



### **"Can America Afford to Condemn Hitler for His Racial Policies?" (1934)**

<https://perspectives.ushmm.org/item/can-america-afford-to-condemn-hitler-for-his-racial-policies/collection/african-americans-and-world-war-ii>

1. What is the author's attitude toward antisemitism?
2. What is the major problem for the author about combatting the Nazi threat abroad while Black Americans experience oppression at home?
3. How can a document such as this build a bridge between the histories of the Holocaust and the American Civil Rights movement?
4. According to the author, what must Americans first do in order to combat Nazi racial policies abroad?

### **"Should I Sacrifice to Live 'Half-American?'" (1942)**

<https://perspectives.ushmm.org/item/should-i-sacrifice-to-live-half-american/collection/african-americans-and-world-war-ii>

1. What was the Double V campaign?
2. What is James Thompson's attitude toward the Double V campaign?
3. What questions does Thompson raise in his letter?
4. What issues does Thompson raise about the future?
5. What is his attitude toward the United States?
6. What obstacles did Black Americans face after the Second World War?

### **Langston Hughes: "Beaumont to Detroit: 1943"**

<https://perspectives.ushmm.org/item/langston-hughes-beaumont-to-detroit-1943/collection/african-americans-and-world-war-ii>

1. Why do you think Hughes compares Jewish oppression in Europe to African-American oppression in the US?
2. Be sure to contextualize the poem with students; they must understand the allusions in the poem to Beaumont and Detroit in 1943.
3. What symbols does the poem use? Why?

4. What is the poem's tone? What examples of language create the tone?
5. What is the rhythm of the poem?
6. How does rhythm contribute to meaning?
7. What do you need to explain to students today about this poem?
8. In what grade(s) should this poem be studied?

**W. E. B. Du Bois: "The Negro and the Warsaw Ghetto" (1952)**

<https://perspectives.ushmm.org/item/w-e-b-du-bois-the-negro-and-the-warsaw-ghetto/collection/african-americans-and-world-war-ii>

1. What is this object and how might it be significant to the history of the Warsaw ghetto?
2. Explain what this is and why it is important to combatting Holocaust denial?
3. These are examples of spiritual and armed, physical resistance
4. What was the Warsaw Ghetto uprising?
5. What surprised DuBois early on about racism in Europe?
6. How does visiting the ruins of the ghetto impact DuBois' thinking?
7. What other prejudices does DuBois consider to be as important as racial prejudice?
8. How can this essay be used a connector between Nazi racism and the Civil Rights Movement in the US?