

GEORGE W. BUSH AND THE INFLUENCE OF HOLOCAUST MEMORY ON HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

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OUTLINE

President Bush and the connection between Human Rights Promotion and Holocaust Memory

- April 18, 2007 Speech at U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Historical Setting
- The impact of 9/11 and the Bush Doctrine
- Jewish Intellectual Responses to Bush Doctrine in Iraq

THE MAIN POINT

- President Bush and his administration made the improvement of human rights a priority
- President Bush had an understanding of the Holocaust as a historical problem and subsequently made decisions with this influence in mind
- Action can be seen with in effort to improve human rights so that global stability and U.S. security improve following the events of September 11, 2001

HISTORICAL SETTING

- President Jimmy Carter
- President Ronald Reagan
- President George H.W. Bush
- President Bill Clinton





SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



ACTION TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

- Overthrow oppressive Taliban government in Afghanistan
- Remove Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein
- Bring democracy to countries like Afghanistan and Iraq
- Establish Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

ACTION TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

- Reduce proliferation of nuclear arms
- Support American allies such as Israel
- Promote educational initiatives centered on accountability
- Aid to combat genocide in Darfur
- Promote economic development in Africa

THE CONNECTION

Holocaust memory, as a historical lesson, informs President Bush's human rights agenda.

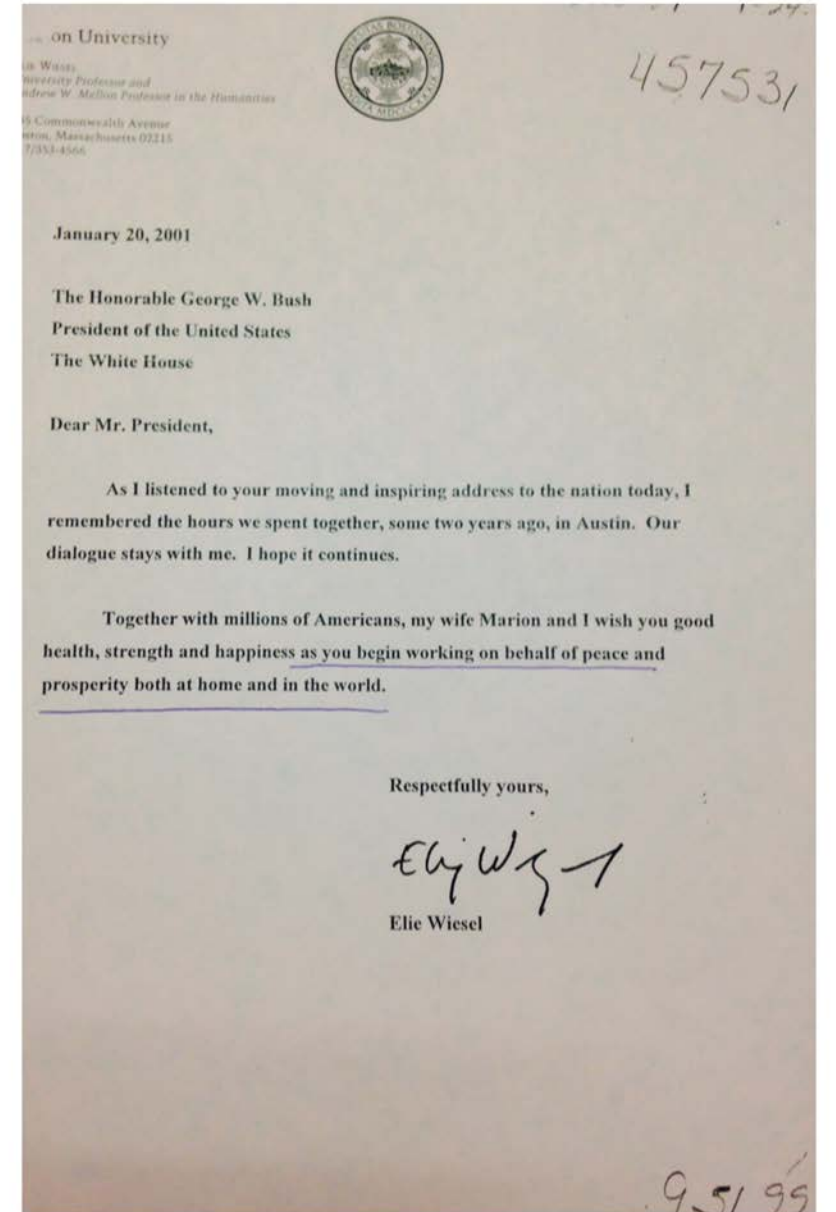
SPEECHES

**UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL
MUSEUM APRIL 18, 2001**

“The images here stay with you” and that
“the stories we have must be preserved
forever.”

ELIE WIESEL CONNECTION

Wished President Bush well as
he “began working on behalf of
peace and prosperity both at
home and in the world.”



COMPONENTS OF SPEECHES

- “Never Again”
- “Evil is real”
- “Need to come together”

VISITS

AUSCHWITZ, 2003



KIGALI MEMORIAL CENTRE IN RWANDA, 2008



EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

PROMOTION OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

- President Bush's personal reading
- Visits from historians such as John Lewis Gaddis
- Presidential appointments to U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Board of Directors, Office of Holocaust Issues, and the Task Force for International Cooperation of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Awareness

JEWISH INTELLECTUALS DEFEND WAR IN IRAQ

- Norman Podhoretz

“what we are fighting is indeed a **world war against another totalitarian aggressor.**”

- Richard Pipes

“approves of its principles, and I **admire his determination** in pursuing it.”

JEWISH INTELLECTUALS DEFEND WAR IN IRAQ

- **Paul Johnson**

America “acts for itself, but also for the world ... the evil organizations that threaten the United States and the regions that support them, also threaten the entire world, its men, women, and children.”

- **Natan Sharansky**

“the President of the United States rightly understands, as few leaders of the last century have understood, that **his own nation’s security depends on the advance of freedom around the world.**”

MAIN POINTS

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“We will encourage reform in other governments by making clear that success in our relations will require the decent treatment of their own people. America’s belief in human dignity will guide our policies, yet rights must be more than the grudging concessions of dictators; they are secured by free dissent and the participation of the governed. In the long run, **there is no justice without freedom, and there can be no human rights without human liberty.**”