

Research & Writing Ch. 24

It is unfortunate for me to say, but I can only refer to two illustrations of the Holocaust: the stock film footage of the concentration camps taken by the American military upon their arrival to rescue them at the close of World War II. And the dramatic retelling of Oskar Schindler's daring attempt to be a savior to the few he could in *Steven Spielberg's Schindler's List*. I was exposed to both around the same time, the film of the camps during the advent of the History Channel, about 1998 or 2000. I took an interest in World War II historically because of the blatant "good versus evil" screen image presented.

These images presented, especially in *Schindler's List*, are compelling, to say the least. Presented by Spielberg, who is of Jewish descent, stated that he doesn't believe he "will ever do anything as import [as this film] in his life." An interesting acknowledgment that he makes concerning his decision to film the movie almost strictly in black and white is because "I don't know the holocaust in color, but ive seen documentaries of the holocaust, and anybody who has seen any documentaries, they're all in black and white." His mental image of this tragic moment in history, thanks to film, is the same image that many of us have, and perpetuating that image by making that one connection resurrects similar emotions.

In today's world, film and documentaries must continue to be presented because, as the old adage goes, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." - Winston Churchill. It is necessary to see these depictions because before our ability to do so, an event as horrific as this, of which there have been many, would have been recorded in the annals of written history. Leaving the grim nature of this event to the imagination, which for a religion whose faith is littered with traumas and tragedies as the Jews must be seen, not only heard.

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#### Work Cited

“Steven Spielberg Talks Impact of 'Schindler's List' 25 Years Later | Today.” *YouTube*, YouTube, 6 Dec. 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JygJpipZYkQ>.