

Ruth Wisse: “You would think that people would understand that one cannot take liberal democracy for granted and that you would have to educate every new generation to appreciate it and really just to understand its component features. And this is something that the public schools used to do and it's something that the universities used to build on. That was the final step in which you were taught about the responsibilities of citizenship. And in order to feel that completely you learned the history, you read the Federalist Papers, you found out what all the arguments were in the creation of your society, you understood the Civil War, you understood how much it was at stake in preserving Western Civilization. Well now the university seems to have abandoned that task almost altogether, and not only have they abandoned it, but they devalue the whole idea of defending what was created. So for 40 years at Harvard University, for example, where I taught, there was no Reserve Officer Corps training program allowed on campus. That is to say that ten iterations of students--because each student is there for four years, so 40 years means 10 full cohorts of students--were exposed to the idea that they were somehow too good to be in the military to defend this country, to defend Western Civilization. Now that really doesn't go away; what do all these students now think of military service? They are not the greatest generation any longer, but it's not just that they just don't have the sense of how much effort it takes, how many individuals have to be willing to sacrifice their lives in order to sustain this; it doesn't come on the cheap. And any civilization that thinks that they can just keep creating and just keep enjoying and just keep really exalting in what they have without an equal degree of defense that civilization is going to go down, it may not be this year, it may not be next year but there's no question about it if you know your history you don't stand a chance.”