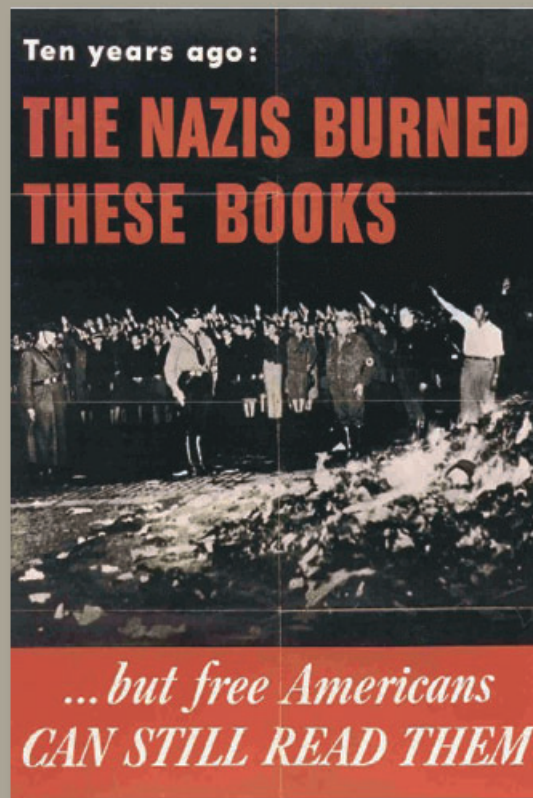


UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
**FIGHTING THE FIRES OF HATE**  
*America and the Nazi Book Burnings*

## Did you know?

By executive order, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Office of War Information (OWI) in June 1942. The OWI was charged with providing accurate war information to the public, promoting an understanding of war policies, stating war aims, and maintaining high morale on the home front. It made use of the press, radio, motion pictures, exhibitions, and public programs in the United States and abroad. OWI poster number 66 employed a German photograph of the Berlin book burning; the Council on Books in Wartime distributed the poster to bookstores and booksellers for window displays to expose "the nature of the enemy."



Poster number 66, Office of War Information, 1943. Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, Hyde Park, N.Y.

## What do you think?

Have you read any of the banned books or authors? Were you surprised to find American names on the Nazi "blacklists"?

This poster incorporates an image from the book burning in Berlin, May 1933. Gatherings all over Germany involved large crowds including students and university faculty, all participating in a massive public spectacle. How are populations convinced that limiting access to ideas is in their best interest?

In 1943, the OWI produced this poster for broad public consumption by an American audience. What do you think the American government hoped to achieve by issuing pieces like this one? Who was the intended audience for this poster?



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<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/bookburning>