

9.3 A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE RELEVANCE OF HISTORY WITH HÉDI FRIED

Watch the conversation between Holocaust survivor and psychologist Hédi Fried and me, which takes approximately 20 minutes, and is available in six parts below. Afterwards, take 20-30 minutes to discuss the issues that arise out of the conversation from your perspective.

About the film

Hédi Fried, survived the Holocaust with her sister. They and their parents were driven by the Nazis from their home in Sighet, Romania in 1944. After the war they were refugees in Europe and came to live in Sweden. Hédi has written and spoken widely about her experiences before, during and after the war.

In this conversation Hédi and I take up the following issues:

- 9.3.1 Can we ever really understand history we didn't experience ourselves?
- 9.3.2 What can we learn by studying World War II and the Holocaust?
- 9.3.3 Should we be critical of people in a time we didn't experience ourselves? What would we have done in their situation?
- 9.3.4 What distinguishes this period of history from others?
- 9.3.5 Reflections on being a refugee.
- 9.3.6 What can we as individuals do to stop trends similar to those in Europe in the 1930s? dem i Europa på 1930-talet?

Our conversation focuses on how the history of Nazism, WWII and the Holocaust is relevant to us as individuals today. It considers the importance of critical thinking, awareness of our prejudices and examines attitudes towards refugees, among other subjects.

A Conversation About the Relevance of History. Hédi Fried and Julie Lindahl, Stockholm 2016.

Filmen i sex delar:

PART 1 - Can we understand? <https://youtu.be/IVsavE9JlgE>

PART 2 - What can we learn? <https://youtu.be/ZS8ughzz6ag>

PART 3 - Should we be critical? <https://youtu.be/3DWdM07NI5I>

PART 4 - Why should we study? <https://youtu.be/dzIEI5IRUDc>

PART 5 - Being a refugee <https://youtu.be/yD7suRELEHc>

PART 6 - What can we do? <https://youtu.be/ovltXdzRJAc>

References:

Hédi refers to Christopher R. Browning's book, "Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland" (Penguin 1992) which focuses on a battalion of men tasked with the mass murder of Jews. It explores their decision-making and behavior and is an important work on the topic of how humans become perpetrators.

Hédi Fried's YouTube-channel, a documentary about her experience: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQt9i9s0zxDZSSLpYZZRWXA>