

## XXV: Memorialization Today:

Poland in 1939: 3M Jews. 2.5M Killed by 1945. Today, > 1000 Jews in Poland

### Poland Today (Glass)

1. Ubiquity of the Death Camps
2. Omnipresence of Death
3. Holocaust was between the Germans and the Jews
4. Poland did not ask for Auschwitz?

### Poland Today (Me)

False: forgotten, not on their minds  
No more than your former Indian lands now  
True: “the War happened to the Poles,  
the Holocaust happened to the Jews”  
The Germans thought they did

### Fascination with Jewishness in Poland Today

1. JCC's in a country with no Jews
2. Museums  
Run by Americans, Brits, Germans,  
and Israelis, NOT Poles
3. Tourist goods  
Restaurants in Kazimierz, Klezmer Music  
for tourists, Not Locals
4. Jews = Folk art like the Indians?  
Jews are NOT Folk Heroes in Poland

Jews exist today in Poland only as a commodity → Cynicism, distrust

Q: How to memorialize Jewishness in Poland because it was a part of its past.

A: Focus on their life and cultural contributions, not their deaths

Symbols of Jews in Poland: Shoes, Ashes, Cremos, Barbed Wire

Reality: Neither the Poles, nor the remaining Polish Jews want to think about the Holocaust. It's too close and too personal.

Defensive about Holocaust:

1. What about Soviet atrocities to us?
2. Blame the Germans, not us

Changing Attitudes? Only in the Urban Areas. In the Rural areas, they were glad to be rid of their Jews. The Jews are angry at the Poles for comparing their suffering to their own. The Jews believe that they suffered more than the Poles.

Impossibility of Comparing Suffering → It only causes more animosity, not less.