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## Koestler Sees Neurosis Of National Dimensions

**THE TRAIL OF THE DINOSAUR**, by Arthur Koestler (Macmillan; \$3.50), is a new collection of essays by the versatile author of "Darkness At Noon" and other powerful novels.

Here Mr. Koestler roams with his customary penetration over a number of topics pertinent to the day. One of the most significant essays is called "A Guide to Political Neuroses." In the course of it he speaks of the present attitude of the German people toward such war atrocities as the gas chambers at Auschwitz and Belsen.

The average German, Mr. Koestler contends, manages to ignore these mass murders. "The truth has not penetrated the nation's consciousness and probably never will — because it is too terrifying to face . . . Many intelligent and well-meaning Germans react, when Auschwitz and Belsen are mentioned in their presence, with a stony silence and the pained expression of a Victorian lady confronted with a rude reminder of the Facts of Life: That they happen to be facts never enters her head;

they are just unmentionable, and that is all there is to them . . . To make a nation collectively responsible for the deeds of a criminal minority is both legally and morally unjust. But the 'political subconscious' approaches the matter in a different way. It automatically assumes a shared collective responsibility in the nation's triumphs and defeats, in its honor and guilt . . . Now when this unconscious tendency towards identification produces pleasurable results, they are willingly admitted to the conscious self: Every German feels proud of 'our Goethe,' as if he had a share in creating him, every American feels satisfaction in the War of Independence as if he had fought in it. But the less pleasurable products of the tendency towards identification occupy no such place of honor in the conscious ego."

The essay sure to stir up the greatest controversy is "Judah at the Crossroads," in which Mr. Koestler, himself a Jew, advises Jews either to emigrate to Israel or else give up their "differences" and integrate themselves completely with the countries of their adoption.

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