

**Charles Small**

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### **Abstract**

Charles Small, the Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism and Policy, responds to questions in an interview on the SS St. Louis and anti-Semitism.

Discuss the history of the SS St. Louis from the Canadian perspective: The US Navy escorted the SS St. Louis into Canadian waters at a time of tension between English Canada and French Canada regarding entering World War II. The government in Quebec run by the Catholics was both Nationalistic and Fascist, similar to the Europeans opposed to accepting Jewish refugees and reflecting Jewish anti-Semitism in Europe. In March '39 German/Jewish tourists' visas in Canada were revoked and they had to return to Germany.

Reasoning of the Canadian Government on Denial of the SS St. Louis passengers' entrance: The SS St. Louis entered Canadian waters in May 1939. Mr. Blair did not permit entrance of Jews into Canada following a book published by Irving Labelle (?), "None is too Many." Mr. Blair said, "None is too many." The Canadians escorted the SS St. Louis back to Germany, knowing that many passengers would be imprisoned or die. The Jewish Community wanted the ship to dock at Halifax to discuss the issue but permission was not granted. The government thought that if these Jews were permitted into Canada, then millions from Europe would enter.

Denial to Dock believed by Canadian Citizens: In 1943 and 1944, Gallop polls of the citizens' opinion were taken after facts of the Holocaust were publicized. Thirteen percent who had knowledge of the Holocaust, were in favor of Jewish refugees entering Canada.

Level of Anti-Semitism in the 1930s: Anti-Semitism was part of the Montreal and Quebec culture. Jews could not live in certain parts of Montreal and Quebec. Catholic Society was sympathetic Fascists and anti-Semitic. Jewish doctors could not touch Catholic patients. Schools, hospitals and urban areas were institutionally complete- completely Jewish. The Anglo-Saxon institutions of McGill and the University of Toronto strict quotas against Jews were removed in the 60s.

Political Impact of Anti-Semitism: Canada had one of the worse records in the world to accept Jewish refugees. After the war, they accepted more Nazi war criminals than Jews. Canada moved from an Anglo-conformity culture to a bi-lingual and multi-culture in the 60s to join the UN and follow international human law. They left behind Anti-Semitism to follow international human rights.

Was rejection of SS St. Louis passengers anti-Semitic and racist philosophy?: Yes; 100% as no refugees were accepted when the Nazis rose to power. Canadians and the American public did

not bring these few refugees refuge. Their actions indicated bigotry and anti-Semitism. The refugees were Jewish and were not accepted because they were Jewish.

Antisemitism now and then: Now consider the demonization of Israel. Diaspora and student groups affiliated with Israel were connected to the demonization of Israel. Israel was called an apartheid State which is a form of anti-Semitism so Israel must be dismantled. Jews in the Diaspora were demonized as considered racist or like Nazis. The returning Jews on the St. Louis returned for certain death.

Events of '39 in Today's Context: Never again should a government be permitted to demonize humans to commit genocide. The same demonization is that of Israel. Racism is the pathway to genocide. Mr. Small was at a meeting where a Rwandan woman indicated she lost her husband in the genocide that continues. Speakers at the group believed there are indications that Iran desires to destroy Israel. Six Rwandans at a UN meeting requested he speak with them and explained they were demonized by being called cockroaches before their Genocide. They implied that this is happening to Israel. The US and Jewish courts and the Israeli government should be warned about Iran. They feel it is the same pattern towards Israel as it was towards Rwanda. The Holocaust began with demonization of Jews in the Diaspora with the Jews being the Nazis. It is the same in the Middle East today with radical political Islam. This demonization must be stopped.

Lasting effect of not permitting the passengers of the SS St. Louis to enter US?: We must take a step against barbarism, fascism and racism. North America accepted German Nazis so now we must send a clear message to Moslem Brotherhood to stop their messages against the Jews and Israel.

What should we tell people watching this interview in a few years?: We should not fight Anti-Semitism of the past but fight contemporary anti-Semitism. It is not popular to fight it to stop barbarism. We should not accept the demonization of Israel. Mr. Small was in an anti-apartheid popular movement so attended poetry, concerts and teach-ins. Now it is not popular to fight anti-Semitism and barbarism but we must be brave to stop it.