



The Holocaust and Public Memory: A Resource Guide

America's history of racism and xenophobia shaped how the government responded to the growing peril of the Nazi regime's persecution and murder of millions of Jews and other victims in Europe during WWII. The exhibit, "[Americans and the Holocaust](#)," and the PBS film, "[The U.S. and the Holocaust](#)," contextualize the events leading up to the Holocaust by examining the people, movements, and ideologies that shaped America's reaction to the crisis in Europe. The antisemitism, xenophobia, and bigotry of the Nazis was mirrored in the US by a history of anti-Black racism and anti-immigrant sentiment. The film also discusses the debt the "final solution" owed to eugenics that was taught in universities and colleges and widely accepted by intellectuals and ordinary people. The film shows how, long before the rise of Nazism in Europe, US immigration policy shifted from open borders to racial exclusion, stranding thousands of refugees who might have been saved.

Below are resources that provide more information about some of these subjects. All of these sources are accessible via DePaul's library website or freely available online.

Eugenics

Eugenics was not a fringe theory advocated by pseudo-scientists. It was a part of mainstream thinking in the social, medical, and natural sciences. Eugenic ideas were taught in high schools, consumed in newspapers and magazine articles, and promoted in many forms of popular culture and entertainment.

Websites

"[The Eugenics Archive](#)" contains articles, interactive exhibits, interviews, oral histories and other resources about Eugenics movements around the world.

"[Image Archive of the American Eugenics Movement](#)" is an on-line exhibit that features primary sources that were collected and analyzed at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory between 1910-1940.

eBooks

Paul Lombrardo. *A Century of Eugenics in America: From the Indiana Experiment to the Human Genome Project*.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/depaul/detail.action?docID=670259>

Nancy Ordover. *American Eugenics: Race, Queer Anatomy, and the Science of Nationalism*.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/depaul/detail.action?docID=310609>

Stefan Kühl. *The Nazi Connection: Eugenics, American Racism, and German National Socialism*. <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/depaul/detail.action?docID=431024>

Anti-Black Racial Terrorism

Laws that restricted the rights of African Americans were routinely enacted and enforced across the country. But in addition to the daily dehumanization of Jim Crow segregation, African Americans faced the potential threat of terrorism and violence at the hands of law enforcement and their fellow citizens. Some of the worst abuses were seen in the practice of lynching and the convict leasing system.

Books

Douglass Blackmon. *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of African Americans from the Civil War to World War II*. DePaul University Call Number: [305.896073 B629s2008](#)

Video

The documentary “Slavery by Another Name” based on Blackmon’s book can be streamed at [PBS.org](#) or [Alexander Street Videos](#) on the DePaul Library website.

Websites

Equal Justice Initiative, “Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror.”
<https://eji.org/reports/lynching-in-america/>

Equal Justice Initiative, “Lynching in America: Targeting Black Veterans.”
<https://eji.org/reports/targeting-Black-veterans/>

Immigration, Citizenship, and Racial Exclusion

Racially restrictive immigration laws were the culmination of decades of anti-Asian bigotry. The Johnson-Reed Act created immigration quotas that severely restricted immigrants from eastern Europe and nearly completely excluded migrants from any part of Asia. The xenophobic response to Asian immigrants culminated in the detention and deportation of immigrants from Angel Island, and the internment of 120,000 Japanese residents of the US, most of whom were the citizen children of immigrant parents.

Books and eBooks

Erika Lee. *At America’s Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era 1880-1943*.

Available online via DePaul Library:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/depaul/detail.action?docID=413340&pq-origsite=primo>

Mae Ngai. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Available online via DePaul Library:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/depaul/reader.action?docID=1584940&ppg=42>

Jia Lynn Yang. *One Mighty and Irresistible Tide: The Epic Struggle Over American Immigration 1924-1965*

DePaul Library Call Number: [325.73 Y224o 2020](#)

Websites

Densho: “Documenting the Japanese American Experience of Evacuation and Internment”

<https://densho.org/>

“The History of Angel Island Immigration Station” <https://www.aiisf.org/history>

“Immigrant Voices from Angel Island” <https://www.immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/>