–1351 [persecution of Jews during the Black Death](#), the [massacres of Spanish Jews](#) in 1391, the persecutions of the [Spanish Inquisition](#), the [expulsion](#)

[from Spain](#) in 1492, the [Cossack massacres in Ukraine](#) from 1648 to 1657, various [anti-Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire](#) between 1821 and 1906, the 1894–1906 [Dreyfus affair](#) in France, [the Holocaust](#) in [German-occupied Europe](#) during [World War II](#) and [Soviet anti-Jewish policies](#). Though historically most manifestations of antisemitism have taken place in Christian Europe, since the early 20th century [antisemitism has increased in the Middle East](#).

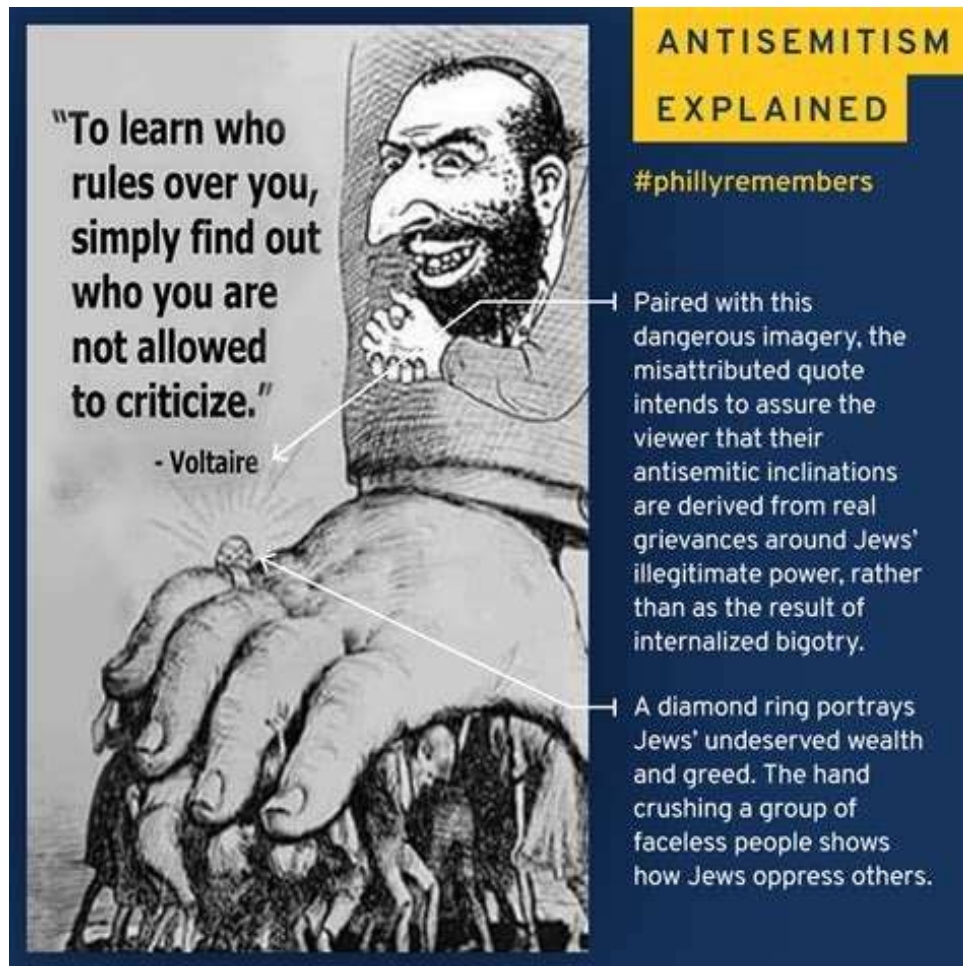
The root word [Semite](#) gives the [false impression](#) that antisemitism is directed against all [Semitic people](#), e.g., including [Arabs](#), [Assyrians](#), and [Arameans](#). The compound word *Antisemitismus* ('antisemitism') was first used in print in Germany in 1879^[7] as a scientific-sounding term for *Judenhass* ('Jew-hatred'),^{[8][9][10][11][12]} and this has been its common use since then.^{[8][13][14]}



Destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem – Painting by Francesco Hayez – Fine Art America
Antisemitism – ADL.ORG



[Fight Against Anti-Semitism is 'National Cause' in France \(newsweek.com\)](#)



[Antisemitism Explained | Philadelphia Holocaust Memorial Plaza \(philaholocaustmemorial.org\)](https://philaholocaustmemorial.org)

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Fighting Antisemitism with Arts CARRIES a mission that should be addressed to the entire world. The difficulty of the success of this effort (?) combatting thousands of horrific years need to be reached. Can we forget the tragedies and the horrors implemented in camps and ghettos during WWII? Can we forget the Spanish Inquisition's times? Can we forget any other genocides?
Jacqueline S. Gmach, Creative Director, WE ARE THE TREE OF LIFE®

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On July 30, 2021, President Joe Biden nominated Mrs. Deborah Esther Lipstadt as The United States Special Envoy for **Monitoring and Combatting Anti-Semitism** will educate us.

[Deborah Lipstadt - United States Department of State](https://www.state.gov/deborah-lipstadt)

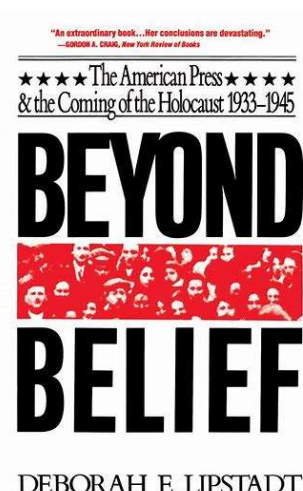
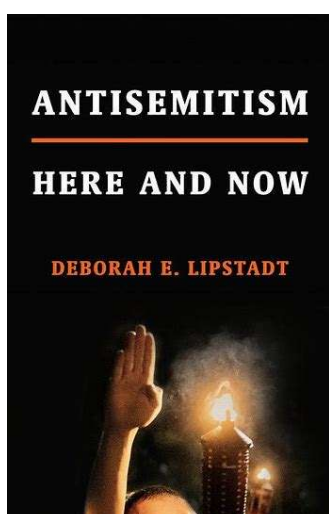
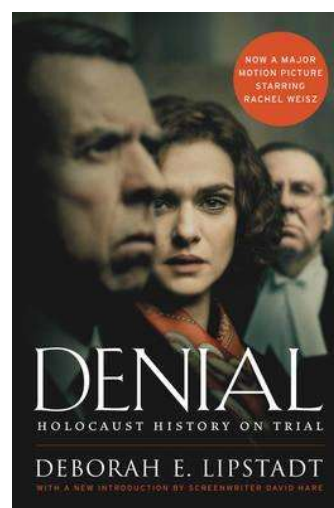
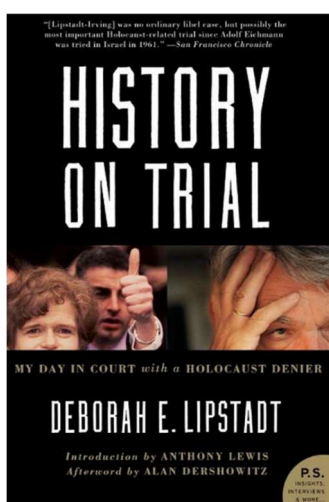
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February 4, 2023 is the date of the opening of The Samuel Bak Museum: The learning Center of the University a hub for intercultural dialogue of Nebraska Omaha.

... "to make this project a premier national landmark for human rights education and art engagement but also a understanding of how our communities can most benefit from this important resource." "....."this project is a unique opportunity to serve as a hub for dialogue and education for the region." Nather -Detisch, Samuel Bak Learning Center. **Samuel Bak works can only CARRY ON our mission.**

[Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center Opens to Public Feb. 4 | News | University of Nebraska Omaha \(unomaha.edu\)](https://news.unomaha.edu/2023/02/04/samuel-bak-museum-the-learning-center-opens-to-public-feb-4/)

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TWO PERSONAL STORIES

My research on the Lanthanides - Laboratory of Professor G- P - Sorbonne University.

1958. I am 18 years old, and I am leaving Tunis, the city of my birth, for Paris, to study physics and chemistry at la Sorbonne. My dream is to become a teacher.

1959 to 1961, I am a researcher for the Lanthanide molecule at the laboratory of Professor G- P -.

End of 1961 morning, I arrived at the lab, and entered my room, ready to pursue my daily work. I was surprised, and in fact extremely concerned, when I noticed that my file cabinet had been burned down. All my documents, written notes, charts, and molecular images of those unknown molecules were now only a dark gray color, mostly ashes.

A few minutes later, two men addressed me and asked me to follow them to the police station of the 5th arrondissement in Paris. I looked at Professor G- P-who immediately in response to my concern said " Jacqueline, nothing is wrong, you have to follow them and answer their questions precisely. All will be fine."

The fear developed when I found myself in a semi-dark room with a bright light hitting my face. The two men were sitting across the table and I answered all their questions. I might have cried. I recall the interrogation lasted a few hours. Then they told me to return to my routine as a science researcher and wished me success in my professional life, present and future.

A few days later the two detectives came back and asked for a gathering of all the researchers. They announced their findings. My supervisor was identified as responsible for the fire in my cabinet: A criminal act as per my own judgement. I do not recall his name. I do recall that he was Jewish.

He acknowledged his culpability, "I did it, do you want to know why? A week ago, I asked Jacqueline..."

The detective interrupted, "Jacqueline, who? You mean Jacqueline Nataf, your student?

"Yes," he responded. "I asked Jacqueline Nataf not to show her Magen David and to hide it under her shirt."

"What is Magen David? Do you mean the Start of David?," the detective responded.

"Yes, the Star of David. I asked Jacqueline to hide her Star of David and she firmly refused. You have to understand I am myself a Jew and by wearing her religious symbol she is putting me in danger. All of us in danger. She was in fact facilitating an act of Antisemitism in my life. And I myself am a Jew!!

I was horrified. I did not know a lot about Antisemitism. I could not imagine that an Antisemitic act could be carried out by a Jew.

Burning reflects a total destruction - Just Ashes

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At L'Ecole Albert De Mun - Catholic School in Nogent Sur Marne.

1970. I am teaching physics and chemistry at L'Ecole Albert De Mun which is a Catholic School in Nogent Sur Marne.

One early afternoon when entering the classroom, my 29 students were all sitting at their desks. They seem to be ready to offer me all their attention for their class on modern physics, relativity, and atomic structure.

I walked towards the large blackboard and suddenly remained immobilized. I could not move. I silently read words traced with white chalk and appearing in large letters.

"Hitler avait raison. Les Juifs méritent d' être exterminés"

I did not say a word. It took a few minutes before I called one of the students and assigned him a physics question and indicated a space on the blackboard for his written response. The question was extremely difficult and well above his level of knowledge. Evidently, no response.

Then I sent the student back to his seat announcing that his grade was "0" ... "Fail."

I repeated the same strategy for the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth and up to the 29th student. Each time it was more and more intense. I felt more "tense" by asking questions after questions with an authoritarian voice. The impact was accentuated by a loud noise regulated by intervals of times when my heavy ruler was hitting my desk... boom... boom ...boom.

Class ended but I told the students to remain seated. I left and came back a few minutes accompanied by the school principal. They silently read the note on the chalkboard.

"Hitler avait raison. Les Juifs méritent d' être exterminés"

"Hitler was right. Jews deserved to be exterminated."

He asked the students to leave the classroom then informed me that this was not their fault. It's the fault of the parents, that is what they are teaching them. Essentially, he was taking no responsibility as the school principal and skirting all the responsibility on the parents.

I took my belongings and left, refusing to come back for my class the next day. I went home profoundly sad and unsatisfied with myself. Furthermore, I was angry; why do I offer my knowledge to people who hate me? That evening the doorbell rang. My home was in Noisy Le Grand, half hour drive from the school. There, standing at my doorstep was the principal again accompanied by the secular studies director. I invited them to come in of course. They apologized and expressed a feeling of helplessness and disarray. They reiterated their explanation that "this is what their parents teach them." To which I immediately replied. "Let me suggest then that you hold multi-generational sessions and educate parents and children together. And furthermore, why not also invite grandparents!"

I quickly showed them the way out and locked my door. Looking back, I assume it was a way to protect myself as a Jew, and to separate myself from the world of hate.

I felt horrified by the thoughts of holocaust and all genocides. I still am to this day.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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