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David E. Kemp's criticism of David Fisher's review of Simon Wiesenthal's Justice Not Vengeance (June 3) because "scholarly, scientific evidence" proves that many Nazi leaders "were disturbed individuals" amounts to an effort to explain away history's most terrible barbarities and the simply enormous popular support they had in Germany and throughout Europe and, in varying degrees, the overt and tacit support they had from most of the major powers, including the United States ~~and~~ France and England.

There has never been a time when some national leaders have not been "disturbed."

But beginning not later than Krystalnacht the entire German nation and most of the world knew of the Nazi intent to murder all of Europe's Jews and from what those of ^{us} then adult knew from ~~the~~ ^{our} newsreels we saw and the ~~reporting~~ ^{reporting} of our own reporters it was obvious that a majority of the German people revelled in it.

Every major power could have succored many thousand of the Jews, particularly children, would could have escaped, and they all refused. Our own government refused to permit at least one shipload of them to land.

In mid-1973, when the Nazis were losing the war on ~~the~~ ^{several} fronts, I was an Army MP escorting ~~guarding~~ a shipload of crack German troops captured in Africa and including veterans of German unsoakable atrocities on the ~~eastern~~ ^{eastern} front to the United States. They ~~began~~ each day with all of them lustily singing a Nazi anthem, "We Are the Lords of the Earth." I never heard a single one express regret, apology or disagreement.

The Kemps who ~~redefine~~ ^{redefine} scholarship and science ought recall Santayana's wisdom, that those of us who forget the past are doomed to relive it.

Harold Weisberg

