the Holocaust they never experienced. One such example is when Revisionists Bradley Smith and David Cole were brought in as guests on Phil Donahue's talk show, *Donahue*. Two survivors were seated in the audience during the interview, and upon discussing the rumor that Nazis cooked Jews in order to turn them into soap and used their skin for lampshades, survivor Judith Berg proclaimed that the rumors were true. Because this rumor has been discredited by historians, Smith and Cole used it to their advantage, antagonizing her and ultimately discrediting all survivor accounts (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 110-114). With perpetrators, revisionists argue that the confessions are either forced or concocted for a variety of psychological purposes (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 138) However, for the most part, survivors know accurately what happened to them, but may be ill-informed about the larger effects and events that occurred during the Holocaust, and with perpetrators, though some may be coerced, others come forward willingly.

The *Sonderkommandos*, who were inmates of the camps, were required to work the gas chambers, and then transport the bodies into the crematorium. Because of their responsibility in the camp, the few that survived are living proof that the gas chambers existed for homicidal purposes. One such man, Shlomo Venetzia recalled his time in Auschwitz-Birkenau as a *Sonderkommando*, remembering that hundreds of people would be escorted to the chambers and murdered at a time. He also explained that all the victims would be dead, depending on where they stood, anywhere between two and five minutes after being exposed to the gas. His cousin Dario Gabai, also a *Sonderkommando*, recalled that for every person chosen to work, ten more were sent to the gas chambers (Gibbon & Purnell, 2000).

Another survivor, Eric Sonneman, who fled Europe early in the war, recalled the death of his Aunt Frieda Berger. After unsuccessfully trying to acquire a visa for her to also leave Europe, he learned that she had been sent to Auschwitz in August of 1942 and gassed immediately following arrival (Sonneman, 2002, 244-245). And yet another victim of the Holocaust, David Rubinowicz, along with his family, who were from Bodzentyn, Poland, were sent to Treblinka with the rest of the Jews from the area and gassed upon arrival as well (Boas, 1995, 37). Though revisionists argue that Holocaust victims and survivors are only allowed to make statements in support of the Holocaust, or else they will inevitably face deportation or jail time, most witnesses attest to similar claims in their testimonies (Cole, 1993, 12). Although victims come from all over Europe, many share similar horror stories about the reality of homicidal gas chambers. And though some may be faulty, it is safe to assume that most are accurate accounts of what they experienced during their imprisonment. Because so many survivors from various death camps have memories and tales of homicidal gas chambers, it can be assumed that their stories are too similar to one another's to be considered fictional.

However, testimonies from perpetrators have also surfaced about their involvement and knowledge of homicidal gassings, and are oftentimes considered

to be even more convincing than testimonies from victims (Petropoulos, 1995, 530). Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Hoss testified on 5 April, 1946 at the Nuremberg Trial, confessing to the existence of homicidal gas chambers. SS Sergeant Pery Broad gave a similar testimony at a trial consisting of former Auschwitz SS members in April of 1959, stating:

> The disinfectors are at work…with an iron rod and hammer they open a couple of harmless looking tin boxes, the directions read Cyclon Vermin Destroyer, Warning, Poisonous… As soon as the box is opened the contents are shaken out through an aperture in the roof… After about two minutes the shrieks die down and change to a low moaning. Most of the men have already lost consciousness. After a further two minutes…it is all over. Deadly quiet reigns… The corpses are piled together… It is difficult to heave the interlaced corpses out of the chamber as the gas is stiffening all their limbs (as cited in Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 138-139).

Based on a compilation of evidence in the form of documentation, photographs, scientific studies, perpetrator confessions, and eyewitness testimonies, the theories presented by the revisionists in denial of the Holocaust are shown to be invalid. Offering counterarguments by demanding proof from historians, while refusing to present any of their own, and by taking quotes out of context or purposely confusing survivors, revisionists are revealed as a fringe group, arguing for the sake of argument (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 88 & 91). Though they adamantly argue that six million Jewish casualties is an extreme exaggeration, that the ultimate goal of the Third Reich was to deport all of Europe's Jews to non-European countries, and that gas chambers were used only for delousing purposes, they are continually shown to be wrong as new data arises and as historians compile and present past evidence to refute their claims (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 100). Despite the outstanding amounts of evidence available that dispute the revisionist claims however, they are still hoping to, one day, reveal the Holocaust as a Jewish fraud through the strategic use of propaganda, and by further promoting the anti-Semitism that still exists in today's society (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 66). However, historians have already shown that they are well-prepared to argue this point in order to accurately preserve history.

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