

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,610

2
00:00:04,610 --> 00:00:07,220
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:07,220 --> 00:00:09,350
Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

4
00:00:09,350 --> 00:00:10,940
interview with Guenter Lewy.

5
00:00:10,940 --> 00:00:14,790
This is track number
two, and you were talking

6
00:00:14,790 --> 00:00:16,710
about the possibility of--

7
00:00:16,710 --> 00:00:17,570
Going to college.

8
00:00:17,570 --> 00:00:18,362
--going to college.

9
00:00:18,362 --> 00:00:19,890
So people explain
to me, you can go

10
00:00:19,890 --> 00:00:22,290
enroll at City College
as a special student,

11
00:00:22,290 --> 00:00:24,480
and if you do well,
you will matriculate.

12
00:00:24,480 --> 00:00:28,230
And I started in

the evening session

13

00:00:28,230 --> 00:00:32,650
and liked it and did well.

14

00:00:32,650 --> 00:00:36,480
And I also was very active
in the student movement.

15

00:00:36,480 --> 00:00:40,620
I was a Sergeant at Arms of the
Student Council of the evening

16

00:00:40,620 --> 00:00:42,660
session, became a
student politician.

17

00:00:42,660 --> 00:00:43,470
I enjoyed that.

18

00:00:43,470 --> 00:00:46,610

19

00:00:46,610 --> 00:00:52,640
And eventually transferred
to the day session

20

00:00:52,640 --> 00:00:58,220
and graduated with
honors in 1951.

21

00:00:58,220 --> 00:00:59,180
What did you study?

22

00:00:59,180 --> 00:01:02,810
I studied-- I started
in psychology,

23

00:01:02,810 --> 00:01:05,209
moved from there to
sociology, and ended up

24

00:01:05,209 --> 00:01:06,680
in political science.

25

00:01:06,680 --> 00:01:11,360
And eventually, after that, went
to Columbia for graduate study

26

00:01:11,360 --> 00:01:13,790
in what was then called
public law and government,

27

00:01:13,790 --> 00:01:15,590
today political science.

28

00:01:15,590 --> 00:01:19,340
And got my PhD at Columbia--

29

00:01:19,340 --> 00:01:24,170
my MA in '52, and my PhD in '57.

30

00:01:24,170 --> 00:01:27,410
What was your parents' reaction
initially about your going

31

00:01:27,410 --> 00:01:32,240
to college and not helping
them out in Atlantic City?

32

00:01:32,240 --> 00:01:37,040
I was helped by my rich
uncle in Brazil, who

33

00:01:37,040 --> 00:01:38,870
provided me with a stipend--

34

00:01:38,870 --> 00:01:43,070
\$120 a month, which was not
very much, but just about enough

35

00:01:43,070 --> 00:01:44,210
at that time to get by.

36

00:01:44,210 --> 00:01:49,730
I had a furnished room that
cost me \$7 a week, I believe.

37
00:01:49,730 --> 00:01:52,140
And I somehow managed
to get by with \$120.

38
00:01:52,140 --> 00:01:54,200
I also worked part-time.

39
00:01:54,200 --> 00:01:59,180
I worked in the library and
did various other odd things.

40
00:01:59,180 --> 00:02:02,510
I remember once when I was
really bad off, had no money,

41
00:02:02,510 --> 00:02:06,540
I donated blood and made
some money that way.

42
00:02:06,540 --> 00:02:08,090
We got by.

43
00:02:08,090 --> 00:02:10,729
My parents eventually were able
to give me a little extra money

44
00:02:10,729 --> 00:02:11,475
as well.

45
00:02:11,475 --> 00:02:13,350
But they were happy that
you were going for--

46
00:02:13,350 --> 00:02:13,940
I think so.

47
00:02:13,940 --> 00:02:15,140
--extended education?

48
00:02:15,140 --> 00:02:15,930
I think so.

49
00:02:15,930 --> 00:02:16,040
That's what I meant.

50
00:02:16,040 --> 00:02:16,520
I think so.

51
00:02:16,520 --> 00:02:17,020
Yeah.

52
00:02:17,020 --> 00:02:17,720
They understood.

53
00:02:17,720 --> 00:02:18,350
I think so.

54
00:02:18,350 --> 00:02:19,870
Yeah.

55
00:02:19,870 --> 00:02:21,280
And they stayed--

56
00:02:21,280 --> 00:02:22,750
They were in
Atlantic City, and--

57
00:02:22,750 --> 00:02:23,792
They stayed in Atlantic--

58
00:02:23,792 --> 00:02:27,120
They stayed there
until I think sometimes

59
00:02:27,120 --> 00:02:29,640
in the late '50s, when
they sold the hotel

60
00:02:29,640 --> 00:02:32,475
and retired to New York.

61

00:02:32,475 --> 00:02:35,970
What were your thoughts about
Germany then in the late '40s

62

00:02:35,970 --> 00:02:37,005
and in the early '50s?

63

00:02:37,005 --> 00:02:41,160

64

00:02:41,160 --> 00:02:44,520
I don't know-- [INAUDIBLE] was
watching what was developing

65

00:02:44,520 --> 00:02:46,320
there with interest.

66

00:02:46,320 --> 00:02:49,480
Very soon there
became two Germanys.

67

00:02:49,480 --> 00:02:53,940
And I was interested, of course.

68

00:02:53,940 --> 00:02:56,790
I don't recall anything in--

69

00:02:56,790 --> 00:02:57,780
Any connection?

70

00:02:57,780 --> 00:03:02,000

71

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:03,020
I don't know.

72

00:03:03,020 --> 00:03:04,520
Perhaps I still was--

73

00:03:04,520 --> 00:03:06,260

I may have corresponded
with somebody

74
00:03:06,260 --> 00:03:08,420
whom I've met in Wuppertal.

75
00:03:08,420 --> 00:03:09,560
I'm not sure about that.

76
00:03:09,560 --> 00:03:14,140

77
00:03:14,140 --> 00:03:22,350
And yeah, I graduated from
City College in '57, went

78
00:03:22,350 --> 00:03:25,470
to Columbia and
finished Columbia in--

79
00:03:25,470 --> 00:03:26,070
I'm sorry.

80
00:03:26,070 --> 00:03:30,560
I finished City College at
'51, finished Columbia at '57.

81
00:03:30,560 --> 00:03:32,250
You have my curriculum
vitae there.

82
00:03:32,250 --> 00:03:34,950
The dates are there.

83
00:03:34,950 --> 00:03:38,340
And I did well at Columbia.

84
00:03:38,340 --> 00:03:42,600
I was student of Franz Neumann,
a very well-known professor

85
00:03:42,600 --> 00:03:45,540

at the time of German origin--

86

00:03:45,540 --> 00:03:48,540
very charismatic teacher, and--

87

00:03:48,540 --> 00:03:52,200
Did you feel more comfortable
among other, quote,

88

00:03:52,200 --> 00:03:56,070
"refugees" than
American-born students?

89

00:03:56,070 --> 00:03:58,140
Not really, no.

90

00:03:58,140 --> 00:04:01,140
I felt very much at home at
City College in particular,

91

00:04:01,140 --> 00:04:02,400
and later on at Columbia.

92

00:04:02,400 --> 00:04:04,020
As I said, I was a
student politician,

93

00:04:04,020 --> 00:04:06,150
and I had no particular--

94

00:04:06,150 --> 00:04:07,920
I may have known some--

95

00:04:07,920 --> 00:04:10,920
yes, I knew-- as
I mentioned I met

96

00:04:10,920 --> 00:04:14,130
in New York some of
my former friends

97

00:04:14,130 --> 00:04:16,410

from the youth movement,
and I saw them.

98
00:04:16,410 --> 00:04:18,042
But I also had
other friends and--

99
00:04:18,042 --> 00:04:20,459
And you were very comfortable
about Native-born Americans.

100
00:04:20,459 --> 00:04:21,492
Very comfortable.

101
00:04:21,492 --> 00:04:22,200
Very comfortable.

102
00:04:22,200 --> 00:04:23,880
My English by that
time was pretty good

103
00:04:23,880 --> 00:04:27,720
because I had-- actually, I had
studied English in high school

104
00:04:27,720 --> 00:04:29,050
in Germany.

105
00:04:29,050 --> 00:04:31,330
And then I was in the
British Army for four years.

106
00:04:31,330 --> 00:04:32,730
And even though we
mostly spoke Hebrew,

107
00:04:32,730 --> 00:04:34,080
but we also talked English.

108
00:04:34,080 --> 00:04:36,360
So my English was pretty good.

109

00:04:36,360 --> 00:04:37,760
There was no problem in school.

110
00:04:37,760 --> 00:04:41,340
In fact, my grammar
probably was better

111
00:04:41,340 --> 00:04:45,570
than many of my co-students.

112
00:04:45,570 --> 00:04:48,450
I had an accent,
which I still have.

113
00:04:48,450 --> 00:04:51,120
I recall that at
City College, one

114
00:04:51,120 --> 00:04:53,340
of the requirements
at that time was

115
00:04:53,340 --> 00:04:57,420
a one-credit course for four
semesters in public speaking.

116
00:04:57,420 --> 00:05:00,270
And if we had a very bad
accent, and some kids coming

117
00:05:00,270 --> 00:05:02,010
from Brooklyn had
a very bad accent,

118
00:05:02,010 --> 00:05:05,520
you had to go to something
called the speech clinic first

119
00:05:05,520 --> 00:05:08,940
before you can start these
four one-credit courses.

120
00:05:08,940 --> 00:05:11,100

Well, I had a German
accent, so-- but it

121
00:05:11,100 --> 00:05:12,960
was kind of a borderline
case apparently.

122
00:05:12,960 --> 00:05:15,690
The instructor made
me read something,

123
00:05:15,690 --> 00:05:18,690
and then he turned to the
class and he said, well,

124
00:05:18,690 --> 00:05:20,380
shall we accept him or not?

125
00:05:20,380 --> 00:05:21,900
And they all shouted, yes.

126
00:05:21,900 --> 00:05:23,280
So I was--

127
00:05:23,280 --> 00:05:26,340
I passed, and I was able to
take public speaking right away

128
00:05:26,340 --> 00:05:28,200
without having to go
to the speech clinic,

129
00:05:28,200 --> 00:05:30,117
even though I had an
accent, but apparently it

130
00:05:30,117 --> 00:05:34,050
was relatively minimal
so I passed muster.

131
00:05:34,050 --> 00:05:35,130
I enjoyed City College.

132

00:05:35,130 --> 00:05:37,560

There were some
wonderful professors.

133

00:05:37,560 --> 00:05:42,190

And I enjoyed Columbia, and
decided on an academic career.

134

00:05:42,190 --> 00:05:47,540

And well, I forgot to mention
the very important event

135

00:05:47,540 --> 00:05:53,590

in my life, namely,
I got married.

136

00:05:53,590 --> 00:05:54,090

Ilse.

137

00:05:54,090 --> 00:05:57,400

My wife, had studied
medicine first

138

00:05:57,400 --> 00:06:00,790

in [PLACE NAME],, as I mentioned,
then in Geneva, Switzerland.

139

00:06:00,790 --> 00:06:03,760

When she finished, I was
instrumental in getting her

140

00:06:03,760 --> 00:06:06,670

to come to the United States.

141

00:06:06,670 --> 00:06:10,210

At first it was difficult
because the German quota was

142

00:06:10,210 --> 00:06:11,980

oversubscribed,
and we were told it

143

00:06:11,980 --> 00:06:14,920
would take several years before
there would be an opening.

144
00:06:14,920 --> 00:06:17,320
But then something
interesting happened.

145
00:06:17,320 --> 00:06:21,100
Congress passed the so-called
McCarran Anti-Communist

146
00:06:21,100 --> 00:06:23,500
Act, National Security Act.

147
00:06:23,500 --> 00:06:26,380
And under that act, one of
the small side provisions

148
00:06:26,380 --> 00:06:29,770
was that no one who had been
a member of the Nazi party

149
00:06:29,770 --> 00:06:33,220
in Germany could
come to America.

150
00:06:33,220 --> 00:06:34,840
All of a sudden,
the German quota

151
00:06:34,840 --> 00:06:38,560
was wide open, because hardly
any German who wanted to come

152
00:06:38,560 --> 00:06:41,110
had not been a member
of the party-- very few.

153
00:06:41,110 --> 00:06:42,730
So there was all
of a sudden place

154

00:06:42,730 --> 00:06:47,170
in the German quota, and in
December of 1950, my wife--

155
00:06:47,170 --> 00:06:51,980
my fiancée, arrived, and we
got married several days later.

156
00:06:51,980 --> 00:06:55,810
I had an apartment in a
student housing project

157
00:06:55,810 --> 00:06:56,810
in the East River.

158
00:06:56,810 --> 00:06:58,190
Do you know New York at all?

159
00:06:58,190 --> 00:06:58,690
Yes.

160
00:06:58,690 --> 00:07:00,890
Have you heard of
North Brother Island?

161
00:07:00,890 --> 00:07:01,390
No.

162
00:07:01,390 --> 00:07:02,710
Have you heard of Rikers Island?

163
00:07:02,710 --> 00:07:02,995
Yes.

164
00:07:02,995 --> 00:07:03,495
OK.

165
00:07:03,495 --> 00:07:05,410
Right next to Rikers
Island is a small island

166
00:07:05,410 --> 00:07:06,880

called North
Brother Island where

167
00:07:06,880 --> 00:07:10,120
Typhoid Mary was incarcerated.

168
00:07:10,120 --> 00:07:12,340
And that had become a
student housing project,

169
00:07:12,340 --> 00:07:14,230
and that's where I
got an apartment.

170
00:07:14,230 --> 00:07:18,550
And so when Ilse came, we had
a small apartment-- one room

171
00:07:18,550 --> 00:07:20,230
studio.

172
00:07:20,230 --> 00:07:23,020
And several days later,
she started her internship

173
00:07:23,020 --> 00:07:26,440
on what was then called
Welfare Island, now called

174
00:07:26,440 --> 00:07:27,640
Roosevelt Island.

175
00:07:27,640 --> 00:07:29,320
Now, in order to
get to work, she

176
00:07:29,320 --> 00:07:31,990
had to do the following-- a
ferry back to the mainland

177
00:07:31,990 --> 00:07:34,570
to the Bronx, a
bus to the subway,

178
00:07:34,570 --> 00:07:39,970
subway down to 59th Street, a
cross-town bus back to the East

179
00:07:39,970 --> 00:07:42,830
River, another ferry over to
Welfare Island, another bus

180
00:07:42,830 --> 00:07:43,750
from Welfare Island.

181
00:07:43,750 --> 00:07:46,210
All this could be done
under optimal conditions

182
00:07:46,210 --> 00:07:47,500
in one hour--

183
00:07:47,500 --> 00:07:48,670
rarely though.

184
00:07:48,670 --> 00:07:50,728
If the captain was
drunk or there was fog,

185
00:07:50,728 --> 00:07:52,270
then one of the
ferries wouldn't run.

186
00:07:52,270 --> 00:07:55,000
So we didn't see
each other too much.

187
00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:58,660
She had an income of \$44
a month, free maintenance.

188
00:07:58,660 --> 00:08:00,550
She was allowed to bring guests.

189
00:08:00,550 --> 00:08:02,440

I frequently ate
there to save money.

190
00:08:02,440 --> 00:08:03,970
We had very little money.

191
00:08:03,970 --> 00:08:08,735
I still was on my \$120 and a
little money for my parents.

192
00:08:08,735 --> 00:08:11,350
So for two people,
plus \$44 from her,

193
00:08:11,350 --> 00:08:15,850
that was not very much in 1957.

194
00:08:15,850 --> 00:08:19,170
Was more than today, of course,
but it was not very luxurious.

195
00:08:19,170 --> 00:08:22,465
We ate a lot of
meat pies and pasta.

196
00:08:22,465 --> 00:08:25,820

197
00:08:25,820 --> 00:08:28,760
Eventually, after
I had done well,

198
00:08:28,760 --> 00:08:31,310
I became an instructor
at Columbia College

199
00:08:31,310 --> 00:08:35,210
for the last three years
of my graduate study.

200
00:08:35,210 --> 00:08:42,909
So from '54 to '57, I was an
instructor at Columbia College,

201
00:08:42,909 --> 00:08:44,770
and with that came an apartment.

202
00:08:44,770 --> 00:08:48,130
So we got a nice
apartment on 118th Street,

203
00:08:48,130 --> 00:08:51,660
and eventually we
had our first child.

204
00:08:51,660 --> 00:08:57,500
And that was rather nice.

205
00:08:57,500 --> 00:08:58,790
The apartment was nice.

206
00:08:58,790 --> 00:09:03,800
And we-- all together-- now--

207
00:09:03,800 --> 00:09:06,280
Was your wife still
doing that travelling?

208
00:09:06,280 --> 00:09:08,470
She was-- she did a--

209
00:09:08,470 --> 00:09:11,620
when she finished her internship
with all the travelling,

210
00:09:11,620 --> 00:09:15,010
of course, we then
moved over to Manhattan.

211
00:09:15,010 --> 00:09:16,930
Eventually, she started
a residency down

212
00:09:16,930 --> 00:09:18,700
at [PLACE NAME]

[? Park, ?] which

213

00:09:18,700 --> 00:09:21,160
was at NYU Medical School.

214

00:09:21,160 --> 00:09:23,050
So it was not too difficult.

215

00:09:23,050 --> 00:09:26,620
When she finished that,
I was still studying,

216

00:09:26,620 --> 00:09:34,180
so she had no
possibility of working.

217

00:09:34,180 --> 00:09:38,030
But she had no license.

218

00:09:38,030 --> 00:09:40,070
So she tried to get a license--

219

00:09:40,070 --> 00:09:41,337
are you interested in that?

220

00:09:41,337 --> 00:09:43,920
It doesn't involve me directly,
but it's an interesting story,

221

00:09:43,920 --> 00:09:44,990
actually.

222

00:09:44,990 --> 00:09:48,110
She applied for a license
in New York State.

223

00:09:48,110 --> 00:09:51,450
And on the basis
of her credentials,

224

00:09:51,450 --> 00:09:55,160
she had been told

she is eligible.

225

00:09:55,160 --> 00:09:56,960

She was turned down.

226

00:09:56,960 --> 00:09:59,452

And when she asked for
a reason she was told,

227

00:09:59,452 --> 00:10:00,910

we don't have to
give you a reason.

228

00:10:00,910 --> 00:10:02,660

It was the Board of
Regents of the State

229

00:10:02,660 --> 00:10:07,130

of New York who were handing out
licenses, deciding on licenses.

230

00:10:07,130 --> 00:10:09,950

A friend of ours
was a young lawyer.

231

00:10:09,950 --> 00:10:12,050

He said, you should
insist on a reason.

232

00:10:12,050 --> 00:10:13,220

Ask for a hearing.

233

00:10:13,220 --> 00:10:15,240

They have to grant
you a hearing.

234

00:10:15,240 --> 00:10:18,560

So she was granted
a hearing, and there

235

00:10:18,560 --> 00:10:20,090

sat this Board of Regents.

236

00:10:20,090 --> 00:10:22,520

They sat around the room
and listened to her story

237

00:10:22,520 --> 00:10:24,290

without much interest.

238

00:10:24,290 --> 00:10:29,480

And then they said, go
outside, and she went outside.

239

00:10:29,480 --> 00:10:33,050

And then the secretary
of the Board of Regents

240

00:10:33,050 --> 00:10:36,320

came out and said,
sorry, petition denied.

241

00:10:36,320 --> 00:10:37,630

And that was the end of that.

242

00:10:37,630 --> 00:10:40,640

So she made a little money
by doing medical translations

243

00:10:40,640 --> 00:10:42,320

and nothing much--

244

00:10:42,320 --> 00:10:43,400

made very little money.

245

00:10:43,400 --> 00:10:47,840

Now, in 1961, '62,
I was at that time

246

00:10:47,840 --> 00:10:50,390

already an instructor
at City College,

247

00:10:50,390 --> 00:10:53,750

I got a fellowship to study,

to do research in Germany.

248

00:10:53,750 --> 00:10:55,310

And she came along.

249

00:10:55,310 --> 00:10:56,340

We lived in Munich.

250

00:10:56,340 --> 00:11:00,530

And we read the American papers.

251

00:11:00,530 --> 00:11:02,600

And one day I just
happened to see

252

00:11:02,600 --> 00:11:05,420

there was a story that
Dr. Ezell, the secretary

253

00:11:05,420 --> 00:11:07,520

of the Board of Regents
[INAUDIBLE] in New York,

254

00:11:07,520 --> 00:11:10,100

had been arrested
for selling licenses.

255

00:11:10,100 --> 00:11:12,470

So there was the story.

256

00:11:12,470 --> 00:11:15,680

We had not offered him any
money, so there was no license.

257

00:11:15,680 --> 00:11:16,820

And we didn't even--

258

00:11:16,820 --> 00:11:18,470

we didn't have the
money to bribe them,

259

00:11:18,470 --> 00:11:20,780

but that's apparently
what was expected

260
00:11:20,780 --> 00:11:22,593
unless you had
American credentials

261
00:11:22,593 --> 00:11:23,760
and it was a clear-cut case.

262
00:11:23,760 --> 00:11:25,920
Anything else-- he
made money that way.

263
00:11:25,920 --> 00:11:27,620
But they caught him eventually.

264
00:11:27,620 --> 00:11:32,030
And so my-- we wrote to
Albany, and by return mail

265
00:11:32,030 --> 00:11:35,570
came out a letter saying,
Dear Dr. Lewy, Please let us

266
00:11:35,570 --> 00:11:38,270
know to what address you
want us to send your license.

267
00:11:38,270 --> 00:11:44,540
And she got her license, which
came in handy eventually.

268
00:11:44,540 --> 00:11:46,100
Because with that
license, she then

269
00:11:46,100 --> 00:11:48,560
got a license in Massachusetts.

270
00:11:48,560 --> 00:11:50,000
Because after teaching at--

271

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:53,870

when I got my degree in '57,
I got a job at Smith College

272

00:11:53,870 --> 00:11:55,530

in Northampton.

273

00:11:55,530 --> 00:11:58,040

I did not ask you, but
I'd like to ask you now.

274

00:11:58,040 --> 00:12:02,240

When-- your experience
when the state of Israel

275

00:12:02,240 --> 00:12:08,092

was voted into existence, what
were your thoughts at the time?

276

00:12:08,092 --> 00:12:09,390

You were--

277

00:12:09,390 --> 00:12:10,030

I was in--

278

00:12:10,030 --> 00:12:10,270

25.

279

00:12:10,270 --> 00:12:10,810

I was--

280

00:12:10,810 --> 00:12:11,352

25 years old.

281

00:12:11,352 --> 00:12:15,730

--by that time a student
at City College in '48.

282

00:12:15,730 --> 00:12:21,690

And I pretty early on
had decided I probably

283

00:12:21,690 --> 00:12:24,690
will stay here and get an--

284

00:12:24,690 --> 00:12:25,887
pursue an academic career.

285

00:12:25,887 --> 00:12:26,970
Stay in the United States.

286

00:12:26,970 --> 00:12:27,470
And stay.

287

00:12:27,470 --> 00:12:30,480
Now, my parents, of course,
badly wanted me to stay.

288

00:12:30,480 --> 00:12:36,060
And I had not come in order
to stay, but I very quickly,

289

00:12:36,060 --> 00:12:39,385
seeing what was available here
and all the possibilities and--

290

00:12:39,385 --> 00:12:39,885
No.

291

00:12:39,885 --> 00:12:42,820
But I meant that there
was now a state of Israel,

292

00:12:42,820 --> 00:12:44,950
a country recognized.

293

00:12:44,950 --> 00:12:45,450
What--

294

00:12:45,450 --> 00:12:45,950
Yeah.

295

00:12:45,950 --> 00:12:46,920

I--

296
00:12:46,920 --> 00:12:47,550
Again, any--

297
00:12:47,550 --> 00:12:48,705
And there was that
war liberation--

298
00:12:48,705 --> 00:12:49,330
--reminiscent.

299
00:12:49,330 --> 00:12:50,760
--and some Israelis
that go back.

300
00:12:50,760 --> 00:12:51,360
It's true.

301
00:12:51,360 --> 00:12:52,680
I'd never become an Israeli.

302
00:12:52,680 --> 00:12:55,290
I had left before the state
of Israel was created.

303
00:12:55,290 --> 00:12:58,273
I left on a
British/Palestinian passport,

304
00:12:58,273 --> 00:12:59,940
which eventually
became a piece of paper

305
00:12:59,940 --> 00:13:01,620
when the mandate was liquidated.

306
00:13:01,620 --> 00:13:05,340
When I went to visit
Ilse once in Switzerland,

307
00:13:05,340 --> 00:13:06,867

I had a big problem
getting there

308
00:13:06,867 --> 00:13:07,950
because I had no passport.

309
00:13:07,950 --> 00:13:09,150
I was stateless.

310
00:13:09,150 --> 00:13:11,430
But I-- no, I did not--

311
00:13:11,430 --> 00:13:14,470
I was-- I may have played
with the idea of going back.

312
00:13:14,470 --> 00:13:15,428
I don't think so, no.

313
00:13:15,428 --> 00:13:16,470
Did you have a sense of--

314
00:13:16,470 --> 00:13:17,760
By that time I was
determined to stay here.

315
00:13:17,760 --> 00:13:18,945
What about the sense of pride?

316
00:13:18,945 --> 00:13:19,950
Did you have a sense of pride?

317
00:13:19,950 --> 00:13:20,550
I'm sorry?

318
00:13:20,550 --> 00:13:24,630
Did you have a sense of pride
when the state was declared?

319
00:13:24,630 --> 00:13:27,090
I think every Jew has a certain
sense of pride about that.

320
00:13:27,090 --> 00:13:28,650
I don't think mine was
particularly strong.

321
00:13:28,650 --> 00:13:30,233
If I had it-- if it
had been stronger,

322
00:13:30,233 --> 00:13:31,290
I might have gone back.

323
00:13:31,290 --> 00:13:32,440
I did not go back.

324
00:13:32,440 --> 00:13:36,870
I stayed here and decided,
I'm going to be an American.

325
00:13:36,870 --> 00:13:39,540
And I've been very happy
with that decision.

326
00:13:39,540 --> 00:13:43,168
I think this is, as far as I'm
concerned, it's God's country.

327
00:13:43,168 --> 00:13:45,210
If you have what it takes,
you can get somewhere.

328
00:13:45,210 --> 00:13:46,377
I mean, I came with nothing.

329
00:13:46,377 --> 00:13:48,250
I didn't even have a
high school diploma,

330
00:13:48,250 --> 00:13:50,250
and eventually became
a professor emeritus.

331

00:13:50,250 --> 00:13:52,020
So I cannot complain.

332
00:13:52,020 --> 00:13:56,220
I've found this
country hospitable,

333
00:13:56,220 --> 00:13:58,720
and I've been very happy here.

334
00:13:58,720 --> 00:13:59,220
OK.

335
00:13:59,220 --> 00:14:02,170
Let's go back to your
professional-- so you're--

336
00:14:02,170 --> 00:14:02,670
OK.

337
00:14:02,670 --> 00:14:08,400
So I got my degree,
and was on the market.

338
00:14:08,400 --> 00:14:09,990
The market was
good at that time.

339
00:14:09,990 --> 00:14:14,410

340
00:14:14,410 --> 00:14:18,490
The university college
system was expanding rapidly

341
00:14:18,490 --> 00:14:19,420
in the '60s.

342
00:14:19,420 --> 00:14:21,850
There were lots of jobs.

343
00:14:21,850 --> 00:14:25,000

So I got a job at Smith
College in Northampton,

344
00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:26,690
and I enjoyed it there.

345
00:14:26,690 --> 00:14:29,090
I taught there for three years.

346
00:14:29,090 --> 00:14:34,580
The problem was that in my
specialty, there was no room.

347
00:14:34,580 --> 00:14:35,080
But--

348
00:14:35,080 --> 00:14:36,340
This was political science.

349
00:14:36,340 --> 00:14:37,990
Political science,
political theory.

350
00:14:37,990 --> 00:14:39,615
In particular, my
field was the history

351
00:14:39,615 --> 00:14:41,140
of political philosophy.

352
00:14:41,140 --> 00:14:43,150
They had two other
people in that field.

353
00:14:43,150 --> 00:14:45,040
They didn't need another one.

354
00:14:45,040 --> 00:14:47,743
So-- but at that--
fortunately, right next door

355
00:14:47,743 --> 00:14:49,660

was the University of
Massachusetts in Amherst

356
00:14:49,660 --> 00:14:50,890
across the river.

357
00:14:50,890 --> 00:14:52,630
And they were expanding rapidly.

358
00:14:52,630 --> 00:14:55,300
And they were more
than happy to offer me

359
00:14:55,300 --> 00:14:56,560
a job, a professorship.

360
00:14:56,560 --> 00:15:01,900
And so I moved over there,
and that's where I was from,

361
00:15:01,900 --> 00:15:04,810
I guess from '63 till '85--

362
00:15:04,810 --> 00:15:06,760
something like that,
and then I retired.

363
00:15:06,760 --> 00:15:10,990
As I said, took early
retirement in '85.

364
00:15:10,990 --> 00:15:13,270
Yeah.

365
00:15:13,270 --> 00:15:16,660
I enjoyed teaching.

366
00:15:16,660 --> 00:15:19,780
I enjoyed research even more.

367
00:15:19,780 --> 00:15:21,730
And--

368
00:15:21,730 --> 00:15:25,392
Did you talk about your
background and your childhood?

369
00:15:25,392 --> 00:15:27,100
Was that something
you told [INAUDIBLE]??

370
00:15:27,100 --> 00:15:29,320
I talked about Germany after--

371
00:15:29,320 --> 00:15:32,320
we had spent that year
in Germany in '61, '62.

372
00:15:32,320 --> 00:15:34,660
I had a Social Science
Research Council fellowship

373
00:15:34,660 --> 00:15:37,060
to do a book, my book, The
Catholic Church and Nazi

374
00:15:37,060 --> 00:15:38,020
Germany.

375
00:15:38,020 --> 00:15:41,590
And having spent a year
in Germany at that time,

376
00:15:41,590 --> 00:15:42,610
I talked a lot--

377
00:15:42,610 --> 00:15:44,660
I gave some lectures
on Germany--

378
00:15:44,660 --> 00:15:47,655
the new Germany, and whether
it was new enough or not.

379

00:15:47,655 --> 00:15:49,030
Gave the lectures
in the United--

380
00:15:49,030 --> 00:15:49,738
At Smith College.

381
00:15:49,738 --> 00:15:50,238
At Smith.

382
00:15:50,238 --> 00:15:50,890
Yeah.

383
00:15:50,890 --> 00:15:51,680
And--

384
00:15:51,680 --> 00:15:54,180
Where were you living when you
were in that year in Germany.

385
00:15:54,180 --> 00:15:54,820
In Munich.

386
00:15:54,820 --> 00:15:55,330
In Munich.

387
00:15:55,330 --> 00:15:56,930
Yeah.

388
00:15:56,930 --> 00:15:59,160
It was a very interesting year--

389
00:15:59,160 --> 00:16:02,000
difficult in some respects,
because the old generation

390
00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:04,970
was still around,
of course, in '65.

391
00:16:04,970 --> 00:16:06,770
And you constantly

ask yourself when

392

00:16:06,770 --> 00:16:08,510

you saw one of these
older people, what

393

00:16:08,510 --> 00:16:10,560

was he doing during that time?

394

00:16:10,560 --> 00:16:13,940

So it was not the most
agreeable time in that sense.

395

00:16:13,940 --> 00:16:16,230

But it was interesting
professionally,

396

00:16:16,230 --> 00:16:17,930

so that made up for it.

397

00:16:17,930 --> 00:16:19,640

I spent 20 years
later another year

398

00:16:19,640 --> 00:16:21,765

in Germany, because the
University of Massachusetts

399

00:16:21,765 --> 00:16:24,020

had a junior year
abroad in Freiburg,

400

00:16:24,020 --> 00:16:26,840

and I was appointed the
director of the program

401

00:16:26,840 --> 00:16:29,510

there in '82, '83.

402

00:16:29,510 --> 00:16:31,430

At that meant teaching
in the University

403

00:16:31,430 --> 00:16:33,385
of Freiburg, German students.

404

00:16:33,385 --> 00:16:35,510
And by that time, things
were completely different.

405

00:16:35,510 --> 00:16:38,480
20 years on, that
older generation

406

00:16:38,480 --> 00:16:41,720
was hardly in appearance.

407

00:16:41,720 --> 00:16:45,840
The new younger Germans
were no problem whatsoever.

408

00:16:45,840 --> 00:16:49,070
And I continue to hold
this view that Germany

409

00:16:49,070 --> 00:16:54,020
has made an exemplary,
successful attempt to come

410

00:16:54,020 --> 00:16:57,980
to grips with its past, the
cross which they feel they bear

411

00:16:57,980 --> 00:17:00,980
through no fault of their
own, people who grew up

412

00:17:00,980 --> 00:17:05,660
after all these horrors saddled
with the responsibility for it,

413

00:17:05,660 --> 00:17:06,680
which they shoulder.

414

00:17:06,680 --> 00:17:09,815

And they have proven it
in many different ways.

415
00:17:09,815 --> 00:17:11,690
Some of the best
scholarship on the Holocaust

416
00:17:11,690 --> 00:17:13,160
is done in Germany today.

417
00:17:13,160 --> 00:17:15,170
Some of the best scholarship
on Judaic studies

418
00:17:15,170 --> 00:17:17,410
is done in Germany today.

419
00:17:17,410 --> 00:17:18,400
So--

420
00:17:18,400 --> 00:17:19,858
Did you visit any
of the camps when

421
00:17:19,858 --> 00:17:20,983
you were living over there?

422
00:17:20,983 --> 00:17:21,490
Yes.

423
00:17:21,490 --> 00:17:25,900
We-- I visited Buchenwald,
and I visited Dachau.

424
00:17:25,900 --> 00:17:27,430
Yeah.

425
00:17:27,430 --> 00:17:29,190
And your thoughts
when you were there?

426
00:17:29,190 --> 00:17:31,220

Well, sure.

427

00:17:31,220 --> 00:17:36,330

I mean that's-- one necessarily
has reactions to that.

428

00:17:36,330 --> 00:17:40,440

Eventually, some years later,
I also visited Auschwitz.

429

00:17:40,440 --> 00:17:43,350

Clearly, this is something
I feel one has to do

430

00:17:43,350 --> 00:17:44,400

and one has to see it.

431

00:17:44,400 --> 00:17:50,085

And one can't help being
affected by it, of course.

432

00:17:50,085 --> 00:17:51,930

And the fact that
your father was--

433

00:17:51,930 --> 00:17:52,430

Right.

434

00:17:52,430 --> 00:17:54,050

My father being in
Buchenwald, right.

435

00:17:54,050 --> 00:17:54,340

maltreated.

436

00:17:54,340 --> 00:17:54,770

Yeah.

437

00:17:54,770 --> 00:17:55,015

Yeah.

438

00:17:55,015 --> 00:17:55,260

Sure.

439

00:17:55,260 --> 00:17:55,760

Yeah.

440

00:17:55,760 --> 00:17:57,770

Must have been a
painful experience then.

441

00:17:57,770 --> 00:18:00,810

It's an experience.

442

00:18:00,810 --> 00:18:03,490

Painful, perhaps, is a bit
too strong, but an experience.

443

00:18:03,490 --> 00:18:03,990

Sure.

444

00:18:03,990 --> 00:18:04,490

Yeah.

445

00:18:04,490 --> 00:18:08,020

446

00:18:08,020 --> 00:18:08,520

Yeah.

447

00:18:08,520 --> 00:18:10,050

I was mentioning
the distinction--

448

00:18:10,050 --> 00:18:14,700

the difference between being
a German in '63 and '83.

449

00:18:14,700 --> 00:18:17,690

It was a really [INAUDIBLE]---- a
complete different experience.

450

00:18:17,690 --> 00:18:22,560

And I find contacts with

German-- the German faculty

451

00:18:22,560 --> 00:18:24,840
there, colleagues,
and the students

452

00:18:24,840 --> 00:18:28,370
were eager to learn
about America.

453

00:18:28,370 --> 00:18:30,220
And the first semester
I gave a course

454

00:18:30,220 --> 00:18:34,750
on modern revolutionary
ideologies

455

00:18:34,750 --> 00:18:38,020
as part of my interest
in political philosophy.

456

00:18:38,020 --> 00:18:41,830
And I had a very large group
of students, about 50 of them.

457

00:18:41,830 --> 00:18:44,038
And they-- some of the--

458

00:18:44,038 --> 00:18:45,580
And you lectured in
German, I assume.

459

00:18:45,580 --> 00:18:46,180
Yes.

460

00:18:46,180 --> 00:18:46,960
Yes.

461

00:18:46,960 --> 00:18:51,310
The course title attracted all
the radicals-- the Maoists,

462

00:18:51,310 --> 00:18:52,870
the Stalinists, the--

463

00:18:52,870 --> 00:18:55,270
you name it-- Trotskyites.

464

00:18:55,270 --> 00:18:58,120
Everyone was there,
and they tried

465

00:18:58,120 --> 00:19:01,870
to take over the course,
which did not succeed.

466

00:19:01,870 --> 00:19:03,530
But that was an
interesting experience.

467

00:19:03,530 --> 00:19:06,550
The second semester I taught
American constitutional law,

468

00:19:06,550 --> 00:19:08,800
civil liberties, and had
completely different students

469

00:19:08,800 --> 00:19:11,050
who appreciated and
welcomed the subject,

470

00:19:11,050 --> 00:19:15,580
and it was a pleasure
to teach-- easy, nice.

471

00:19:15,580 --> 00:19:17,380
I've been back to
Germany several times

472

00:19:17,380 --> 00:19:19,870
since on research grants.

473

00:19:19,870 --> 00:19:24,160

Last year I had a
Fulbright in Berlin.

474
00:19:24,160 --> 00:19:28,380
What would the Germans,
when they knew obviously

475
00:19:28,380 --> 00:19:30,840
where you were born and
what your experience was

476
00:19:30,840 --> 00:19:32,805
and how you had to
leave, what would they

477
00:19:32,805 --> 00:19:34,680
say to you when you came
back as a professor?

478
00:19:34,680 --> 00:19:37,560
There's a lot of Philo-Semitism
in Germany these days.

479
00:19:37,560 --> 00:19:42,030
It's not a relationship
that is completely natural.

480
00:19:42,030 --> 00:19:46,300
As I said before, they are--

481
00:19:46,300 --> 00:19:49,960
certainly, the intellectuals
you meet, academic people,

482
00:19:49,960 --> 00:19:56,740
are incredibly burdened
by this feeling of guilt.

483
00:19:56,740 --> 00:19:59,800
And therefore, it does not
make for a natural relationship

484
00:19:59,800 --> 00:20:02,080

when they meet a Jew.

485

00:20:02,080 --> 00:20:05,120

As I say, there's a
lot of Philo-Semitism.

486

00:20:05,120 --> 00:20:10,770

But still, I tried to adjust
as best I could, and it was not

487

00:20:10,770 --> 00:20:11,700

a big problem really.

488

00:20:11,700 --> 00:20:14,460

Did anybody ever
apologize verbally?

489

00:20:14,460 --> 00:20:15,180

No.

490

00:20:15,180 --> 00:20:18,400

None of that, but--

491

00:20:18,400 --> 00:20:18,900

no.

492

00:20:18,900 --> 00:20:19,400

No.

493

00:20:19,400 --> 00:20:24,240

No apology, but as I
say, it's a somewhat--

494

00:20:24,240 --> 00:20:27,600

it's not a completely
natural relationship I think.

495

00:20:27,600 --> 00:20:30,820

That may change in time perhaps,
but it hasn't changed yet.

496

00:20:30,820 --> 00:20:35,460

Because when I was in Berlin
now, I still experienced it.

497
00:20:35,460 --> 00:20:38,580

498
00:20:38,580 --> 00:20:41,790
So I've been back to
Germany several times on--

499
00:20:41,790 --> 00:20:43,570
sometimes-- a couple
of times for a year,

500
00:20:43,570 --> 00:20:46,950
than last year on a Fulbright
grant for four months.

501
00:20:46,950 --> 00:20:49,170
And it was a very
interesting time,

502
00:20:49,170 --> 00:20:50,590
and I always enjoy being there.

503
00:20:50,590 --> 00:20:52,680
I find it very interesting.

504
00:20:52,680 --> 00:20:56,490
And I have no problem with
the new Germany at all.

505
00:20:56,490 --> 00:20:58,560
These people are
beyond reproach,

506
00:20:58,560 --> 00:21:00,120
as far as I'm concerned.

507
00:21:00,120 --> 00:21:04,890
They are [INAUDIBLE] neo-Nazi
movement We know that.

508

00:21:04,890 --> 00:21:07,830

But they are a fringe who
nobody takes very seriously,

509

00:21:07,830 --> 00:21:13,350

or at least it's not a real
political factor endangering

510

00:21:13,350 --> 00:21:14,743

German democracy.

511

00:21:14,743 --> 00:21:16,740

Do you feel German
when you're back there?

512

00:21:16,740 --> 00:21:17,400

No.

513

00:21:17,400 --> 00:21:18,300

No.

514

00:21:18,300 --> 00:21:18,883

What I do is--

515

00:21:18,883 --> 00:21:19,592

What do you feel?

516

00:21:19,592 --> 00:21:20,280

American?

517

00:21:20,280 --> 00:21:21,190

Sure.

518

00:21:21,190 --> 00:21:22,530

Of course.

519

00:21:22,530 --> 00:21:24,030

Look, I've lived
longer in America--

520

00:21:24,030 --> 00:21:27,850

60 years-- than I've
lived anywhere else.

521
00:21:27,850 --> 00:21:31,800
And when I'm in Germany,
my name is Guenter Levy.

522
00:21:31,800 --> 00:21:34,080
And when I'm in America,
I'm Guenter Lewy.

523
00:21:34,080 --> 00:21:40,610
Because the name Levy in
America, like Sinclair Lewis,

524
00:21:40,610 --> 00:21:42,633
naturally has to
be pronounced Lewy.

525
00:21:42,633 --> 00:21:44,300
There's a little story
attached to that,

526
00:21:44,300 --> 00:21:48,530
because when my father
received his legal papers,

527
00:21:48,530 --> 00:21:50,270
he knew very little English.

528
00:21:50,270 --> 00:21:51,860
He was summoned to
some big gathering

529
00:21:51,860 --> 00:21:54,470
where over 300 people were
[INAUDIBLE] processed.

530
00:21:54,470 --> 00:21:57,210
And he was the last one.

531
00:21:57,210 --> 00:22:00,310
And he said-- told us his

name hadn't been called.

532

00:22:00,310 --> 00:22:03,570

So he went up to this official
and had spoken to him and said,

533

00:22:03,570 --> 00:22:04,985

I'm-- he showed him his paper.

534

00:22:04,985 --> 00:22:06,360

He had been summoned
to be there.

535

00:22:06,360 --> 00:22:07,970

How come you haven't
called my name?

536

00:22:07,970 --> 00:22:09,510

They asked, what's your name?

537

00:22:09,510 --> 00:22:10,680

Henry Levy.

538

00:22:10,680 --> 00:22:11,990

Henry Levy?

539

00:22:11,990 --> 00:22:12,840

Henry Lewy.

540

00:22:12,840 --> 00:22:14,510

We called your
name all the time.

541

00:22:14,510 --> 00:22:16,608

Well, from that point
on, it became Lewy

542

00:22:16,608 --> 00:22:17,900

for him, and eventually for me.

543

00:22:17,900 --> 00:22:19,820

Of course, I realized

it has to be Lewy.

544

00:22:19,820 --> 00:22:21,620

But in Germany,
I'm Guenter Levy.

545

00:22:21,620 --> 00:22:25,910

I don't want to have any sense--

546

00:22:25,910 --> 00:22:29,570

I don't want anyone to sense
that I'm denying who I am.

547

00:22:29,570 --> 00:22:32,380

So in Germany, I always,
when I'm introducing myself,

548

00:22:32,380 --> 00:22:33,380

I say, I have two names.

549

00:22:33,380 --> 00:22:36,331

I'm Guenter Levy here, and
Guenter Lewy in America.

550

00:22:36,331 --> 00:22:41,410

551

00:22:41,410 --> 00:22:45,430

So tell me about
becoming a citizen.

552

00:22:45,430 --> 00:22:46,090

A what?

553

00:22:46,090 --> 00:22:46,590

Pardon me?

554

00:22:46,590 --> 00:22:49,290

When you became an
American citizen.

555

00:22:49,290 --> 00:22:52,980

Yeah, that must have happened
about four years into my stay

556
00:22:52,980 --> 00:22:53,553
here.

557
00:22:53,553 --> 00:22:55,470
I don't remember anything
particular about it.

558
00:22:55,470 --> 00:22:57,240
It was a formality.

559
00:22:57,240 --> 00:22:59,340
By that time, I felt
quite American anyway,

560
00:22:59,340 --> 00:23:02,160
so it was strictly a formality.

561
00:23:02,160 --> 00:23:02,820
Yeah.

562
00:23:02,820 --> 00:23:05,590
I mean, I was glad to have
a passport finally and be

563
00:23:05,590 --> 00:23:07,300
able to travel more easily.

564
00:23:07,300 --> 00:23:13,290
But the first time I traveled
to Europe I was stateless,

565
00:23:13,290 --> 00:23:17,160
and I wanted to visit Ilse who
was in Switzerland studying.

566
00:23:17,160 --> 00:23:20,168
And I went to the Swiss
Consul and I said,

567

00:23:20,168 --> 00:23:21,585

I'd like to travel
to Switzerland.

568

00:23:21,585 --> 00:23:24,120

He says, what
nationality are you?

569

00:23:24,120 --> 00:23:26,858

And I told them my tale of
woe, that I'm stateless.

570

00:23:26,858 --> 00:23:27,900

He said, well, I'm sorry.

571

00:23:27,900 --> 00:23:31,110

There's nothing
I can do for you.

572

00:23:31,110 --> 00:23:37,350

And he said, however, he said,
how do you plan to travel?

573

00:23:37,350 --> 00:23:39,750

And I'd made arrangements
to fly with a cheap airline

574

00:23:39,750 --> 00:23:42,450

to Luxembourg, and I was going
to take the train to France

575

00:23:42,450 --> 00:23:43,570

to Switzerland.

576

00:23:43,570 --> 00:23:46,260

He said, if you have a
transit visa through France,

577

00:23:46,260 --> 00:23:48,510

I'll be able to give you
a visa to Switzerland,

578

00:23:48,510 --> 00:23:51,275

because he knew they
could get rid of me again.

579
00:23:51,275 --> 00:23:53,400
So I went to the French
consulate and I said, can I

580
00:23:53,400 --> 00:23:55,067
have a transit visa to--

581
00:23:55,067 --> 00:23:56,400
I want to travel to Switzerland.

582
00:23:56,400 --> 00:23:57,180
Ah, he said, sure.

583
00:23:57,180 --> 00:23:58,620
You get me a visa
to Switzerland,

584
00:23:58,620 --> 00:24:00,960
I'll be glad to give you
a transit visa to France.

585
00:24:00,960 --> 00:24:05,130
So finally, the
Consul of Luxembourg

586
00:24:05,130 --> 00:24:07,455
had no problem giving
me a transit visa.

587
00:24:07,455 --> 00:24:10,080
With that I got the French, and
with that I got the Swiss visa.

588
00:24:10,080 --> 00:24:11,538
So it's a lot easier
to travel when

589
00:24:11,538 --> 00:24:13,881
you have an American passport.

590

00:24:13,881 --> 00:24:15,290

So you appreciated that.

591

00:24:15,290 --> 00:24:15,790

Yeah.

592

00:24:15,790 --> 00:24:16,265

Yeah.

593

00:24:16,265 --> 00:24:16,765

Yeah.

594

00:24:16,765 --> 00:24:18,780

Have you been back to Israel?

595

00:24:18,780 --> 00:24:21,030

I've been back to
Israel many times

596

00:24:21,030 --> 00:24:27,210

because my wife's parents,
my uncle and aunt,

597

00:24:27,210 --> 00:24:29,130

died relatively early.

598

00:24:29,130 --> 00:24:34,260

But my-- Ilse's parents
lived in Rehovot.

599

00:24:34,260 --> 00:24:40,330

And they lived much longer, and
we visited them several times.

600

00:24:40,330 --> 00:24:45,220

And after that, I've been
back visiting my cousins.

601

00:24:45,220 --> 00:24:47,530

One of my cousins
was a professor

602

00:24:47,530 --> 00:24:53,540

of literature at Bar-Ilan,
and my other cousin

603

00:24:53,540 --> 00:24:56,450

taught at the School of
Social Work in Jerusalem.

604

00:24:56,450 --> 00:25:00,620

And at the ripe age of 63, got
herself a PhD in social work--

605

00:25:00,620 --> 00:25:02,780

quite a lady.

606

00:25:02,780 --> 00:25:04,590

I also have been
back for a lecture.

607

00:25:04,590 --> 00:25:07,550

I was invited by Ben-Gurion
University some years ago

608

00:25:07,550 --> 00:25:10,940

to give a lecture
on one of my books.

609

00:25:10,940 --> 00:25:14,120

And so yes, we've been back
to Israel several times.

610

00:25:14,120 --> 00:25:16,820

Also been back to the
Kibbutz, to [? Sarid ?],,

611

00:25:16,820 --> 00:25:18,590

and to Ma'barot.

612

00:25:18,590 --> 00:25:23,360

And it was interesting to visit
some of the people whom we had

613

00:25:23,360 --> 00:25:25,370
been kids, and we met again.

614
00:25:25,370 --> 00:25:27,810
We were all seniors.

615
00:25:27,810 --> 00:25:29,810
We recognized each
other more or less.

616
00:25:29,810 --> 00:25:32,720
But it was interesting, yes.

617
00:25:32,720 --> 00:25:35,120
And you said you have one child?

618
00:25:35,120 --> 00:25:36,480
We have two children.

619
00:25:36,480 --> 00:25:38,030
I have a son and a daughter.

620
00:25:38,030 --> 00:25:40,130
And their names are?

621
00:25:40,130 --> 00:25:41,160
My son is Peter.

622
00:25:41,160 --> 00:25:43,740
He's a professional
cellist in New York.

623
00:25:43,740 --> 00:25:46,940
And my daughter Barbara
lives in Seattle, Washington,

624
00:25:46,940 --> 00:25:49,310
and she just retired,
believe it or not.

625
00:25:49,310 --> 00:25:50,530
I find that hard to believe.

626
00:25:50,530 --> 00:25:54,230

627
00:25:54,230 --> 00:25:55,700
She took early retirement.

628
00:25:55,700 --> 00:25:57,800
She had wanted to
switch to a non-profit.

629
00:25:57,800 --> 00:26:00,320
She was a budget director
of the Department

630
00:26:00,320 --> 00:26:04,020
of Social Services of the
City of Seattle at the end.

631
00:26:04,020 --> 00:26:05,840
And she retired
from that position

632
00:26:05,840 --> 00:26:07,580
and wanted to switch
to a non-profit,

633
00:26:07,580 --> 00:26:10,050
but the nonprofit went belly up.

634
00:26:10,050 --> 00:26:13,532
So now she is retired
and happily so.

635
00:26:13,532 --> 00:26:15,740
All of a sudden she has
developed tremendous interest

636
00:26:15,740 --> 00:26:17,450
in our past.

637
00:26:17,450 --> 00:26:20,900

So she visited us in Berlin,
and she went to the town

638
00:26:20,900 --> 00:26:23,030
where my wife was born.

639
00:26:23,030 --> 00:26:24,300
And she wants to--

640
00:26:24,300 --> 00:26:24,800
Which was?

641
00:26:24,800 --> 00:26:25,650
What town was that?

642
00:26:25,650 --> 00:26:30,172
[PLACE NAME] in [? Thuringia ?]
central Germany on her own,

643
00:26:30,172 --> 00:26:31,880
even though her German
is not that great.

644
00:26:31,880 --> 00:26:35,000
But she somehow managed, and
she established contacts,

645
00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:36,380
and she wants to write about it.

646
00:26:36,380 --> 00:26:38,850
And she reads
about Nazi Germany.

647
00:26:38,850 --> 00:26:42,120
She's all of a
sudden preoccupied

648
00:26:42,120 --> 00:26:44,520
with that subject, which
is really very interesting.

649

00:26:44,520 --> 00:26:47,730

Because in previous
years, none of our kids

650

00:26:47,730 --> 00:26:49,080

showed any particular interest.

651

00:26:49,080 --> 00:26:51,180

Well, that was going
to be my next question.

652

00:26:51,180 --> 00:26:53,640

When you were raising
your children,

653

00:26:53,640 --> 00:26:55,830

did you talk about your
childhood with them?

654

00:26:55,830 --> 00:26:57,323

We never talked
very much about it

655

00:26:57,323 --> 00:26:58,740

because they never
asked about it.

656

00:26:58,740 --> 00:27:00,660

They didn't seem
to be interested.

657

00:27:00,660 --> 00:27:04,950

And as I say, we both
felt very American.

658

00:27:04,950 --> 00:27:07,830

And I mean, they knew who we
were, of course, but they never

659

00:27:07,830 --> 00:27:09,120

had any particular interest.

660

00:27:09,120 --> 00:27:11,640

And my son to this
day has no interest.

661
00:27:11,640 --> 00:27:13,860
But my daughter, as I
said, all of a sudden I

662
00:27:13,860 --> 00:27:17,070
don't know why and how,
developed this interest.

663
00:27:17,070 --> 00:27:19,830
And she came to Germany,
stayed with us three weeks

664
00:27:19,830 --> 00:27:20,610
and traveled.

665
00:27:20,610 --> 00:27:24,000
And in Berlin, she
visited all the memorials.

666
00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:25,800
And there are plenty of them--

667
00:27:25,800 --> 00:27:28,230
the big Holocaust Memorial,
the Jewish Museum.

668
00:27:28,230 --> 00:27:31,500
I mean, she just made it a point
to visit every single place,

669
00:27:31,500 --> 00:27:33,210
and it made a deep
impression on her.

670
00:27:33,210 --> 00:27:37,500
And she is all fired
up to learn about that

671
00:27:37,500 --> 00:27:39,660
and try to understand

it and why it happened.

672

00:27:39,660 --> 00:27:41,670

And I've been referring
her to literature,

673

00:27:41,670 --> 00:27:43,410

and she does nothing else.

674

00:27:43,410 --> 00:27:45,780

At this point, she has no job.

675

00:27:45,780 --> 00:27:46,900

She is retired.

676

00:27:46,900 --> 00:27:47,610

So she has time--

677

00:27:47,610 --> 00:27:50,050

Do either of them have children?

678

00:27:50,050 --> 00:27:52,140

My son had a child.

679

00:27:52,140 --> 00:27:56,850

He is divorced, and has one--

680

00:27:56,850 --> 00:27:59,115

he had a daughter who is
unfortunately handicapped.

681

00:27:59,115 --> 00:28:02,130

She has Cerebral
Palsy, and she lives

682

00:28:02,130 --> 00:28:06,880

in Boston in a United
Cerebral Palsy facility.

683

00:28:06,880 --> 00:28:08,610

She's mentally perfectly fine.

684

00:28:08,610 --> 00:28:10,485

She graduated from
Sarah Lawrence College.

685

00:28:10,485 --> 00:28:11,490

Oh, my.

686

00:28:11,490 --> 00:28:15,930

But she's physically severely
handicapped and problems

687

00:28:15,930 --> 00:28:17,520

of mobility.

688

00:28:17,520 --> 00:28:21,077

And she at one time had
talked about graduate school.

689

00:28:21,077 --> 00:28:23,160

I don't know what will
become of it at this point.

690

00:28:23,160 --> 00:28:27,070

She's not ready for
it, I don't believe.

691

00:28:27,070 --> 00:28:38,850

My daughter is-- was
married and got divorced.

692

00:28:38,850 --> 00:28:44,130

And one day came to visit us and
declared she is now a lesbian.

693

00:28:44,130 --> 00:28:48,510

And she has a very nice partner,
of whom we are very fond.

694

00:28:48,510 --> 00:28:51,150

It took us a while to get
used to it, to be honest.

695

00:28:51,150 --> 00:28:54,870

But by now, we are
very, very happy

696

00:28:54,870 --> 00:28:59,070

she's our daughter-in-law,
and she's a very fine person.

697

00:28:59,070 --> 00:29:02,418

And it's a fine
relationship-- very good.

698

00:29:02,418 --> 00:29:03,960

Do they have children,
or they don't?

699

00:29:03,960 --> 00:29:04,290

No.

700

00:29:04,290 --> 00:29:04,560

No.

701

00:29:04,560 --> 00:29:05,060

No.

702

00:29:05,060 --> 00:29:06,370

OK.

703

00:29:06,370 --> 00:29:10,390

Let's talk a little bit
about some of your thoughts

704

00:29:10,390 --> 00:29:12,400

and your feelings
considering your background.

705

00:29:12,400 --> 00:29:18,240

Do you think because of what
you went through as a youngster,

706

00:29:18,240 --> 00:29:20,610

and seeing things and what
happened to your father

707

00:29:20,610 --> 00:29:25,000

when he was taken away,
influenced who you are today?

708

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:27,030

Well, I think-- what I
think-- as I mentioned

709

00:29:27,030 --> 00:29:28,740

this earlier, what
really influenced me

710

00:29:28,740 --> 00:29:30,300

was the German Youth Movement.

711

00:29:30,300 --> 00:29:33,060

It gave me the incentive
to do something,

712

00:29:33,060 --> 00:29:35,070

to invest in
myself, so to speak.

713

00:29:35,070 --> 00:29:38,220

And that's why
when I came here--

714

00:29:38,220 --> 00:29:40,020

I mean that's why I
went to the Kibbutz,

715

00:29:40,020 --> 00:29:43,320

and that's-- when I came to
this country and people started

716

00:29:43,320 --> 00:29:46,110

talking about college
and academic careers,

717

00:29:46,110 --> 00:29:49,920

that's what caught
my enthusiasm,

718

00:29:49,920 --> 00:29:54,330
because I wanted to do something
significant, as it were.

719

00:29:54,330 --> 00:29:57,090
And yes, in that sense, I
would say the German Youth

720

00:29:57,090 --> 00:30:00,750
Movement probably was the most
important influence on my life.

721

00:30:00,750 --> 00:30:07,950
What one went through, I
don't know to what extent.

722

00:30:07,950 --> 00:30:09,840
I think we matured early.

723

00:30:09,840 --> 00:30:12,420
I mentioned that.

724

00:30:12,420 --> 00:30:15,120
One became a bit more
resilient, perhaps,

725

00:30:15,120 --> 00:30:24,655
and able to take things and
handle hardships, yes, perhaps.

726

00:30:24,655 --> 00:30:26,780
And you left your parents
when you were a teenager.

727

00:30:26,780 --> 00:30:27,280
Yeah.

728

00:30:27,280 --> 00:30:27,920
We lived alone.

729

00:30:27,920 --> 00:30:28,420

Yeah.

730
00:30:28,420 --> 00:30:28,860
Sure.

731
00:30:28,860 --> 00:30:29,360
Sure.

732
00:30:29,360 --> 00:30:30,700
Yeah.

733
00:30:30,700 --> 00:30:33,340
So in that sense, yes, it was--

734
00:30:33,340 --> 00:30:34,810
had an impact, of course.

735
00:30:34,810 --> 00:30:40,800
But beyond that, as
I say, for many years

736
00:30:40,800 --> 00:30:45,270
I considered myself
an American academic.

737
00:30:45,270 --> 00:30:45,870
Jewish?

738
00:30:45,870 --> 00:30:47,170
Yes, of course.

739
00:30:47,170 --> 00:30:48,390
Never made a secret of it.

740
00:30:48,390 --> 00:30:50,140
But it didn't mean
anything in particular.

741
00:30:50,140 --> 00:30:52,050
I've never belonged
to a congregation.

742

00:30:52,050 --> 00:30:55,830

I consider myself
a Jewish agnostic.

743

00:30:55,830 --> 00:30:59,670

I have written on
religion, some of my books.

744

00:30:59,670 --> 00:31:02,125

I've always been interested
in the social ramifications

745

00:31:02,125 --> 00:31:02,625

of religion.

746

00:31:02,625 --> 00:31:05,700

747

00:31:05,700 --> 00:31:11,730

But my Jewishness--
we used to talk--

748

00:31:11,730 --> 00:31:13,320

when we were
graduate students, we

749

00:31:13,320 --> 00:31:16,650

would sit well into the
night and talk, what does it

750

00:31:16,650 --> 00:31:17,890

mean for us to be Jewish?

751

00:31:17,890 --> 00:31:20,480

And it was always an interesting
discussion, because it never

752

00:31:20,480 --> 00:31:21,480

was very clear.

753

00:31:21,480 --> 00:31:23,055

None of us were religious.

754

00:31:23,055 --> 00:31:25,540

At the same time, we
certainly felt we were Jews,

755

00:31:25,540 --> 00:31:27,365

but what does it
mean really then?

756

00:31:27,365 --> 00:31:29,490

So, you know, it was always
an interesting subject.

757

00:31:29,490 --> 00:31:32,550

Or we would talk about,
should we send our children

758

00:31:32,550 --> 00:31:34,560

to Sunday School?

759

00:31:34,560 --> 00:31:37,020

And some did, and some didn't.

760

00:31:37,020 --> 00:31:37,740

I didn't.

761

00:31:37,740 --> 00:31:38,380

You did not.

762

00:31:38,380 --> 00:31:38,880

No.

763

00:31:38,880 --> 00:31:41,970

But one year my daughter
came and said she

764

00:31:41,970 --> 00:31:43,530

had made some
friends, and they--

765

00:31:43,530 --> 00:31:46,380

among some youngsters who

belonged to the Jewish youth

766

00:31:46,380 --> 00:31:49,690
group in Northampton,
and she wanted to join.

767

00:31:49,690 --> 00:31:53,610
So we inquired, and
we were told that we

768

00:31:53,610 --> 00:31:57,070
had to pay one year's
membership-- a lot of money.

769

00:31:57,070 --> 00:31:58,700
Well, she wanted to
be a member of it,

770

00:31:58,700 --> 00:31:59,920
so we paid the membership.

771

00:31:59,920 --> 00:32:01,600
Three months later,
she lost interest,

772

00:32:01,600 --> 00:32:03,040
and the money was
down the drain.

773

00:32:03,040 --> 00:32:07,220
[LAUGHTER]

774

00:32:07,220 --> 00:32:10,510
And then she showed no more
interest in her Jewishness

775

00:32:10,510 --> 00:32:13,660
until, as I say, most recently,
when all of a sudden, and I

776

00:32:13,660 --> 00:32:15,520
don't know what
brought it about,

777
00:32:15,520 --> 00:32:18,040
she developed this
interest in the Holocaust

778
00:32:18,040 --> 00:32:21,280
and our background
and researching it

779
00:32:21,280 --> 00:32:24,907
and reading, doing
nothing but that.

780
00:32:24,907 --> 00:32:25,615
Very interesting.

781
00:32:25,615 --> 00:32:28,030
So did you observe, when
the children were young,

782
00:32:28,030 --> 00:32:31,010
any holidays at all, like
Passover or Hanukkah?

783
00:32:31,010 --> 00:32:31,510
No.

784
00:32:31,510 --> 00:32:31,930
Nothing.

785
00:32:31,930 --> 00:32:32,320
No.

786
00:32:32,320 --> 00:32:32,820
No.

787
00:32:32,820 --> 00:32:34,660
No observation in the home?

788
00:32:34,660 --> 00:32:35,290
No.

789

00:32:35,290 --> 00:32:37,270

No.

790

00:32:37,270 --> 00:32:38,560

Totally secular.

791

00:32:38,560 --> 00:32:39,730

Yes.

792

00:32:39,730 --> 00:32:41,920

I think for an academic
that's very easy.

793

00:32:41,920 --> 00:32:44,612

The academic environment
is largely secular.

794

00:32:44,612 --> 00:32:46,570

I mean, there are, of
course, religious people.

795

00:32:46,570 --> 00:32:49,150

But the overall
atmosphere is secular.

796

00:32:49,150 --> 00:32:54,040

And so we never felt any need to
belong to a congregation, let's

797

00:32:54,040 --> 00:32:57,190

say, because our home
was academia-- you know,

798

00:32:57,190 --> 00:32:59,962

the college or the university
where you were affiliated with.

799

00:32:59,962 --> 00:33:02,170

We had plenty of friends
there-- colleagues, Jewish--

800

00:33:02,170 --> 00:33:03,640

some Jewish, some not Jewish.

801

00:33:03,640 --> 00:33:06,130

Some of my best friends I
can truly say are non-Jews,

802

00:33:06,130 --> 00:33:07,960

I mean, in the
most literal sense.

803

00:33:07,960 --> 00:33:10,810

I have very close friends
who are not Jewish,

804

00:33:10,810 --> 00:33:15,820

and whom we met
we met teaching--

805

00:33:15,820 --> 00:33:20,880

fellow colleagues in
other fields sometimes.

806

00:33:20,880 --> 00:33:22,610

Tell me about the
books you've written.

807

00:33:22,610 --> 00:33:25,510

You told-- mentioned the
first book that you wrote.

808

00:33:25,510 --> 00:33:29,970

Well, I've always had an
interest in, you might say,

809

00:33:29,970 --> 00:33:32,220

the moral dimension of
politics and history.

810

00:33:32,220 --> 00:33:35,400

And so somehow my books
involve kind of moral dilemmas.

811

00:33:35,400 --> 00:33:39,440

The Catholic Church and Nazi
Germany was my second book.

812
00:33:39,440 --> 00:33:42,630
And then I did several other
books on Nazi Germany--

813
00:33:42,630 --> 00:33:48,080
The Nazi Persecution of the
Gypsies, and most recently,

814
00:33:48,080 --> 00:33:49,650
well-- wasn't there
something else?

815
00:33:49,650 --> 00:33:50,150
Oh, yes.

816
00:33:50,150 --> 00:33:52,430
I'm working on book censorship
in Nazi Germany now.

817
00:33:52,430 --> 00:33:54,980
For that-- I have the
Fulbright for that.

818
00:33:54,980 --> 00:33:58,640
So I had an interest in
Nazi Germany, the Holocaust.

819
00:33:58,640 --> 00:34:01,130
I've written some other
things on Vietnam,

820
00:34:01,130 --> 00:34:03,770
which came about during
the Vietnam War period

821
00:34:03,770 --> 00:34:08,090
when I was interested
in the problems raised

822
00:34:08,090 --> 00:34:10,280

by our involvement there.

823
00:34:10,280 --> 00:34:12,080
I was the first
one to be admitted

824
00:34:12,080 --> 00:34:14,339
to the military
classified records

825
00:34:14,339 --> 00:34:15,964
as a researcher, an
outside researcher.

826
00:34:15,964 --> 00:34:18,570
And it abled me write a
very interesting book,

827
00:34:18,570 --> 00:34:20,284
and became kind of a standard.

828
00:34:20,284 --> 00:34:23,570

829
00:34:23,570 --> 00:34:28,670
And I've written on religion,
several books that interest me.

830
00:34:28,670 --> 00:34:29,969
On different religions, or--

831
00:34:29,969 --> 00:34:30,469
No.

832
00:34:30,469 --> 00:34:32,340
Well, different religions too.

833
00:34:32,340 --> 00:34:34,340
I did a book called
Religion and the Revolution,

834
00:34:34,340 --> 00:34:36,050

which is kind of
comparative religion.

835
00:34:36,050 --> 00:34:39,650
But I've been interested
in the moral issue of,

836
00:34:39,650 --> 00:34:42,710
can you be a moral human
being without being religious?

837
00:34:42,710 --> 00:34:44,150
And that has interest me.

838
00:34:44,150 --> 00:34:46,020
I've written two
books about that.

839
00:34:46,020 --> 00:34:53,989
And the last book is
called, If God is Dead,

840
00:34:53,989 --> 00:34:55,790
Everything is Permitted?

841
00:34:55,790 --> 00:34:58,490
You know, the saying from
the Brothers Karamazov

842
00:34:58,490 --> 00:35:01,910
by Dostoevsky, but I put
it with a question mark.

843
00:35:01,910 --> 00:35:04,940
Dostoevsky felt, yes, if
you don't believe in God,

844
00:35:04,940 --> 00:35:06,770
you cannot be moral.

845
00:35:06,770 --> 00:35:08,880
My position, which I
developed in this book,

846
00:35:08,880 --> 00:35:12,090
was that yes, you
could-- you can.

847
00:35:12,090 --> 00:35:16,630
So that has been a lot
of my interest, yes.

848
00:35:16,630 --> 00:35:19,750
I'm sure many people
have asked you,

849
00:35:19,750 --> 00:35:23,306
has the world learned
lessons from the Holocaust--

850
00:35:23,306 --> 00:35:26,570

851
00:35:26,570 --> 00:35:29,980
what your thoughts are on that?

852
00:35:29,980 --> 00:35:35,740
We have had episodes of
genocide, numerous, since 1945.

853
00:35:35,740 --> 00:35:42,340
So that problem is not solved.

854
00:35:42,340 --> 00:35:46,770
Pretty horrible episodes of
violence have taken place.

855
00:35:46,770 --> 00:35:52,210
I think the Holocaust
was not unique, precisely

856
00:35:52,210 --> 00:35:55,660
because more genocides
have taken place since.

857

00:35:55,660 --> 00:35:57,610
It was in many sense--

858
00:35:57,610 --> 00:36:00,220
cases-- unprecedented--
was unprecedented

859
00:36:00,220 --> 00:36:03,580
that a cultured nation
in the center of Europe

860
00:36:03,580 --> 00:36:07,570
would organize this program to
exterminate an entire people--

861
00:36:07,570 --> 00:36:09,880
man, woman, and
child, and hunt them

862
00:36:09,880 --> 00:36:11,240
down all over the continent.

863
00:36:11,240 --> 00:36:13,020
In that sense, it
was unprecedented.

864
00:36:13,020 --> 00:36:14,680
It never happened before.

865
00:36:14,680 --> 00:36:17,440
The Jews were not particularly
hostile to Germany.

866
00:36:17,440 --> 00:36:19,780
On the contrary, the German
Jews were better Germans

867
00:36:19,780 --> 00:36:21,310
than many Germans.

868
00:36:21,310 --> 00:36:23,650
And yet, it took
place in Germany.

869
00:36:23,650 --> 00:36:26,995
So in that sense, it was
something quite unprecedented.

870
00:36:26,995 --> 00:36:29,260
It was not unique, as
I say, because we've

871
00:36:29,260 --> 00:36:30,310
had genocide since.

872
00:36:30,310 --> 00:36:34,360
And we unfortunately haven't
solved that problem yet,

873
00:36:34,360 --> 00:36:37,510
and we may never be
able to solve it.

874
00:36:37,510 --> 00:36:40,300
If I'm finished-- when
I'm finished with my book

875
00:36:40,300 --> 00:36:42,280
on Book Censorship
in Nazi Germany,

876
00:36:42,280 --> 00:36:44,450
if I still have what it
takes to add another one,

877
00:36:44,450 --> 00:36:47,710
I want to do something
on the perpetrators,

878
00:36:47,710 --> 00:36:50,110
the Nazi perpetrators--
why they did it.

879
00:36:50,110 --> 00:36:52,630
There are various explanations
that have been put forth,

880
00:36:52,630 --> 00:36:54,552
and I sort of want to
bring all that together.

881
00:36:54,552 --> 00:36:57,010
There's some interesting work
being done on this in Germany

882
00:36:57,010 --> 00:36:57,510
today.

883
00:36:57,510 --> 00:37:01,260

884
00:37:01,260 --> 00:37:04,647
You said you had done some
work at the Holocaust Museum

885
00:37:04,647 --> 00:37:05,230
in Washington.

886
00:37:05,230 --> 00:37:07,655
I was a volunteer there for
a time-- did some projects

887
00:37:07,655 --> 00:37:08,280
for them, yeah.

888
00:37:08,280 --> 00:37:09,930
What kind of projects?

889
00:37:09,930 --> 00:37:14,020
I did a project on the
bombing of Auschwitz.

890
00:37:14,020 --> 00:37:19,300
And I felt that their
exhibit was misleading.

891
00:37:19,300 --> 00:37:21,960
And I think they have

changed a bit since then.

892

00:37:21,960 --> 00:37:23,850

There has been some
other writing on this

893

00:37:23,850 --> 00:37:26,075

by other researchers as well.

894

00:37:26,075 --> 00:37:27,450

How was their
exhibit misleading?

895

00:37:27,450 --> 00:37:30,555

Well, they sort of implied
very strongly at the--

896

00:37:30,555 --> 00:37:37,590

in the original exhibit that
it was serious dereliction

897

00:37:37,590 --> 00:37:39,790

on the part of the
Americans that they did not

898

00:37:39,790 --> 00:37:41,100

bomb Auschwitz.

899

00:37:41,100 --> 00:37:45,300

And I tried to show
that, a, the ability

900

00:37:45,300 --> 00:37:50,190

to hit Auschwitz with any
precision was strictly limited.

901

00:37:50,190 --> 00:37:51,990

We didn't have the
bases close enough

902

00:37:51,990 --> 00:37:56,190

to reach Auschwitz with any
great numbers of bombers.

903
00:37:56,190 --> 00:37:58,740
Hitting with precision
was altogether impossible

904
00:37:58,740 --> 00:37:59,820
at that time.

905
00:37:59,820 --> 00:38:02,820
All one could do
was carpet bombing.

906
00:38:02,820 --> 00:38:04,347
That's why the
German cities looked

907
00:38:04,347 --> 00:38:06,930
what they looked after the war,
because there was no precision

908
00:38:06,930 --> 00:38:07,923
bombing.

909
00:38:07,923 --> 00:38:09,840
So it would have been
pretty impossible really

910
00:38:09,840 --> 00:38:13,470
to hit the Nazis in
Auschwitz without killing

911
00:38:13,470 --> 00:38:14,850
off all the Jews.

912
00:38:14,850 --> 00:38:18,120
And it probably would not
have really done very much.

913
00:38:18,120 --> 00:38:20,640
So my feeling was
that the decision

914

00:38:20,640 --> 00:38:24,390
not to bomb Auschwitz pursued
because Roosevelt wanted--

915
00:38:24,390 --> 00:38:26,190
felt that the most
important thing to do

916
00:38:26,190 --> 00:38:29,760
was to win the war as quickly as
possible with all the resources

917
00:38:29,760 --> 00:38:30,480
available.

918
00:38:30,480 --> 00:38:33,877
Probably was the right
decision, and the exhibit

919
00:38:33,877 --> 00:38:34,710
implied differently.

920
00:38:34,710 --> 00:38:37,127
But I think they have possibly
adjusted that a little bit.

921
00:38:37,127 --> 00:38:40,380
I haven't checked it out.

922
00:38:40,380 --> 00:38:43,560
What were your thoughts
during the Eichmann trial?

923
00:38:43,560 --> 00:38:47,190
Anything-- did you
follow it carefully?

924
00:38:47,190 --> 00:38:48,070
Sure, I did.

925
00:38:48,070 --> 00:38:48,600
Yes.

926

00:38:48,600 --> 00:38:51,870

I've done some work on some
articles on war crimes,

927

00:38:51,870 --> 00:38:54,150

tribunals, and so forth.

928

00:38:54,150 --> 00:38:57,030

I am not particularly proud
of the Eichmann trial.

929

00:38:57,030 --> 00:39:01,710

I think it did not follow the
highest possible standards.

930

00:39:01,710 --> 00:39:04,620

I think he got what he-- what
was due, and needless to say,

931

00:39:04,620 --> 00:39:06,600

he was guilty as can be.

932

00:39:06,600 --> 00:39:09,060

But I think the trial
was not the most

933

00:39:09,060 --> 00:39:12,365

dignified, and especially
the role of the prosecutor--

934

00:39:12,365 --> 00:39:15,220

I've forgotten his name now--

935

00:39:15,220 --> 00:39:16,330

was a little bit--

936

00:39:16,330 --> 00:39:17,201

Haus?

937

00:39:17,201 --> 00:39:17,701

Hausner?

938

00:39:17,701 --> 00:39:18,201

Was that--

939

00:39:18,201 --> 00:39:18,980

That's correct.

940

00:39:18,980 --> 00:39:21,910

Hausner was his name, yeah.

941

00:39:21,910 --> 00:39:24,380

Was-- so I had some
problems with that.

942

00:39:24,380 --> 00:39:26,320

But basically, of course,
I think the Israelis

943

00:39:26,320 --> 00:39:28,420

were perfectly justified in--

944

00:39:28,420 --> 00:39:31,750

legally justified in
seizing him and trying him.

945

00:39:31,750 --> 00:39:34,650

There was no-- I had
no problem with that.

946

00:39:34,650 --> 00:39:35,610

It was interesting.

947

00:39:35,610 --> 00:39:38,280

It sort of focused the
attention of the world

948

00:39:38,280 --> 00:39:39,780

again on this issue.

949

00:39:39,780 --> 00:39:44,670

Until that time, don't forget,
the issue of the Holocaust

950

00:39:44,670 --> 00:39:47,610

had sort of receded
into the background.

951

00:39:47,610 --> 00:39:50,070

But it was the Eichmann trial
that all of a sudden revived

952

00:39:50,070 --> 00:39:50,480

interest.

953

00:39:50,480 --> 00:39:51,897

And ever since,
of course, we have

954

00:39:51,897 --> 00:39:55,410

had tremendous output of
scholarship, interest, movies,

955

00:39:55,410 --> 00:40:00,120

you name it, the Holocaust
Museum, oral history,

956

00:40:00,120 --> 00:40:00,780

everything.

957

00:40:00,780 --> 00:40:03,870

How do you feel about having
the Holocaust-- a Holocaust

958

00:40:03,870 --> 00:40:06,120

Museum in Washington, DC?

959

00:40:06,120 --> 00:40:08,910

I think it's great.

960

00:40:08,910 --> 00:40:14,730

I had some problems with
the leadership at one point.

961

00:40:14,730 --> 00:40:19,350

They organized a

symposium on the Gypsies,

962

00:40:19,350 --> 00:40:21,660

the persecution of the
Gypsies, and they did not

963

00:40:21,660 --> 00:40:22,890

invite me because--

964

00:40:22,890 --> 00:40:25,560

I had written the only book
in English on the subject,

965

00:40:25,560 --> 00:40:30,210

but my position was that
the Gypsies had not suffered

966

00:40:30,210 --> 00:40:33,130

as the Jews had suffered.

967

00:40:33,130 --> 00:40:35,830

And I developed
that in a fairly--

968

00:40:35,830 --> 00:40:37,710

a very carefully
researched book.

969

00:40:37,710 --> 00:40:42,270

I spent a year in Germany
collecting material.

970

00:40:42,270 --> 00:40:46,500

The official view at the
Holocaust Museum was because--

971

00:40:46,500 --> 00:40:49,530

that the Gypsies had
been treated like Jews

972

00:40:49,530 --> 00:40:52,020

and deserved to be--

973

00:40:52,020 --> 00:40:54,840

that this was an instance
of genocide and so forth.

974

00:40:54,840 --> 00:40:58,080

And the symposium was supposed
to be focused on that.

975

00:40:58,080 --> 00:40:59,970

And they didn't invite me.

976

00:40:59,970 --> 00:41:05,530

And an American
Gypsy at that time

977

00:41:05,530 --> 00:41:08,670

was a member of the
Holocaust Council.

978

00:41:08,670 --> 00:41:10,740

And he was kind of
a pseudo scholar

979

00:41:10,740 --> 00:41:13,320

who propagated that view
that the Gypsies had

980

00:41:13,320 --> 00:41:15,240

suffered genocide.

981

00:41:15,240 --> 00:41:17,850

And the Museum bought it.

982

00:41:17,850 --> 00:41:19,350

And I objected.

983

00:41:19,350 --> 00:41:24,060

And I said, it's not a
matter of my personal pride

984

00:41:24,060 --> 00:41:26,250

or my prestige to be

at this symposium,

985

00:41:26,250 --> 00:41:29,190

but I think you are
going on the wrong track.

986

00:41:29,190 --> 00:41:31,680

And you should at least
listen to my position.

987

00:41:31,680 --> 00:41:33,600

So they reversed
course, invited me.

988

00:41:33,600 --> 00:41:40,740

I gave a paper, which was then
published in the series there.

989

00:41:40,740 --> 00:41:43,500

I don't know to what extent
they have changed their view.

990

00:41:43,500 --> 00:41:47,850

Another issue that
I found problematic

991

00:41:47,850 --> 00:41:49,920

was the treatment
of the Armenians.

992

00:41:49,920 --> 00:41:53,170

I've written a book on that
as one of my last books.

993

00:41:53,170 --> 00:41:55,270

And again, I did not--

994

00:41:55,270 --> 00:41:57,360

I concluded after
careful research

995

00:41:57,360 --> 00:42:00,780

that while the Armenians

suffered terribly and lost

996

00:42:00,780 --> 00:42:03,030

40% of their people
in massacres,

997

00:42:03,030 --> 00:42:06,600

it was not a state-sponsored
program of genocide.

998

00:42:06,600 --> 00:42:09,030

And that, too, is not
the conventional wisdom.

999

00:42:09,030 --> 00:42:12,360

And apparently, also was
not the view of the Museum.

1000

00:42:12,360 --> 00:42:13,950

They occasionally
have had exhibits

1001

00:42:13,950 --> 00:42:17,498

on the Armenian Genocide,
which I don't accept.

1002

00:42:17,498 --> 00:42:19,290

So I've had my differences
with the Museum.

1003

00:42:19,290 --> 00:42:20,640

But I think,
basically, of course,

1004

00:42:20,640 --> 00:42:21,848

they're doing very good work.

1005

00:42:21,848 --> 00:42:24,740

And that's a very
important institution.

1006

00:42:24,740 --> 00:42:28,250

Do you receive, or did your

parents receive, reparations?

1007

00:42:28,250 --> 00:42:29,120

Yes.

1008

00:42:29,120 --> 00:42:30,860

They did, and I did too.

1009

00:42:30,860 --> 00:42:32,780

Not very much, but it helps.

1010

00:42:32,780 --> 00:42:34,280

Every little bit helps.

1011

00:42:34,280 --> 00:42:37,825

And it felt-- we felt,
all of us, it was our due.

1012

00:42:37,825 --> 00:42:39,950

That's the least they could
do, give us some money.

1013

00:42:39,950 --> 00:42:42,112

Are you still
receiving reparations?

1014

00:42:42,112 --> 00:42:43,070

Receiving anything now?

1015

00:42:43,070 --> 00:42:43,340

No.

1016

00:42:43,340 --> 00:42:43,580

No.

1017

00:42:43,580 --> 00:42:44,788

These were one-time payments.

1018

00:42:44,788 --> 00:42:49,250

My father had [? a ?]
[? rent. ?] But I just had

1019

00:42:49,250 --> 00:42:51,620

several one-time payments,
and so did my wife.

1020

00:42:51,620 --> 00:42:54,220

1021

00:42:54,220 --> 00:42:58,288

And what were your parents'
thoughts about Germany?

1022

00:42:58,288 --> 00:43:01,355

Do you remember after--
when they settled here?

1023

00:43:01,355 --> 00:43:05,830

And did you talk about that when
you were an adult with them?

1024

00:43:05,830 --> 00:43:06,788

Probably not very much.

1025

00:43:06,788 --> 00:43:08,663

I probably should have
talked with my parents

1026

00:43:08,663 --> 00:43:09,580

more than I did.

1027

00:43:09,580 --> 00:43:13,040

You know, we all feel that way
after our parents are gone.

1028

00:43:13,040 --> 00:43:18,070

So I don't think I talked with
them about this very much.

1029

00:43:18,070 --> 00:43:20,500

My parents were fortunate
that they came here at a time

1030

00:43:20,500 --> 00:43:24,970

when it was relatively easy
to sink roots and get jobs,

1031
00:43:24,970 --> 00:43:27,370
and they did well.

1032
00:43:27,370 --> 00:43:30,640
Not every immigrant has had it--

1033
00:43:30,640 --> 00:43:32,320
has had that fortune.

1034
00:43:32,320 --> 00:43:37,000
So yes, I think they were
quite happy to be here too.

1035
00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:37,730
Their English--

1036
00:43:37,730 --> 00:43:38,490
How was their English?

1037
00:43:38,490 --> 00:43:38,714
I was going to--

1038
00:43:38,714 --> 00:43:38,770
[LAUGHS]

1039
00:43:38,770 --> 00:43:40,720
Well, it improved
gradually a little bit.

1040
00:43:40,720 --> 00:43:43,180
It was never very good, but it
was all right, more or less.

1041
00:43:43,180 --> 00:43:46,030
I mean, my father was able to
run a little hotel in Atlantic

1042
00:43:46,030 --> 00:43:48,100
City, and it was OK, eventually.

1043
00:43:48,100 --> 00:43:50,156
Did they stay with the
German-Jewish circle

1044
00:43:50,156 --> 00:43:50,698
with friends?

1045
00:43:50,698 --> 00:43:51,760
Yes, very much so.

1046
00:43:51,760 --> 00:43:52,690
Very much so.

1047
00:43:52,690 --> 00:43:53,570
Yes, of course.

1048
00:43:53,570 --> 00:43:56,200
That generation, they did not--

1049
00:43:56,200 --> 00:43:58,180
they did very little
spreading out.

1050
00:43:58,180 --> 00:44:02,570
I mean, I should qualify that.

1051
00:44:02,570 --> 00:44:06,790
Let's say, if someone came here
as a physician from Germany,

1052
00:44:06,790 --> 00:44:10,060
and then got a license
and practiced medicine,

1053
00:44:10,060 --> 00:44:13,990
he may have started to socialize
with non-Jewish physicians

1054
00:44:13,990 --> 00:44:15,790
and so forth, or for
other professions,

1055
00:44:15,790 --> 00:44:19,420
perhaps, just like I did
in the academic scene,

1056
00:44:19,420 --> 00:44:21,190
in the university scene.

1057
00:44:21,190 --> 00:44:23,950
But my parents' generation,
these people, they

1058
00:44:23,950 --> 00:44:25,876
stuck very much to themselves.

1059
00:44:25,876 --> 00:44:29,980

1060
00:44:29,980 --> 00:44:31,680
Yeah, my parents
eventually retired.

1061
00:44:31,680 --> 00:44:34,170
They sold their hotel
and retired to New York,

1062
00:44:34,170 --> 00:44:36,222
and had a nice retirement
existence in New York.

1063
00:44:36,222 --> 00:44:36,805
They traveled.

1064
00:44:36,805 --> 00:44:39,340

1065
00:44:39,340 --> 00:44:40,970
They even visited us in Germany.

1066
00:44:40,970 --> 00:44:45,460
Although, they were not
anxious to be there, I think.

1067
00:44:45,460 --> 00:44:46,190
Oh, really?

1068
00:44:46,190 --> 00:44:46,690
Yeah.

1069
00:44:46,690 --> 00:44:47,780
Yeah.

1070
00:44:47,780 --> 00:44:49,030
They were uncomfortable there?

1071
00:44:49,030 --> 00:44:49,750
I think so.

1072
00:44:49,750 --> 00:44:50,270
Probably.

1073
00:44:50,270 --> 00:44:50,770
Yeah.

1074
00:44:50,770 --> 00:44:51,360
Yeah.

1075
00:44:51,360 --> 00:44:53,110
I mean, much less
comfortable-- of course,

1076
00:44:53,110 --> 00:44:55,360
it was still the
'60s the first time,

1077
00:44:55,360 --> 00:44:58,390
and I didn't feel all
that great myself.

1078
00:44:58,390 --> 00:45:00,490
That was not a great
time to be in Germany.

1079

00:45:00,490 --> 00:45:01,310
I mean, as I said--

1080
00:45:01,310 --> 00:45:02,620
It was too close to the war.

1081
00:45:02,620 --> 00:45:05,890
Not very comfortable, no.

1082
00:45:05,890 --> 00:45:09,970
Were you active at all in
the Civil Rights movement

1083
00:45:09,970 --> 00:45:12,670
in the United
States, considering

1084
00:45:12,670 --> 00:45:15,430
you came from a
country that deprived

1085
00:45:15,430 --> 00:45:16,750
the Jews of their civil rights?

1086
00:45:16,750 --> 00:45:19,990
Not so much the Civil
Rights movement.

1087
00:45:19,990 --> 00:45:23,620
I was a student politician
at City College in the--

1088
00:45:23,620 --> 00:45:26,950
it was called SLID, and it
was known as Students League

1089
00:45:26,950 --> 00:45:28,045
for Industrial Democracy.

1090
00:45:28,045 --> 00:45:29,380
It was part of the--

1091

00:45:29,380 --> 00:45:32,060
Norman Thomas's socialist party.

1092
00:45:32,060 --> 00:45:34,550
So I was active in that.

1093
00:45:34,550 --> 00:45:40,620
And I wrote my master's
essay at Columbia

1094
00:45:40,620 --> 00:45:47,130
on a German socialist
leader, Rosa Luxembourg.

1095
00:45:47,130 --> 00:45:49,680

1096
00:45:49,680 --> 00:45:51,390
So I had an interest
in academic,

1097
00:45:51,390 --> 00:45:54,600
a theoretical interest,
really, later on a bit.

1098
00:45:54,600 --> 00:45:59,110
But then did lose-- no, I was
not active in the Civil Rights

1099
00:45:59,110 --> 00:45:59,610
movement.

1100
00:45:59,610 --> 00:46:03,000
I was active in the
cause of civil liberties,

1101
00:46:03,000 --> 00:46:05,790
because, a, I had studied it
with one of my specialties

1102
00:46:05,790 --> 00:46:10,080
at Columbia, and I became very
active in the American Civil

1103
00:46:10,080 --> 00:46:10,860
Liberties Union.

1104
00:46:10,860 --> 00:46:19,170
I was-- I chaired the Hampshire
County Organization of the ACLU

1105
00:46:19,170 --> 00:46:21,660
when we lived in
Northampton for a time.

1106
00:46:21,660 --> 00:46:25,800
I eventually abandoned
and left the ACLU

1107
00:46:25,800 --> 00:46:29,250
when they declared, in
Massachusetts at least,

1108
00:46:29,250 --> 00:46:34,020
that there was a constitutional
right to smoke marijuana

1109
00:46:34,020 --> 00:46:35,790
or to oppose the Vietnam War.

1110
00:46:35,790 --> 00:46:37,890
And I felt one could
oppose the Vietnam War,

1111
00:46:37,890 --> 00:46:40,560
but there was no
constitutional right to do so.

1112
00:46:40,560 --> 00:46:41,210
So we left.

1113
00:46:41,210 --> 00:46:44,610
We parted company, and I have
not been a member of the ACLU

1114

00:46:44,610 --> 00:46:45,630
since.

1115
00:46:45,630 --> 00:46:48,430
And I have written about their--

1116
00:46:48,430 --> 00:46:53,160
what I consider their erroneous
direction in one of my books.

1117
00:46:53,160 --> 00:46:57,360
I think they changed, and not
for the better in my view.

1118
00:46:57,360 --> 00:46:59,547
I've not-- I don't
know more recently

1119
00:46:59,547 --> 00:47:00,630
what they have been doing.

1120
00:47:00,630 --> 00:47:04,820
I've not had any great
interest in that.

1121
00:47:04,820 --> 00:47:07,310
So I was interested in the
issue of civil liberties.

1122
00:47:07,310 --> 00:47:12,570
I taught it, and I was active
in the ACLU for many years.

1123
00:47:12,570 --> 00:47:16,590
Civil rights-- not really.

1124
00:47:16,590 --> 00:47:19,860
I had-- there were Black
students at City College.

1125
00:47:19,860 --> 00:47:21,750
We were on good terms.

1126

00:47:21,750 --> 00:47:22,980

I had no problem with that.

1127

00:47:22,980 --> 00:47:26,980

1128

00:47:26,980 --> 00:47:29,277

One of my students at
Columbia was black,

1129

00:47:29,277 --> 00:47:31,860

and I became very friendly with
him-- stayed in touch with him

1130

00:47:31,860 --> 00:47:34,210

for many years.

1131

00:47:34,210 --> 00:47:36,460

Almost at the end, I find
out that he also was Jewish.

1132

00:47:36,460 --> 00:47:39,937

I had no idea that he was
both Jewish and Black.

1133

00:47:39,937 --> 00:47:40,931

That's interesting.

1134

00:47:40,931 --> 00:47:43,420

Yeah.

1135

00:47:43,420 --> 00:47:46,660

Are you still in contact
with the other brigade--

1136

00:47:46,660 --> 00:47:48,220

Jewish brigade--

1137

00:47:48,220 --> 00:47:48,730

No.

1138

00:47:48,730 --> 00:47:50,040
--members.

1139
00:47:50,040 --> 00:47:52,300
They are-- I don't think
there are very many left.

1140
00:47:52,300 --> 00:47:56,440
You see, I'm almost 90, and I am
fortunate to be in good health.

1141
00:47:56,440 --> 00:48:01,480
But I'm afraid most
of my fellow soldiers

1142
00:48:01,480 --> 00:48:03,890
are not around anymore.

1143
00:48:03,890 --> 00:48:05,590
So no, there isn't anyone--

1144
00:48:05,590 --> 00:48:07,690
Did they have reunion--
did you have reunions?

1145
00:48:07,690 --> 00:48:08,380
No.

1146
00:48:08,380 --> 00:48:08,920
No.

1147
00:48:08,920 --> 00:48:10,880
I don't remember
anything about that.

1148
00:48:10,880 --> 00:48:12,880
There may have been in
Israel, but I don't know.

1149
00:48:12,880 --> 00:48:13,790
I never heard of it.

1150

00:48:13,790 --> 00:48:14,290
No.

1151
00:48:14,290 --> 00:48:19,555

1152
00:48:19,555 --> 00:48:21,680
Well, is there anything
else you would want to say?

1153
00:48:21,680 --> 00:48:22,742
I'm trying to think.

1154
00:48:22,742 --> 00:48:24,200
I think we covered
a lot of ground,

1155
00:48:24,200 --> 00:48:26,300
and we spent a lot of
time, perhaps more time

1156
00:48:26,300 --> 00:48:27,138
than you had wanted.

1157
00:48:27,138 --> 00:48:27,680
I don't know.

1158
00:48:27,680 --> 00:48:29,380
No.

1159
00:48:29,380 --> 00:48:31,970
Any other thoughts or any--

1160
00:48:31,970 --> 00:48:32,840
in any way about--

1161
00:48:32,840 --> 00:48:34,250
I'm just thinking.

1162
00:48:34,250 --> 00:48:39,890
I don't-- I think I've covered
pretty much everything that I

1163
00:48:39,890 --> 00:48:42,450
can think that is of interest.

1164
00:48:42,450 --> 00:48:46,280
And as you say, you plan to
write more books in your--

1165
00:48:46,280 --> 00:48:47,030
Do I intend to?

1166
00:48:47,030 --> 00:48:47,530
Yeah.

1167
00:48:47,530 --> 00:48:49,790
If I live, yes, I surely will.

1168
00:48:49,790 --> 00:48:52,220
I find it very
interesting and rewarding.

1169
00:48:52,220 --> 00:48:55,160
And you know, it's--

1170
00:48:55,160 --> 00:48:58,130
as one gets older, one not only
has to do physical exercise,

1171
00:48:58,130 --> 00:49:02,970
but it's good to keep the brain
in good oiled shape as well.

1172
00:49:02,970 --> 00:49:04,450
And so in that sense, it's--

1173
00:49:04,450 --> 00:49:06,830
I find it very interesting.

1174
00:49:06,830 --> 00:49:11,300
I've done research ever since
I became a graduate student.

1175

00:49:11,300 --> 00:49:12,860

I published my
first article when

1176

00:49:12,860 --> 00:49:14,960

I was still a graduate student.

1177

00:49:14,960 --> 00:49:16,970

And I enjoy doing research.

1178

00:49:16,970 --> 00:49:18,410

And so yes.

1179

00:49:18,410 --> 00:49:19,490

Wonderful.

1180

00:49:19,490 --> 00:49:21,440

As you've have
gotten older, do you

1181

00:49:21,440 --> 00:49:24,530

think more about the painful
times in your childhood,

1182

00:49:24,530 --> 00:49:26,750

like that time when you
were in the camp and the--

1183

00:49:26,750 --> 00:49:28,010

No, not really.

1184

00:49:28,010 --> 00:49:28,673

Not really.

1185

00:49:28,673 --> 00:49:29,840

Or your father's experience?

1186

00:49:29,840 --> 00:49:31,130

You don't think more about that?

1187

00:49:31,130 --> 00:49:31,630

No.

1188
00:49:31,630 --> 00:49:32,840
Not more than I-- no.

1189
00:49:32,840 --> 00:49:33,350
No.

1190
00:49:33,350 --> 00:49:41,970
I mean, I have worked
in German document--

1191
00:49:41,970 --> 00:49:44,640
Nazi documents,
and constantly you

1192
00:49:44,640 --> 00:49:46,585
see the-- some of
the stuff that-- some

1193
00:49:46,585 --> 00:49:48,210
of the horrible things
that were going.

1194
00:49:48,210 --> 00:49:51,280
They're sort of
described matter of fact.

1195
00:49:51,280 --> 00:49:54,690
One develops a certain
distance, which

1196
00:49:54,690 --> 00:49:58,150
enables you to write
about it as a scholar.

1197
00:49:58,150 --> 00:50:03,120
So I can deal with it in a
fairly sober manner by now,

1198
00:50:03,120 --> 00:50:05,120
I guess.

1199

00:50:05,120 --> 00:50:08,360

I have not lost the
sensitivity which

1200

00:50:08,360 --> 00:50:09,950

one ought to have
about this material,

1201

00:50:09,950 --> 00:50:14,510

but I can deal with it
without acute suffering.

1202

00:50:14,510 --> 00:50:17,390

Now, I sleep-- I dream
about it occasionally.

1203

00:50:17,390 --> 00:50:19,220

I'm a big dreamer altogether.

1204

00:50:19,220 --> 00:50:20,780

I dream every night.

1205

00:50:20,780 --> 00:50:23,090

I don't always remember,
but I frequently

1206

00:50:23,090 --> 00:50:26,620

dreamt about being caught again
by Nazis and things like that.

1207

00:50:26,620 --> 00:50:28,790

That, yes-- that has
happened, and continues

1208

00:50:28,790 --> 00:50:30,170

to happen, actually.

1209

00:50:30,170 --> 00:50:33,435

More as you've gotten
older, or that was always

1210

00:50:33,435 --> 00:50:34,310

throughout your life?

1211

00:50:34,310 --> 00:50:36,010

Possibly more then since I got--

1212

00:50:36,010 --> 00:50:38,060

I seem to dream

more since I'm old.

1213

00:50:38,060 --> 00:50:40,940

I don't know why, but that

seems to be the case, yes.

1214

00:50:40,940 --> 00:50:41,820

Yeah, it seems to be.

1215

00:50:41,820 --> 00:50:42,320

Yeah.

1216

00:50:42,320 --> 00:50:42,860

Yeah.

1217

00:50:42,860 --> 00:50:43,700

Yeah.

1218

00:50:43,700 --> 00:50:46,220

But it's always nice to

wake up and realize that--

1219

00:50:46,220 --> 00:50:48,140

actually, the funny

thing is that sometimes,

1220

00:50:48,140 --> 00:50:50,575

even while you are dreaming,

you all of a sudden you are--

1221

00:50:50,575 --> 00:50:51,783

I really don't have to worry.

1222

00:50:51,783 --> 00:50:52,430

It's not real.

1223
00:50:52,430 --> 00:50:53,960
It's a dream.

1224
00:50:53,960 --> 00:50:56,630
We have that sensation,
not always, but frequently.

1225
00:50:56,630 --> 00:50:58,550
Sometimes I wake up screaming.

1226
00:50:58,550 --> 00:51:02,665
But most of the time
when you sort of wake up,

1227
00:51:02,665 --> 00:51:03,290
it's all right.

1228
00:51:03,290 --> 00:51:05,960

1229
00:51:05,960 --> 00:51:10,525
But when you hear about
similar incidents,

1230
00:51:10,525 --> 00:51:14,870
does it give you a flashback
to what you went through?

1231
00:51:14,870 --> 00:51:15,460
Not really.

1232
00:51:15,460 --> 00:51:16,730
I can't say it does.

1233
00:51:16,730 --> 00:51:17,480
No.

1234
00:51:17,480 --> 00:51:22,460
As I say, I've developed
kind of a detached clinical--

1235

00:51:22,460 --> 00:51:24,650

almost clinical attitude
towards all of that.

1236

00:51:24,650 --> 00:51:25,730

I know it so well.

1237

00:51:25,730 --> 00:51:28,160

I've read all the descriptions.

1238

00:51:28,160 --> 00:51:33,350

I'm-- the Holocaust for me has
been an experience I've lived

1239

00:51:33,350 --> 00:51:36,440

through, and again, much more
than I experienced myself.

1240

00:51:36,440 --> 00:51:41,900

I never was in a concentration
camp or a death camp.

1241

00:51:41,900 --> 00:51:45,320

But I've read so much about
it I've lived through it,

1242

00:51:45,320 --> 00:51:47,840

as it were, vicariously.

1243

00:51:47,840 --> 00:51:50,370

But I've developed kind of a
clinical attitude, I guess,

1244

00:51:50,370 --> 00:51:50,870

by now.

1245

00:51:50,870 --> 00:51:54,470

It's the only way you can
deal with it as a scholar.

1246

00:51:54,470 --> 00:51:57,030

Otherwise, it would

be impossible.

1247
00:51:57,030 --> 00:51:59,820
But you obviously feel
because of your background,

1248
00:51:59,820 --> 00:52:02,250
as opposed to an
American professor--

1249
00:52:02,250 --> 00:52:02,973
Perhaps, yeah.

1250
00:52:02,973 --> 00:52:04,140
--that you bring a greater--

1251
00:52:04,140 --> 00:52:04,680
Perhaps.

1252
00:52:04,680 --> 00:52:05,580
--understanding.

1253
00:52:05,580 --> 00:52:06,390
Perhaps, yeah.

1254
00:52:06,390 --> 00:52:07,772
Although, as I
say, it's almost--

1255
00:52:07,772 --> 00:52:08,730
Because you were there.

1256
00:52:08,730 --> 00:52:09,330
Yeah.

1257
00:52:09,330 --> 00:52:11,310
But some of the best
scholarship, as I said,

1258
00:52:11,310 --> 00:52:13,393
about the Holocaust is
done in Germany these days.

1259

00:52:13,393 --> 00:52:17,928
These are people who were kids,
were born after the war by now.

1260

00:52:17,928 --> 00:52:19,470
And there's some
wonderful work being

1261

00:52:19,470 --> 00:52:24,430
done-- sensitive, insightful.

1262

00:52:24,430 --> 00:52:26,515
A couple of years ago,
a guy wrote to me,

1263

00:52:26,515 --> 00:52:28,140
and he's writing
about the German Youth

1264

00:52:28,140 --> 00:52:30,450
Movement in Breslau.

1265

00:52:30,450 --> 00:52:32,460
And I had some material
which I sent him.

1266

00:52:32,460 --> 00:52:35,580
And he was overjoyed, of
course, to get [INAUDIBLE]..

1267

00:52:35,580 --> 00:52:37,470
We corresponded a little bit.

1268

00:52:37,470 --> 00:52:39,660
He had developed an
incredible insight

1269

00:52:39,660 --> 00:52:42,660
into the whole atmosphere
of the youth movement,

1270

00:52:42,660 --> 00:52:44,700
and so wonderful--

1271
00:52:44,700 --> 00:52:47,160
better than anything I've
read here in America.

1272
00:52:47,160 --> 00:52:49,990
So some of these people are
doing great work, people

1273
00:52:49,990 --> 00:52:51,240
who've never lived through it.

1274
00:52:51,240 --> 00:52:53,160
It can be done.

1275
00:52:53,160 --> 00:52:58,350
I mean, sometimes you
hear this that only Blacks

1276
00:52:58,350 --> 00:53:00,660
should write about Blacks,
only Jews about Jews.

1277
00:53:00,660 --> 00:53:03,580
I think it's nonsense.

1278
00:53:03,580 --> 00:53:04,080
No.

1279
00:53:04,080 --> 00:53:06,480
On the contrary, it may
sometimes mislead you.

1280
00:53:06,480 --> 00:53:11,370
You become kind of biased
and prejudiced about it.

1281
00:53:11,370 --> 00:53:11,870
No.

1282

00:53:11,870 --> 00:53:12,150
No.

1283
00:53:12,150 --> 00:53:13,025
I don't believe that.

1284
00:53:13,025 --> 00:53:19,570

1285
00:53:19,570 --> 00:53:25,690
Well, again, do you have
any final thoughts about--

1286
00:53:25,690 --> 00:53:26,500
Final thoughts?

1287
00:53:26,500 --> 00:53:27,470
[LAUGHTER]

1288
00:53:27,470 --> 00:53:31,840
That sounds--sounds--[LAUGHS] that
didn't come out right--

1289
00:53:31,840 --> 00:53:33,730
before we end the--

1290
00:53:33,730 --> 00:53:37,630
My-- a book which I published
five years ago is entitled

1291
00:53:37,630 --> 00:53:40,000
Assisted Death in
Europe and America--

1292
00:53:40,000 --> 00:53:41,860
Four Regimes and their Lessons.

1293
00:53:41,860 --> 00:53:45,170
I deal with the issue of
physician-assisted suicide,

1294
00:53:45,170 --> 00:53:47,350

which began to interest me.

1295

00:53:47,350 --> 00:53:49,175

And when you reach
a certain age,

1296

00:53:49,175 --> 00:53:50,800

it's of more than
theoretical interest,

1297

00:53:50,800 --> 00:53:53,410

obviously, how one dies.

1298

00:53:53,410 --> 00:53:55,370

I found that a very
interesting subject.

1299

00:53:55,370 --> 00:53:58,660

And I'm an advocate of
physician-assisted suicide,

1300

00:53:58,660 --> 00:54:00,790

given sufficient safeguards.

1301

00:54:00,790 --> 00:54:03,010

And I think the
legislation that was passed

1302

00:54:03,010 --> 00:54:06,520

in originally Oregon, later
in the state of Washington

1303

00:54:06,520 --> 00:54:09,790

as well, is of that kind,
and is responsibly drawn,

1304

00:54:09,790 --> 00:54:12,408

and has involved
very few people,

1305

00:54:12,408 --> 00:54:13,825

and does something
very important.

1306
00:54:13,825 --> 00:54:15,790
It gives people control
over their lives

1307
00:54:15,790 --> 00:54:17,680
when they've lost all
dignity, and there's

1308
00:54:17,680 --> 00:54:19,430
no point in their living.

1309
00:54:19,430 --> 00:54:19,930
Yes.

1310
00:54:19,930 --> 00:54:22,150
That has been an
interest of mine.

1311
00:54:22,150 --> 00:54:24,490
That is age-related I guess.

1312
00:54:24,490 --> 00:54:27,460
Although, again, you don't
have to be of a certain age

1313
00:54:27,460 --> 00:54:30,600
in order to write
about it, obviously.

1314
00:54:30,600 --> 00:54:34,320
Do you have relationships
with German Jews--

1315
00:54:34,320 --> 00:54:37,720
Jews who are living
in Germany now?

1316
00:54:37,720 --> 00:54:38,220
No.

1317
00:54:38,220 --> 00:54:39,600

That community?

1318
00:54:39,600 --> 00:54:40,380
No.

1319
00:54:40,380 --> 00:54:42,950
No.

1320
00:54:42,950 --> 00:54:47,630
When we were-- for
the year in Freiburg,

1321
00:54:47,630 --> 00:54:50,510
the Jewish community of Freiburg
at one point invited us,

1322
00:54:50,510 --> 00:54:53,957
but I don't think we
did much with that.

1323
00:54:53,957 --> 00:54:55,790
We've never been a
member of a congregation,

1324
00:54:55,790 --> 00:54:59,190
so we didn't join there either.

1325
00:54:59,190 --> 00:54:59,690
No.

1326
00:54:59,690 --> 00:55:01,430
I've not been in touch with any.

1327
00:55:01,430 --> 00:55:05,585
I've been-- I'm in touch
with the German scholars

1328
00:55:05,585 --> 00:55:08,240
of related interests.

1329
00:55:08,240 --> 00:55:10,430
One of my good

friends in Germany

1330
00:55:10,430 --> 00:55:12,110
is a professor,
Eberhard Jackel, who

1331
00:55:12,110 --> 00:55:16,190
was instrumental in
bringing about the Memorial

1332
00:55:16,190 --> 00:55:18,240
for the Murdered Jews
of Europe in Berlin--

1333
00:55:18,240 --> 00:55:20,660
that famous memorial.

1334
00:55:20,660 --> 00:55:23,660
And when I was in
Berlin now I met a woman

1335
00:55:23,660 --> 00:55:27,380
who worked with him in
getting the German Parliament

1336
00:55:27,380 --> 00:55:31,460
to establish that memorial.

1337
00:55:31,460 --> 00:55:36,690
Her name is Rosh, a journalist.

1338
00:55:36,690 --> 00:55:37,740
I thought she was Jewish.

1339
00:55:37,740 --> 00:55:38,680
Her name is Lea Rosh.

1340
00:55:38,680 --> 00:55:39,930
She was born a different name.

1341
00:55:39,930 --> 00:55:43,840
Then she didn't like her German

name-- chose the name Lea.

1342

00:55:43,840 --> 00:55:47,250

She's also very
Philo-Semitic, one could say.

1343

00:55:47,250 --> 00:55:50,940

But she was highly effective,
together with Professor Jackel,

1344

00:55:50,940 --> 00:55:56,250

in leading to the
establishment of the memorial.

1345

00:55:56,250 --> 00:55:59,040

And Eberhard Jackel is
a good friend of mine.

1346

00:55:59,040 --> 00:56:02,280

And I've been in touch with
other German scholars with whom

1347

00:56:02,280 --> 00:56:07,460

I share interests, but not--

1348

00:56:07,460 --> 00:56:09,530

well, that aren't that
many Jews, after all,

1349

00:56:09,530 --> 00:56:11,360

in Germany today.

1350

00:56:11,360 --> 00:56:16,040

Many of them are Russian
rather than of German origin.

1351

00:56:16,040 --> 00:56:17,600

And the survivors
by now have all

1352

00:56:17,600 --> 00:56:20,920

died, certainly most
of them, probably.

1353
00:56:20,920 --> 00:56:21,420
Yeah.

1354
00:56:21,420 --> 00:56:25,950

1355
00:56:25,950 --> 00:56:26,670
So--

1356
00:56:26,670 --> 00:56:30,960
Well, I guess it's
lasted longer than you

1357
00:56:30,960 --> 00:56:32,410
and I perhaps expected, huh?

1358
00:56:32,410 --> 00:56:34,057
Well, thank you very much--

1359
00:56:34,057 --> 00:56:34,890
You're most welcome.

1360
00:56:34,890 --> 00:56:37,020
--for doing the interview.

1361
00:56:37,020 --> 00:56:40,770
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1362
00:56:40,770 --> 00:56:44,240
interview with Guenter Lewy.

1363
00:56:44,240 --> 00:56:47,000