



Biography



Deborah E. Lipstadt, Ph.D.

Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, has published and taught about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism for close to 40 years. Professor Lipstadt's book, "*ANTISEMITISM: HERE AND NOW*" has just been published to stellar reviews and been awarded the NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD. *Publisher's Weekly* described it as "measured and carefully noninflammatory, intelligent and evenhanded." *Kirkus* described it as a "tour de force." The book has already appeared in a German and Hebrew translation and will soon appear in Polish, Italian, and French.

She is frequently called upon by the Congress of the United States to testify and consult on contemporary anti-Semitism. She testified before the House Foreign Relations Committee in February 2020 on contemporary anti-Semitism and potential responses by the United States.

She served as the 2019-2020 Ina Levine Invitational Scholar at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.

She is probably most widely known because of the libel lawsuit brought against her (1996) by David Irving for having called him a Holocaust denier. Irving then was then arguably the world's leading denier.

After a ten-week trial in London (2000), in an overwhelming victory for Professor Lipstadt, the judge found Irving to be a "pro-Nazi polemicist" who "perverts" history and engages in "racist" and "anti-Semitic" discourse. The *Daily Telegraph* (London) described the trial as having "done for the new century what the Nuremberg tribunals or the Eichmann trial did for earlier generations." *The Times* (London) described it as "history has had its day in court and scored a crushing victory." According to the *New York Times*, the trial "put an end to the pretense that Mr. Irving is anything but a self-promoting apologist for Hitler."

Her TED talk about the trial has received 1.5 million views. The movie DENIAL, starring Rachel Weisz and Tom Wilkinson with a screenplay by David Hare, tells the story of this legal battle. It is based on her book "*HISTORY ON TRIAL: MY DAY IN COURT WITH A HOLOCAUST DENIER*" (Harper Collins 2006) and recently reissued as "*DENIAL*" (Harper Collins 2016). The film was nominated for a BAFTA as one of the best British films of the year.

She has written *"HOLOCAUST: AN AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING"* (Rutgers, 2016) which explores how America has understood and interpreted the Holocaust since 1945.

Her book, *"THE EICHMANN TRIAL"*, (Schocken/Nextbook 2011) published in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Eichmann trial, was called by *Publisher's Weekly*, "a penetrating and authoritative dissection of a landmark case and its aftereffects." The *New York Times Book Review* described Deborah Lipstadt as having "done a great service by... recovering the event as a gripping legal drama, as well as a hinge moment in Israel's history and in the world's delayed awakening to the magnitude of the Holocaust."

She has also published *"BEYOND BELIEF: THE AMERICAN PRESS AND THE COMING OF THE HOLOCAUST"* (Free Press, 1986) which surveys what the American press wrote about the persecution of the Jews in the years 1933-1945.

She is currently writing a biography of Golda Meir for the Yale University Press Jewish Lives series. She is also co-writing with Erica Brown a book on forgiving entitled SORRY NOT SORRY.

She has taught for the Wexner Foundation in all its programs for over thirty years.

At Emory she directs the website known as HDOT [[Holocaust Denial on Trial](#)] which contains a complete archive of the proceedings of Irving v. Penguin UK and Deborah Lipstadt. It also provides answers to frequent claims made by deniers.

In 2019 she won the Emory Mentorship award and in 2020 the Exemplary Teaching award. Both of these are university wide awards and only one is given each year. Lipstadt has won the Emory Williams Teaching Award. She was selected for the award by alumni as the teacher who had most influenced them.

Professor Lipstadt was an historical consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and helped design the section of the Museum dedicated to the American Response to the Holocaust.

She has held Presidential appointment to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council (from Presidents Clinton and Obama) and was asked by President George W. Bush to represent the White House at the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. She was part of a committee that advised Secretary of State Madeline Albright on matters of religious freedom abroad.

She has lectured in a wide variety of places including West Point, Sydney Opera House, Swedish Foreign Ministry, Melbourne Writers Festival, Hay on Wye Writers Festival, among many others.

She is frequently quoted in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Forward*, and *Tablet*. She regularly appears on BBC, CNN, NPR, and PBS among many others.

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