

The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz, and a Village Caught In Between By Michael Dobbs One of the most important questions remaining pertaining to the Holocaust is whether the United States could have done more to save lives be it bombing Auschwitz or allowing increased immigration. And Congress was dominated by isolationists.

"A piece of paper with a stamp on it meant the difference between life and death for thousands and thousands of people" wrote American journalist Dorothy Thompson after Kristallnacht in late 1938. But as Michael Dobbs describes in his remarkable new book THE UNWANTED: AMERICA AUSCHWITZ AND A VILLAGE CAUGHT IN BETWEEN victims of Nazi deportation policies ran into a stone wall in trying to gain entrance into the United States. Whether it was the stonewalling of the State Department the leadership or lack of thereof of Franklin Roosevelt or plain apathy or anti-Semitism Washington could have done a great deal more. " It seemed obstacle after obstacle was increasingly instituted to make it more and more difficult for Jewish refugees to gain entrance into America and avoid "transport to the east. All are torn from their homes and deported to camps in France all make valiant attempts to leave Germany by dealing with the US immigration system first with the consulate in Stuttgart and the result is many will escape through Marseilles or other avenues and cross the Atlantic go to Palestine while others will perish in Auschwitz. The narrative is poignant and elicits a great deal of anger on the part of this reader as the story of the US State Department's immigration policy under the aegis of Breckenridge Long the Assistant Secretary of State for immigration becomes crystal clear fears of anti-Semitic backlash enforcement of immigration law and isolationist elements in Congress along with his own inherent biases made it difficult for the President to come out in public and act. Dobbs empathetically describes in detail the damage arrests and fear in Kippenheim during Kristallnacht and uses the residents of the village as a microcosm of the overall crisis that Jews faced as the true intention of the Nazi regime came to the fore. At times it seemed that some of these impediments could be overcome but officials following orders from Washington created even more hoops to go through in order to obtain the necessary visas or "more stamps" on further documentation which may not have been called for months before. The tragedy for many like the Laflers is that when their numbers finally came up and the process for approval was gain Freya and Hugo were already victims of the crematoria in Auschwitz. Dobbs takes the reader through the transport of refugees from Baden to the internment camp of Gurs through Marseilles and its poor living conditions the bureaucratic run-a-round and their final fate. The trauma of family members is plain as day as they deal with the daily attempts at survival and the highs and lows of believing they have the necessary paperwork to leave and then have their hopes dashed by bureaucratic stalling events like Pearl Harbor and the invasion of Russia. Dobbs follows the families in detail based on assiduous research and interviews with survivors like Hedy Wachenheimer who at the age of fourteen became part of the Kindertransport program and left her parents to live with families in London while eventually her parents would perish. Perhaps the most poignant narrative describes Hedy's visit to Germany and Kippenheim in particular after the war working for the US military and wearing a uniform she must face people who harassed and demeaned her as a child. Dodd is to be commended for his effort in bringing to life the fate of the Kippenheim Jews but more so at a time when immigration is such a hot controversial issue perhaps politicians should review US immigration policy during WWII and contemplate whether at times history should force us as a people to open up our hearts and let political partisanship recede into the background at least for a short time. " This sounds like current political rallies and comments that tell "brown" people who are hear on legal visas and those legally seeking asylum to "get out and go home" or "send her home. Trist dur adevärat :( The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between I devoured this book! It was by far the most interesting non-fiction book I have read about WWII and the Holocaust. It gave a specific view of the immense difficulties of obtaining visas to immigrate to America at the time when Hitler was just coming into play and about those that made it to safer parts of the world and those that did not. )Well researched and laid out Dobbs includes the back history of how this village was first terrorized and gives an excellent time line of

the history from the early rising of Hitler to the end of the war including the time line of what was going on in America - FDR anti-semitism and the efforts of many to either curb immigration or save as many as could be saved. Dobbs shows the plight of the St Louis with 937 Jews on board unable to hold port in Cuba or America and what happened to those on board as well as many examples of families and how they were torn apart. The Unwanted is one of the best books I've read on this subject - very informative and learning!

The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between Dupa violentele ramase in istorie sub numele de Noaptea de Cristal cozile la ambasada si consulatele SUA din Germania au devenit interminabile. Daca ar fi dupa mine a strigat senatorulas construi chiar azi un zid in jurul Statelor Unite atat de inalt si de sigur incat niciun strain si niciun refugiat din nicio tara de pe fata pamantului nu ar putea sa-l intreaca sau sa-l urce. The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between Historian Michael Dobb's new book The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between is one of the best works of non-fiction I've read in a while. Dobbs writes about the fight to get Jewish refugees into the United States in the years right before WW2 (and extending into 1941) using the plight of Jews from the small German village of Kippenheim as they realised what was happening to them. From there attempts by United States charities and government entities to save these few thousands of German Jews (including Kippenheim's contingent) and send them to safety in the US or Mexico or Martinique. By concentrating on the fates of a hundred or so German Jews in the morass of Gurs and Marseilles and interspersing the activities being carried on by the US to both save them from being sent East OR foil that attempt because of prejudice by some American officials Michael Dobbs has delivered a dandy of a book. The book clearly points out how FDR tried to do more but he was aware of the political culture in which he served and how making too many changes could be even more catastrophic. The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between Did FDR betray the Jews of Europe? Did he turn a blind eye toward the Nazi Final Solution by preventing thousands of Jewish refugees from entering the United States? Clearly there is ample evidence that President Roosevelt resisted pressure to admit German Jews fleeing from the Nazis and on more than one occasion. FDR was convinced that any effort to circumvent the immigration quotas laid down in decades of restrictive policies would trigger an effort by Congress to restrict the inflow of immigrants even more harshly. For FDR the priority was to steer the United States toward its inevitable place among the Allies before Pearl Harbor and after that to keep Congress from shrinking the immigration quotas. The United States admitted more Jewish refugees than any other country except Palestine As Dobbs reports from 1933 to 1942 162575 'Hebrew immigrants' had been admitted to the United States since Hitler's rise to power in Germany. Clearly some of the consular officials who served on the front lines in Europe in vetting visa applicants were themselves deeply prejudiced and dragged their feet when Jews appeared before them. Forty-one individual human beings caught up in the Holocaust To bring his subject down to human scale Dobbs illustrates the impact of the rapidly shifting currents of US immigration policy on the tiny Jewish community of a village called Kippenheim near the French border in western Germany. Yet through good fortune and the resolute action of loving parents Hedy not only survived but six years after fleeing Germany she returned in an American military uniform as a translator for the Occupation. About the author Michael Dobbs is best known on both sides of the Atlantic as the author of a book called House of Cards on which both the British and American hit TV shows were based. Roosevelt urged FDR at the very least to authorize a rescue program for children but President Roosevelt feared that if he granted her wish he would pay a steep political price. In this lucid and enlightening work of non-fiction Dobbs provides an intimate detailed and infuriating look at man's inhumanity to man and he demonstrates what can happen when a dictator sets in motion a Final Solution for eliminating undesirables. Sadly although newspapers published articles outlining the atrocities that were occurring in Europe this knowledge did not lead to widespread efforts to assist the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Cand invatam din trecut? The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between Michael Dobbs does an excellent job bring the people in this history to life in the most heart-wrenching and fact based way. The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village

## Caught In Between



The powerfully told story of a group of German Jews desperately seeking American visas to escape Nazi Germany and an illuminating account of America's response to the refugee crisis of the 1930's and 40's. This book complements the exhibition The Americans and the Holocaust that is now on view at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC In October 1940 the Gestapo expelled 6504 Jews from southwest Germany creating the first official Jewish free zone in the Third Reich. Drawing on previously unpublished letters diaries and visa records Michael Dobbs provides a vivid picture of what it was like to live among increasingly hostile neighbors waiting for the piece of paper with a stamp that meant the difference between life and death. And he recounts the debates over the fate of these refugees occurring simultaneously at the highest levels of the American government at a time when the public was deeply isolationist xenophobic and antisemitic. The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between To distinguish myself from all the presidential historians out there I have invented a new area of expertise: presidential crisis historian. My latest book [King Richard: An American Tragedy](#) relates the Shakespearean tale of the self made man who scrambled his way to the top only to see his dreams turn to nightmares because of tragic character flaws. In between these two events I covered the imposition of martial law in Poland the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe Gorbachev Reagan summits the Tiananmen uprising in China and the 1989 revolution in Romania. I also spent seven years at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where I organized conferences on the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia and researched and wrote [The Unwanted](#),

And the lack of action and empathy on the part of President Franklin D: Roosevelt whose excuses for not acting in any meaningful way is fully described: In the recent past historian Richard Breitman focused on Franklin D: Roosevelt's impact and David Wyman zeroed in on the US Department of State, In both instances the president and the bureaucracy were found wanting, In the case of Roosevelt political concerns about Neutrality legislation.

When Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler issued a decree banning Jewish emigration from the Reich, The official Nazi practice from that date onward was systematic annihilation rather than expulsion. Did FDR betray the Jews of Europe? Americans tend to seek simple answers to complex questions, But that's not possible in evaluating the response of the United States government to the plight of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. Many believe that FDR deliberately and callously rejected efforts to admit thousands of refugees on the St, Louis and other ships and that he repeatedly refused to increase immigration quotas that would permit many more to be saved. But did FDR betray the Jews? Dobbs makes it abundantly clear that the President had little or no choice in these matters, Four out of five Americans opposed increased immigration; many were especially hostile to Jewish refugees: For Jews trying to escape the Nazi terror as the Final Solution approached the only avenue of escape seemed to be emigration from Germany to the United States, bureaucracy continued to turn disconnected from the tragic events that had set them in motion: "Dobbs' focus is on the small village of Kippenheim in Baden in western Germany with a population of 144 Jews out of a total population of 1800. The author follows the plight of a number of families who lived through

the events of Kristallnacht in November of 1938 and realized that they must try and leave Germany, The families the Valfers Wertheimers and Wachenheimers among a number that Dobbs concentrates had varied experiences: All are subject to Nazi violence and torture in some measure. The book focuses on the period of late 1938 to the fall of 1942 when the Final Solution is in full motion. As far as the State Department is concerned they would enforce the restrictionist 1924 Johnson Act quotas that legally called for 27370 Germans to immigrate to the US each year, 2% was filled - the period of greatest need for victims of the Baden deportations from 1938: According to the historical record officials in the State Department purposely created roadblocks to deny Jewish refugees admission to the United States even women and children. Dobbs explores the violence against the residents of Kippenheim and the attempts by families to try and emigrate to the US and the roadblocks they faced, He delves into the State Department bureaucracy and how certain people created roadblocks to entry into America: The consulate interview begins the process but so many Jews wanted to emigrate there was a three year wait to begin the process: Vichy governmental collaboration with the Nazis led by Prime Minister Pierre Laval and French police is ever present: Dobbs goes on to relate how people both Jewish and non-Jewish worked to rebuild the synagogue in the village as a memorial to what occurred, The process was long and difficult but because of survivors like Kurt Maier and Mayor Willi Mathis the building was restored to its role as a true house of worship in 2003. At the outset of Dobbs 'narrative Hedy Wachenheimer rode from her home on her bicycle to school. Upon arrival and seated in class for her lessons the usually gentle principal pointed at her and yelled "Get out you dirty Jew: " Is this who we are as a people? The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between Despre ororile holocaustului, Despre Hitler Roosevelt despre evreii care nu puteau emigra în nici una dintre tari pentru ca nimeni nu ii vroiau: It is a well written account most specifically about the Jews who lived in the small village of Kippenheim Germany, (If I remember correctly there were 144 Jews in this village just before Kristlernaught. Sute de mii de evrei se bateau pe cele 27 370 de vize oferite anual tuturor cetatenilor Germaniei: Doar 5% din americani sustineau cresterea cotei de emigrare in timp ce 77% isi doreau REDUCEREA cotei de emigrare, D Roosevelt a fost nevoit sa aiba mare grija unde isi investeste capitalul politic de teama de a nu-si submina baza de putere. Presedintele nu voia sa-si iroseasca autoritatea pe o cauza pierduta. In acel moment pregatirea tarii pentru razboi beneficia de prioritate, Merg aproape la propriu pe coji de oua i-a marturisit FDR unui oficial britanic. 20 000 de copii evrei nu au mai fost primiti de teama ca douazeci de miide copii fermecatori ar fi crescut devenind in scurt timp doazeci de mii de adulti urati: Purtatorul de cuvânt al fortelor antiemigrare senatorul Robert Reynolds din Carolina de Nord a denuntat initiativa privind copii refugiatii intr-o transmisiune nationala. America lui Reynolds nu difera mult de America lui Trump asa cum reiese din discursul acestuia: Sa pastram America pentru baietii si fetele noastre, Pe acest fundal politic s-au desfasurat dramele strainilor indezirabili: It's not far from the French/German border of the Rhine River, (Dobbs helpfully puts maps of both the village and it's location in Germany), Jews and Christians lived peacefully with each other for generations: The town's synagogue was right down the street from the Catholic Church. However by the mid-1930's as the Nazis consolidated their hold on the government and the people Kippenheim's Jews began to feel the regime's oppression: Some residents - perhaps more omniscient than others - left Kippenheim for safer places, But by 1938 and the Kristallnacht pogrom Jews all over Germany woke up to the deep threat of the Nazis: Plans were made to leave Germany but those plans entailed getting approvals from nations to emigrate to and approvals to leave Germany, (It was still the official German policy to encourage Jewish emigration rather than extermination, )Dobbs details three or four families from the village and the attempts they made to get out, Many were successful and were able to leave before and slightly after the breakout of war on September 3 1939. But most of the remaining Jews were sent to Gurs - a holding camp in the southwest part of France, He's an incredibly smooth writer and he seems to know that readers appreciate maps and pictures and charts because he includes them in the text: His story of the village of Kippenheim is complete when he looks at the village today. (By the way I have always thought that this Michael Dobbs was the same author who wrote House of Cards and other works of fiction: ) The Unwanted:

America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between Every year I teach the Holocaust in my classroom as we read about Anne Frank and other novels on the topic. And obviously students always want to know what the US did to help. I thought I had answers before but this was so much better: Ostensibly this is about the US immigration process in the 1930s and 40s which was a tangled mess of bureaucracy and apathy. But this puts faces to those numbers breathes life into the story, Focusing on the small southwest German town of Kippenheim we follow a few different families: the Valfers the Wachenheimers the Weitheimers etc, ) These were bigger middle class families in this town and it seemed to be really indicative of what people actually went through, They were intelligent and determined and had enough money to try to change their circumstances without being considered wealthy: On the US side of the pond we focus on a few specific key players namely Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt along with specific members of FDR's cabinet, It's a hard line to walk and I now understand more of the problems he faced even if like many many others I wish he'd been able to do more, This book is written in a way that's easy to read (not always achieved in nonfiction) and interesting. You get invested in what happens to each of the people involved, You see how complicated the process becomes and how strong these people were to try to escape that over and over and over again as the system kept spitting them back out, But the context in which he made those decisions suggests he had little choice, That's one of the dominant themes of Michael Dobbs's illuminating new book on the Holocaust The Unwanted. Dobbs's subject is the immigration policy of the United States focusing on the years 1938 to 1943, These years spanned the period between Kristallnacht (November 9-10 1938) and October 23 1941 many of them overtly anti-Semitic. Despite often intense pressure from his wife the organized American Jewish community and sympathetic allies such as the Quakers he did in fact decline to open the rolls wider. But that practice must be seen in the wider context of the times. FDR believed the country was doing the most it possibly could to accommodate Jewish refugees: A hundred thousand had arrived in the three years following Kristallnacht. Adding visitor visas the total number of self-identified Hebrew admissions for the decade came to 204085. This number was far greater than that of any other country: The only territory that accepted more Jews than the United States during the same decade was British-administered Palestine, It's well known that the US State Department under Cordell Hull (1933-1944) was riddled with anti-Semitism: But Dobbs reports that others played key roles in facilitating the escape of German Jews. Similarly some officials based in Washington used every bureaucratic trick in the book to slow down or halt the admission of refugees from the Nazis. But others weighed in in support of the Jews and often with success sometimes with strong support from the President himself: It's clear that whatever else might be said of FDR's actions he was not acting dishonorably or in any way that might be termed prejudiced. To the question Did FDR betray the Jews? the direct answer is No, In 1933 144 Jews lived there among a total population of about 1800, By the end of the decade only forty-one remained in the village: And Dobbs keeps them all squarely in his sights as he traces American policy through those years. The Unwanted opens and closes through the eyes of Hedy Wachenheimer, Fourteen years old she witnessed the madness unleashed throughout Germany by Kristallnacht. Although she was used to being treated like a pariah that event proved to be a watershed, Her life and that of her family and friends was never the same afterward: Because her parents had forced her to leave on a Kindertransport to England (May 18 1939) Hedy was among the survivors of Kippenheim's Jewish community. One hundred had left the village before her although many simply moved to larger towns and cities and were later sent to the death camps: But most of those who remained after that event were not so lucky. They were among the 6500 Jews deported from the state of Baden to concentration camps in unoccupied France in October 1940: Eleven percent found refuge overseas mostly in the United States, A further 12 percent mainly children and elderly women succeeded in hiding out in France until the end of the war: At various times he has been involved in politics journalism advertising and public speaking: He holds a doctorate from Harvard and Tufts Universities and sits in Britain's House of Lords: The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between For years Christians and Jews lived peacefully side by side in Kippenheim a small town in Germany. However after Hitler was appointed

chancellor in 1933 the Nazi regime began to systematically remove Jews from all aspects of German society, During Kristallnacht the Night of the Broken Glass bands of Nazi thugs went on a murderous rampage, The Germans robbed the Jewish citizens of their civil rights livelihoods access to education and personal possessions: Some individuals who saw the handwriting on the wall managed to emigrate but others were unable to escape in time: Michael Dobbs author of *The Unwanted* obtained a wealth of information from interviews oral histories diaries memoirs newspaper articles photographs and speeches: He links the experiences of Kippenheim's inhabitants to the mood in Europe and America during the thirties and forties: We witness the agony and fear of desperate Jews waiting in long lines outside the U, consulate hoping to acquire the necessary documents to book passage to America, Meanwhile quite a few elected officials and their constituents in Washington D. A few influential figures pushed to ease America's restrictive immigration quotas but the majority of Americans were adamantly against allowing Jewish refugees to enter the United States, *The Unwanted* is a wrenching work of non-fiction that is enhanced by its evocative photographs superb introductory essays and powerful epilogue. *The Unwanted: America Auschwitz and a Village Caught In Between* Nu au fost doriti au fost purtati de colo-colo: Cat de asemanator cu zilele noastre cu refugiatii/migrantii care nici ei nu sunt doriti sunt tratati urat etc, Questions I had about where the western powers were and what they were doing to help alleviate the suffering of Jews on the European continent were thoroughly answered. And it made me reconsider my thoughts on many of the moving historical pieces from that period: Interned in concentration camps in Vichy France the deportees set out on a multi-year quest to acquire American visas: or to other foreign countries; the remainder perished in French camps or later in Auschwitz, Among these unwanted refugees were Jews from the village of Kippenheim whose stories are at the heart of this book, Here is the riveting narrative of a small community struggling to survive amid tumultuous events and reach a safe haven despite the odds stacked against them, How a president confronts the gravest challenges of modern times and how his decisions affect the rest of us has been a recurring theme of my seven books. {site\_link} *One Minute to Midnight* focused on possibly the gravest crisis ever in October 1962 when John F: Kennedy stepped back from the nuclear brink at the last possible moment. {site\_link} *The Unwanted* looked at Franklin Roosevelt's handling of the Jewish refugee crisis that preceded the Holocaust, {site\_link} *Six Months in 1945* examined how FDR and Truman negotiated the perilous transition from World War to Cold War, How a president confronts the gravest challenges of modern times and how his decisions affect the rest of us has been a recurring theme of my seven books: {site\_link} *One Minute to Midnight* focused on possibly the gravest crisis ever in October 1962 when John F, Kennedy stepped back from the nuclear brink at the last possible moment, {site\_link} *The Unwanted* looked at Franklin Roosevelt's handling of the Jewish refugee crisis that preceded the Holocaust. {site\_link} *Six Months in 1945* examined how FDR and Truman negotiated the perilous transition from World War to Cold War. Before becoming {site\_link} an author I was a journalist and foreign correspondent, After a stint in Rome as a correspondent for Reuters and a tour of Africa I lived in Yugoslavia during the twilight years of Marshal Tito, I moved to Poland for *The Washington Post* just in time to witness the extraordinary spectacle of workers rebelling against the workers' state. I was the first western reporter to visit the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk in August 1980, As *The Post's* bureau chief in Moscow I was standing in front of Boris Yeltsin in August 1991 when he climbed on a tank to face down Communist hardliners, In addition to my work as a journalist and a historian I have taught courses at the universities of Princeton Michigan and Georgetown as well as American University. Truer words were never written. As Dobbs points out "the wheels of the U.S. It is clear that in 1940-41 only 62.1% of the quota was filled and the 1941-42 only 7. Presedintele F. Legea Wagner-Rogers a fost respinsa de Congres. dupa cum remarca cinic o verisoara a presedintelui. Sa dam slujbele americane cetatenilor americani. Sa pastram America pentru americani.Kippenheim is located in the German area of Baden. That came later. I just thought he was a very prolific writer. But they're not the same guy though they may be cousins. (I may have spelled one of those wrong. Some make it to safety some don't. It's heartbreaking at times but it's so worth reading.A teenage girl survived. Millions

didn't. Thirty-one were gassed at Auschwitz. Roughly one in four of the deportees died [there] . . many from typhus or malnutrition. Four out of ten were deported to Auschwitz. S. C. and elsewhere were isolationists and/or bigots. Mrs. Lumii internationale nu-i pasa ca oameni erau exterminati. Au gasit pana la urma un loc unde sa-i adune: Israel. Definitely worth the read. He's an excellent writer of nonfiction. One in four eventually managed to gain entry to the U.S. {site\_link} King Richard is my seventh book. {site\_link}.