

Lies, libel and denial the focus of Holocaust Remembrance 2011 at Palm Beach State College March 31

(Palm Beach Gardens – March 18, 2011) One of the most famous Holocaust denial courtroom battles came down to six pages in a book - about 300 words - by Professor Deborah Lipstadt's estimation, and not even six full pages at that. Lipstadt admits saying some harsh things about David Irving, a noted British writer whose works specialized in the military history of World War II.

Lipstadt, the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies and Director of the Institute for Jewish Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, will be the guest scholar for the Palm Beach State College's Holocaust Remembrance 2011 at the Palm Beach Gardens campus March 31.

Holocaust Remembrance 2011 begins at 9:30 a.m. with Lipstadt's first discussion, "Dealing With Denial: Why & How" at the Eissey Campus Theatre. Her afternoon talk, "History on Trial" A Personal Encounter With Denial" starts at 2 p.m. This year's theme - Holocaust denial - is a subject to which Lipstadt has devoted much of her academic career. Irving and other "revisionists" distort the recorded history of the Holocaust, as survivors pass away and memories diminish - memories kept alive through the works and teachings of Lipstadt and other Holocaust scholars.

Irving is the author of over 30 books on World War II history, including *The Destruction of Dresden* (1963), *Hitler's War* (1977), and *Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich* (1996).



In a recent newspaper interview about her libel trial with Irving, Lipstadt said "I said that he is the most dangerous of Holocaust deniers. I said that he knows the truth and he bends it to fit his preexisting political views. And by implication, though I didn't directly call him one, in my book [I implied] that he was an anti-Semite and a racist as well."

Lipstadt is referring to her 1993 book, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, an expose on the myths, distortions and political agendas of Holocaust deniers. David Irving sued Lipstadt and her publisher, Penguin U.K., for libel in British court in 1996, saying his reputation as a historian was defamed. Irving brought suit against Lipstadt in England because libel laws there shift the burden of proof to the defendant.

At the end of the four-month trial in 2000, based in part on the expert testimony of scholar Christopher Browning (a 2009 Holocaust Remembrance guest lecturer), the judge ruled in favor of Lipstadt and found that Irving was a Holocaust denier, anti-Semitic, racist and associated with right wing extremists who promoted neo-Nazism.

In addition to *History on Trial* and *Denying the Holocaust*, Lipstadt is the author of *Beyond Belief: The American Press and the Coming of the Holocaust*, a comprehensive study of how the American press downplayed or ignored the growing reports of Jewish persecution during the 12-year history of the Third Reich

Both lectures are free and open to the public; tickets are required for admission and are based on availability. Professor Lipstadt also will have a book signing at 11 a.m. Call the Eisey Campus Theatre box office at (561) 207-5900 or visit the College's Holocaust Remembrance webpage at www.palmbeachstate.edu/Holocaust.xml for more information.

Serving more than 52,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida's first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

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