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Research and Writing

The depictions of the Holocaust that I am unfortunately familiar with are the concentration camps that killed over one million people. I am also familiar with the general policy that the Nazis implemented, which was of “racial purity,” consisting of eliminating all “inferior” races. I am also aware of the mass shootings, mobile killing operations, and gas chambers that were used to exterminate Jews and other targeted groups during this period. The Holocaust in my mind is a horrifying and tragic time of history that was immoral and unjust in every possible way. According to the textbook, for half a century WWII shaped the screen images that the major participants projected of themselves out of the war. The historical memory of the war became a critical aspect of many societies’ understanding of the Industrial world system and their place in it. It says how there is a clear difference between how Germany and Japan handled the memory of it. For, Germany was open about the Nazi period, which has continued to unify Germany. The construction of their German identity through this historical self-criticism has been consciously directed not only at repudiating that past but at changing the direction and image of Germany. By contrast, Japan has been much less open about this time, as it is left out of textbooks and their history. The US memory of the war was a self-image as the world’s great bastion of democracy and freedom, which assumed leadership for nearly 50 years afterward. Many countries faced different feelings of identity and image, from national pride to criticism after the war and the Holocaust. Furthermore, footage of this time allowed the war to

reach mass audiences and contribute to the construction of popular images of what the war was about. They have also helped keep the war the most popular topic of military history in mass media. There are various television shows and movies that depict certain moments and versions of the war. However, US-made films tend to represent US accomplishments solely. Movies such as *Saving Private Ryan* and *Inglorious Bastards* depict great US pride and heroism, which is done to create nationalism. However, unfortunately, in all these accounts they are intentionally portraying aspects of the film that certain cultures will appreciate, which leads to great generalizations and misdirections of this historical time period.