The Second Generation



Carl-Heinz Edelmann with his father, Julius Bass, at the Hamburg quays in 1936, two years before Bass was arrested. Foto: unbekannt. (Privatbesitz Carl-Heinz Edelmann)

The children of former concentration camp prisoners have been influenced by their parents' experiences in different ways. Several critical factors affect how families cope with such experiences: the reason for the imprisonment, the experience of violence and death during incarceration, and also the ways in which the parents themselves try to come to terms with their history. The emotional reactions of survivors' children towards their parents range from glorification to hatred. Yet they all share the feeling that their mother's or father's experiences in the camps have deeply affected their own lives.