

Holocaust and the European identity. The Legacy of the Holocaust in Post-War European Political Culture

The research on Holocaust remembrance in European countries – especially in Germany – is comprehensive. There are numerous studies of European identity and politics. And it is agreed upon that the Holocaust especially since 1990, has become an important frame of reference in Europe.

Europe is however lacking a through study of the connection between remembrance, identity, and politics, that can answer the question why and how the Holocaust has become such an important factor in Europe. It is exactly this gap that my PhD-project seeks to fill.

The project seeks to examine how the intentions of the Council of Europe and the EEC/EU, to influence the formation of identity, have impacted the national level. The project will study how the formation of identity in Europe is influenced by national and supranational/European currents and find out which role the Holocaust plays. To be more specific the project will examine how political decisions, debates, treaties, resolutions etc. on the European and the national level are affecting each other. And it will examine how they are affecting or changing the teaching of history (curricula, schoolbooks etc.) in Germany, Great Britain, France and Denmark, which will be representing the national level.

The project will not only answer the question of why and how the Holocaust has become such an important frame of reference in European politics and formation of identity. It will also increase the understanding of which mechanisms and dynamics are dominant in Europe. It will shed light on which players are affecting the agenda in Europe and thereby contribute to a broader discussion of how they interact.