

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

Did you know?

Writers, filmmakers, and television producers implanted the symbolism of the Nazi book burnings firmly in American popular culture. Ray Bradbury's 1953 novel *Fahrenheit 451* attacked book burning, sold over 5 million copies, and became a successful film.

Bradbury's introduction to the 1967 edition of *Fahrenheit 451* recalls his childhood love of books and libraries: "I ate, drank, and slept books.... It followed then that when Hitler burned a book I felt it as keenly, please forgive me, as his killing a human, for in the long sum of history they are one and the same flesh. Mind or body, put to the oven, it is a sinful practice, and I carried that with me."



Ballantine Books edition of *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury.

THE RECURRING SYMBOL:
Fahrenheit 451

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What do you think?

What message does the book cover art convey to you?

How do you distinguish among "book burning," "banned books," "censorship"?

Is censorship ever appropriate?

ARTIFACTS **SPEAK**
 FOR THEMSELVES
 What can you discover from them?

Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings
<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/bookburning>