*Resource Sheet #01*  - **The Historiographical Debate – Documents**

**Document 1**

“I feel that more might have been done but I am also aware that there were many factors in the rescue situation which were simply beyond the Roosevelt Administration’s control. Not the least of these was Berlin’s determination to liquidate the Jews and the great difficulty of assigning to a modern nation state a humanitarian mission to rescue a foreign minority for which it had no legal responsibility. It is a moral and humanitarian response we seek from the Roosevelt Administration. Such responses are rare in history and practically nonexistent during wartime.”

*\*\*\*Henry L. Feingold The Politics of Rescue: The Roosevelt Administration and the Holocaust, 1938-1945 (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1970, p. xiii.)*

**Document 2**

“How ironic that our greatest president of this century—the man Hitler hated most, the leader constantly derided by the anti-Semites, vilified by Goebbels as a ‘mentally ill cripple’ and as ‘that Jew Rosenfeld,’ violently attacked by the isolationist press—how ironic that he should be faulted for being indifferent to the genocide. For all of us, the shadow of doubt that enough was not done will always remain, even if there was little more that could have been done. But it is the killers who bear the responsibility for their deeds. To say that ‘we are all guilty’ allows the truly guilty to avoid that responsibility. We must remember for all the days of our lives that it was Hitler who imagined the Holocaust and the Nazis who carried it out. We were not their accomplices. We destroyed them.”

*William J. vanden Heuvel, “America, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Holocaust,” Keynote Address, Fifth Annual Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Distinguished Lecture, held October 17, 1996, at Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois.* [*http://newdeal.feri.org/feri/wvh.htm Accessed on 10/01/2014*](http://newdeal.feri.org/feri/wvh.htm%20Accessed%20on%2010/01/2014)*.*

**Document 3**

“With almost sixty years of hindsight, Roosevelt’s silence \*about the plight of European Jews seems a strange lapse in the record of a President who normally spoke to Americans on grave world issues with courage, candor and foresight. That lapse is underscored by Roosevelt’s lateness in pushing his officials to save Jewish refugees and his reluctance to seriously entertain whether bombing Auschwitz might save some of Hitler’s intended victims without postponing victory in Europe.”

*(Michael Beschloss, The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler’s Germany, 1941-45 (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002), p. 285.)*

**Document 4**

“Authenticated information that the Nazis were systematically exterminating European Jewry was made public in the United States in November 1942. President Roosevelt did nothing about the mass murder for fourteen months, then moved only because he was confronted with political pressures he could not avoid and because his administration stood on the brink of a nasty scandal over its rescue policies. . . . Franklin Roosevelt’s indifference to so momentous an historical event as the systematic annihilation of European Jewry emerges as the worst failure of his presidency.”

*David S. Wyman, The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941-1945 (New York: Pantheon Books, 1984).*

Resource Sheet #02

**Historiography Organizer**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Document 1**  **Historian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Their Argument:** | **Document 3**  **Historian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Their Argument:** |
| **Document 2**  **Historian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Their Argument:** | **Document 4**  **Historian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Their Argument:** |

**Which of the following arguments do you most agree with and why?**