From Swastika to Jim Crow

In today’s world, questions of how to best build and maintain democratic societies that are pluralistic, open, and resilient to violence are more relevant than ever.

Studying the Holocaust using Facing History’s approach allows students to wrestle with profound moral questions raised by history today and fosters their skills in ethical reasoning, critical thinking, empathy, and civic engagement – all of which are critical for sustaining democracy. This workshop, featuring Facing History’s Holocaust and Human Behavior resource and in collaboration with Holocaust Education Resource Council, Florida State University Holocaust Institute, and College of Motion Picture Torchlight Program will enable you as an educator to support your own adult learning and provide strategies that can be used with your students. We will highlight ideas (and misconceptions) of race in Nazi Germany and in the United States in preparation for a special film screening and discussion.

As an integral part of the workshop, on the evening of June 11, we will view the film From Swastika to Jim Crow, followed by a discussion with filmmakers Lori Cheatle and Martin D. Toub and moderated by Facing History’s Phredd MatthewsWall. This documentary tells the little-known story of Jewish intellectuals who escaped Nazi Germany to the United States in the 1930s, only to confront antisemitism at American universities. Many of the professors secured teaching positions at traditionally black colleges in the then-segregated South.

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