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Week Nine Recitation Questions

1. It is clear that he doesn’t remember everything he is talking about. Since it was over 20 years, there are some details that are left out. It is much easier to remember the emotions that were felt during this time. It is difficult to remember the exact details of what went happened. Thus, it is much more difficult to assess the motives of other individuals because no all the details of the situation are remembered.
2. The Germans wanted their culture to be the only culture in Germany because they believed it was superior. The swing dance was from American culture so using it was seen as a rebellion against German culture. They condemned this dance so that their culture would remain as the dominant one in Germany. Using other cultures was seen as a threat to German nationalism because people might not believe that German culture is the best if they are exposed to other cultures. The Germans condemned the swing dance to prevent this.

1. Fascism is a political ideology that involves taking away the freedoms of the general population so the leaders can have more power. It only works if the people are ignorant to what is going on in the government. Criticism and debate allows for the spread of information to the people and reveals what the government is doing. The people would then see that their freedoms are being taken from them and they would revolt and the fascist government would eventually fall. For a fascist government to survive, it must be intolerant toward criticism and debate.
2. There are two reasons for this response from the people. One reason is that a large portion of the population truly believed in what the Nazis were doing. Hitler was very good at using propaganda and brainwashing the people. Because of this, many people believed the crimes that were committed were done for the greater good for the German people. The other reason people responded in this way is because they feared punishment. The Nazis had full control of the government so it was illegal to disagree with anything they did. People thought that they would be killed if they spoke out against the crimes being committed. So, many people stayed silent because they feared they would be killed or put into a concentration camp otherwise.

1. In the readings, it is said that many soldiers would back out of being a part of the firing squad. Even their superior didn’t want to be a part of it. This shows that there will always be a personal connection between humans no matter how much you try to dehumanize them. Dehumanizing the Jews wasn’t enough to convince soldiers to shoot them in the back of the head. They had to use much less personal ways of killing them to get the Nazi soldiers on board.

1. I do think that dancing and other cultural forms represent effective resistance against totalitarianism. When resisting a totalitarianism government, it is important that the people in the resistance have a cause to believe in. The different cultural forms create a base for a cause that people can get behind. It is important that people have a reason to resist and these cultural forms help create it. I define resistance as any ideological or physical attack against a government that is taking away your freedoms.