

First Place Division I – Writing

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The Blanket of Hate

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The Blanket of Hate

The Blanket of Hate is black of nature, black enough for some to ignore and black enough to destroy and suffocate the soul of those within it. The blanket is hard to remove but it is easy to put on. There are four types of people in terms of a blanket, the benefactors, the bystanders, the removers, and the suffocating. This ecosystem of people is balanced and the cycle is stable. However, sometimes there can be problems. The Blanket of Hate is one that is too big and heavy to remove. It has had many victims such as the slaves from Africa and the Indian tribes of North America. But in 1938 the Blanket of Hate would begin to weave more rapidly than ever before.

On November 9-10, 1938 on the Night of Broken Glass or Kristallnacht as the Germans called it, the blanket took a firm root in Germany. A benefactor, Adolf Hitler saw the blanket as a way to cover up his failures. That night, the Blanket of Hate found its new victim, the people of Germany split into the four types of people.

The Benefactors

The blanket began to lightly coat Germany in 1933 on February 1, two days after Adolf Hitler received the position of chancellor, when he went on the radio and broadcasted a speech. He promised a better future, different from the past. About a month and half later on March 22, 1933 the first concentration camp, Dachau, was created and some Jews were sent there. They were where the blanket was the most damp and suffocating. The benefactors themselves were comforted by the blanket. They took solace in the thought that those who they threw the blanket on were those who took the blame. For them it was like a tarp that protected the blunt of the burning rays of the sun. The hate spewing from them contaminated the minds of those who knew no better.

The Bystanders

There were many of these in Germany and around the world. In Germany they mostly split into two groups: those who were just happy to follow orders and those too afraid to stand up for others. The black blanket hid in the shadows of their minds covering the conscience of helping the suffocating and feeding off the thoughts of its host and emptying into a shell ready to be a vessel of the desperation and propaganda planted by the benefactors. The bystanders became suffocated. The process took years and the blanket started to form knots and clumps like a clogged valve ready to burst at any moment. The now full shells were ready and finally the clumps burst.

The Suffocating

On November 9-10, 1938 the blanket had finished coating the suffocating and now became damper than ever before. An estimated 30,000 people were claimed by the Blanket of Hate. Jewish stores, books, and more were burned and destroyed. In the aftermath they found their rights stripped along with their dignity. They could no longer leave their houses in fear that they would be caught and sent away to the unknown. On September 1, 1941 Reinhard Heydrich, a benefactor, made the announcement that all Jews six or older in German annexed territories had to wear a yellow Star of David showing that they were Jewish and made the hate and discrimination even more common. Soon Germany made

this a rule in most of its areas as well. This further fueled and invigorated the Blanket of Hate which grew more and more by the day. However some found light in the center of their demons. Some decided that they would struggle and keep hope until the end. The suffocating in the ghettos decided to try organizing an uprising and break out and find a way through an air pocket of the blanket or at least from the ghetto they were in. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in the spring of 1943 was the largest single revolt. Hundreds of Jews fought the Germans in the streets of the ghetto and thousands refused to obey German orders and report to an assembly point for deportation. In the end, the Germans burned the ghetto to the ground and forced the Jews out. Some of the survivors proceeded to continue starting resistances in many other areas. This had an effect on the blanket as it began to become a bit brighter, more recognizable and weaker. Hope seemed to be a counter.

The Removers

Hope seemed to have been the best counter but people decided to try other things as well. Some bystanders decided to stand up and help the Jews in Germany, ridding the parasitic blanket that was emptying their minds, becoming Removers. Some decided a more violent approach. WWII started in 1939 when Germany first invaded Poland, the thread of the blanket began to become woven throughout Europe. The other countries were against this but the Benefactors decided to conquer every other territory in Europe. Most countries decide to fight violence with violence or surrender, this was not an exception. The countries decided to set the blanket aflame. This seemed to work, but there were two main problems, the Suffocating were often set aflame as well, trapped until the end, and the smoke of the remains spread like spores. Many countries were conquered and the blanket made its way through Europe. Until finally on September 2, 1945 the flames cornered the main benefactor, Hitler, and with his death came the blanket unraveling its clutches over the Jews.

The Continuation

The aftermath was terrible. At the end of the Holocaust, six million Jews and five million others were claimed by the blanket and its fire by the time it released its roots. The smoke however still continued to go through the air. Now, the blanket is much brighter and smaller. Hope and kindness have greatly diminished it. We have to continue forward with hope and kindness for a better future free of the dampening of Hate.

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