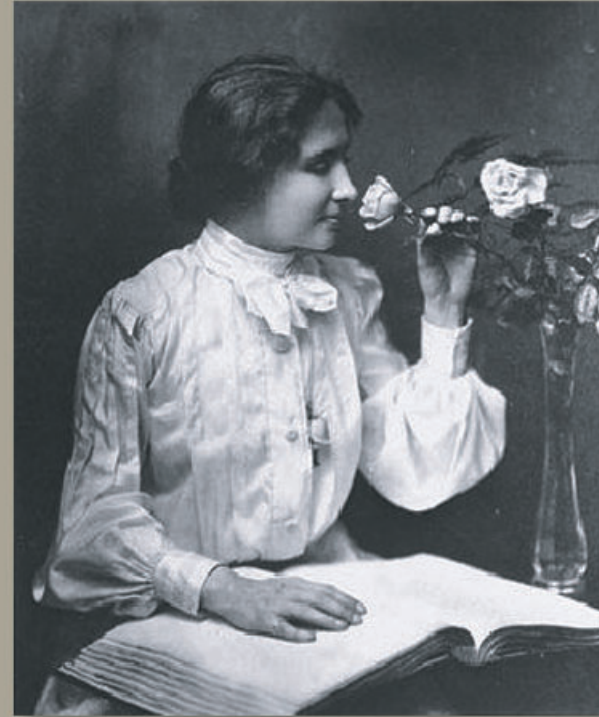


UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
**FIGHTING THE FIRES OF HATE**  
*America and the Nazi Book Burnings*

## Did you know?

In the years after her college graduation, Helen Keller became a socialist and suffragist. In her writings she championed the disabled, pacifism, improved conditions for industrial workers, and women's voting rights.

Helen Keller, herself blind and deaf, donated her German royalties to a fund for German war-blind veterans. Nonetheless, her socialist and anti-war writing was burned by the Nazis in May 1933. Her open letter of protest, published in the New York Times and elsewhere, warned the German people that the burning of books could not eradicate ideas.



Helen Keller, ca. 1910. Library of Congress.

BANNED AUTHORS:

HELEN KELLER

## What do you think?

The Nazis burned Helen Keller's writings because of her socialist views. Why did they find socialism threatening?

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

*"I am a socialist because I believe that socialism will solve the misery of the world--give work to the man who is hungry and idle and at least give to little children the right to be born free."*

— Helen Keller, "Brutal Treatment of the Unemployed," Sacramento Star newspaper, 1921.

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

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