

April 30, 2023
Munich, Germany

Today was one of those days that has left a mark on my soul, the kind of experience that shakes you to your core and reshapes everything you thought you knew. Today wasn't just another city tour; it was an experience that gave me a first hand look ~~into~~ into the past.

Since I can remember, World War II has been a reoccurring theme in history classes and documentaries I've watched. But today, I saw it. Dachau, the infamous concentration camp, was where we went today. A place that is a reminder of a horrendous time in history that I still can't wrap my head around as to how ~~many~~ people can be capable of such things.

Once I got there and stepped off

the bus, I felt a chill run down my spine. The air felt dark and heavy. Walking through the exhibition center, I saw images and stories that are now burned into my memory, each one a testament to the unimaginable suffering that happened here.

But it wasn't just the physical remnants of the camp that left me upset; it was the sense of sorrow and resilience that hung in the air.

Standing in the barracks and guard towers, I felt overwhelmed by a mix of anger and sadness.

One moment that will stay with me forever was standing in front of the memorials, standing with Lauren and Avery and other visitors. Despite everyone's different backgrounds/connections, everyone was there the same grief. I couldn't hold back tears and neither could Avery & Lauren as we paid our respects, knowing we will never forget

the atrocities committed here.

Since leaving Dachau, I'm left with a whirlwind of emotions swirling inside me. How could a country responsible for such unspeakable horrors ever rebuild and move on?

Now reflecting on that experience, I realized that Germany's journey towards reconciliation and redemption was a historical necessity. Through time & meaningful rebuilding efforts & a commitment to acknowledging their past, Germany has managed to reshape its image on the world stage, while also paying tribute to those lost and owning their past.

I think I now understand the importance of owning up to mistakes, of confronting the past head-on, and creating meaningful connections in the face of adversary. These are things I will remember forever and hold

with me, even in the darkest of times, there is always a ~~hope~~ hope for a brighter tomorrow.

It has been a long weekend and I've seen a lot of Munich, but I am so thankful I did this tour it's something I will remember forever and an experience I wouldn't have gotten if I didn't come to Germany,

Until the next trip..

Grace Mills