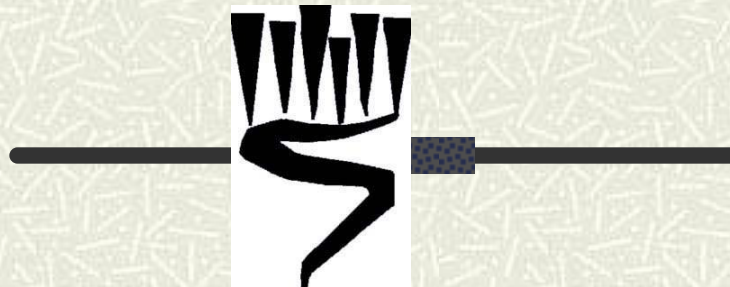


Resistance during the Holocaust

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How to teach about resistance during the Holocaust?

- # What are we teaching usually about the Holocaust?
- # How the students perceive resistance?
- # What are the preconditions of resistance?
- # What kind of resistance we know about?
- # Why it is important to teach about
- # resistance?



What is the meaning of resistance from the student's point of view?

How they understand “fighting”?



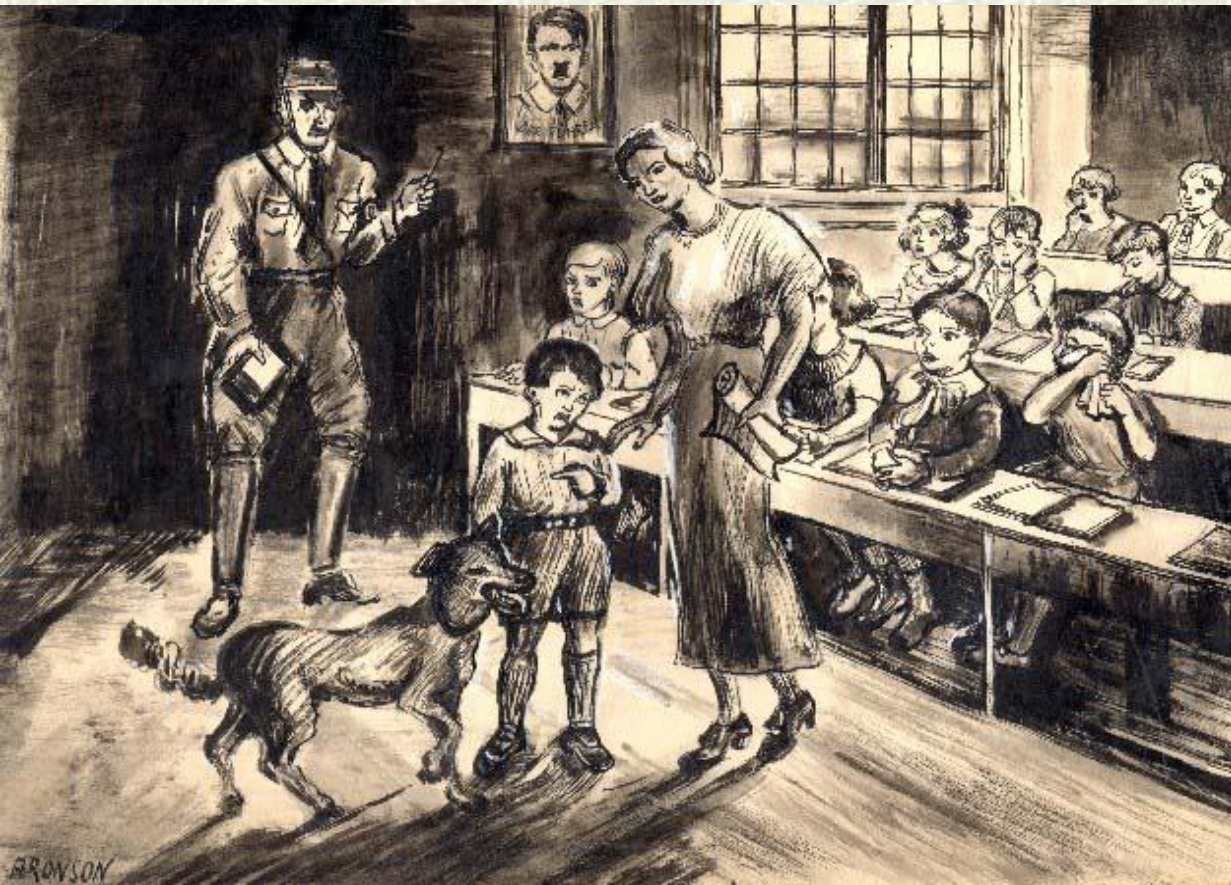
THE BATTLE



"Partisans"

#DELIRIA • • • KJ/DELIRIUMTRILOGY

Is it possible to resist a totalitarian system?



Yes!

No!

How?!

What is the
meaning of
Totalitarian system?

Living under Totalitarian regime



Hana Arendt On the Nature of Totalitarianism

- According to Arendt the nature of totalitarianism is the "combination" of "its essence of terror and its principle of logicity" As "essence" terror must be total, more than a means of suppressing opposition, more than an extreme or insane vindictiveness. **Total terror is, in its own way, rational: it replaces, literally takes the place of, the role played by positive laws in constitutional governments.** But the result is neither lawless anarchy, the war of all against all, nor the tyrannical abrogation of law. Arendt pointed out that just as a government of laws would become "perfect" in the absence of transgressions, so terror "rules supreme when nobody any longer stands in its way" (see *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, chapter 12). It is **not the political isolation** that always prevents action, however, but the **loneliness of socially uprooted, "superfluous" human beings, their loss of common sense, the sense of community and communication, which attracts them to logical explanations of all that has happened, is happening, and ever will happen.**

What do we know about Resistance during the Holocaust?

There was a Polish National resistance to German occupation.

Partisans in Eastern Europe fought against the German army.

French underground movements resisted German occupation from 1943.

The Partisans fought against the Nazis in Yugoslavia..

Jews didn't fight back, they couldn't resist, or stop the persecution.

The Jews in Warsaw Ghetto took up arms.

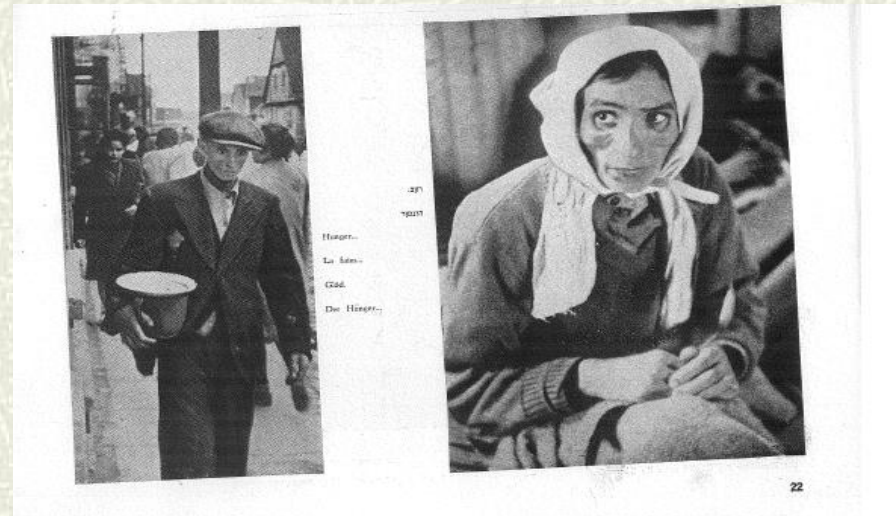
What are the criteria's we have to consider in order to understand Jewish resistance during the Holocaust?

1. Pre war time Jewish life and local circumstances
2. The relation between local authorities ,the local population and the Jews
- 3.The political position and situation of each country under Nazi regime
4. Awareness of the “ Final Solution”
5. The will and the possibility to act



The conditions the Jews had to face during the Holocaust

- # Nazi Ideology
- # Persecution
- # Isolation
- # Deportation
- # Extermination



Jews in the Ghetto

“It is impossible to live in the ghetto, with those high walls around, there is no air, we can’t move...Every step we make is considered illegal. Actually we don’t have the right to exist, nor to live.”

Bracha Karveser Sadan, testimony



Warsaw Ghetto Uprising



- # On April 23, 1943 a few days after the outbreak
- # Of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 24 year old Mordechai Anielewicz, the commander of the Jewish Fighting Organization(ZOB) wrote the following lines:
 - # “ What we went through cannot be described in words. Something beyond our wildest dreams happened... I feel as if great things are happening, and the thing we dared to do is of great enormous value...Go in peace, my friend ! Maybe we’ll meet up yet! My life’s dream has come true ! Self defense in the ghetto has become a fact.
 - # Armed Jewish resistance and revenge have become deeds. I was a witness to the marvelous and heroic fighting of the Jewish fighters.”

Uprising in Warsaw Ghetto

1. What is the meaning of a revolt?
2. What is needed in order to organize a revolt?

What are the positive and the negative aspects of organizing a revolt?

The idea of rebellion is often linked to ideals, romantic notions, and youth.

We do not want to detach these links from revolt
, but rather to stress the difficulty and risk involved
, and the price it exacted. The heavy personal price
Loneliness, separation from their families,
and the practical Difficulties carrying out the revolt.



You have to choose!



- # From the words of Mark Edelman, Warsaw Ghetto fighter
- # “Then we collected weapons. We smuggled it from the Aryan side (we took money by force from all kinds of institutions and private people).
- # How much would you pay for a pistol?
- # From three thousand to fifteen thousand, The closer to April,
- # the more expensive the demand in the market increased.
- # And how much did it cost to get a Jew to the Aryan side?
- # Two thousand, five thousand. All kind of prices, It depend on whether the person looked like a Jew, if he spoke with an accent, and if it was a man or a women.
- # That means that for one pistol, it would have been possible to hide one, two or even three people for a month.
- # If you had been offered the choice at that time: one pistol or the life of one person for a month.... “



Going to the forest: Jewish Partisans

- # What associations do you have when you hear the word forest?
- # Is the forest a protected or an exposed place?
- # How long do you think a person can survive in the forest in Europe without help?
- # What were the physical and mental difficulties that the Jews had to cope with in the forest?
- # Were the motives of the of the non- Jewish partisans different from those of the Jewish partisans?
- # What was their attitude toward the Jews?



To go or to stay?

“The memoirs of Eliezer Lidowski :

- # The only way out was the forest. My wife did not believe that that was actually the way out. The information about reception that awaited the Jews in the forests, had reached her too. She did not want to be dragged to the forest with two small children....I would explain to her that this was the only goal burning in my heart- to get my revenge on the Germans, and now the only way left for this goal was to join the partisans in the forest... The blood of the thousands of Jews who had been killed in our city, in front of our very eyes, cried out of vengeance and retaliation. After three days of walking, we reached a a thicket, and came across a farmer who served as a liaison officer for the Russian partisans. Our settling in pains among the Russian partisans were not at all easy. What bothered us more than anything else was their attitude toward us, as if we were inferior in rank.
- # Our motivation in the war on the Nazi foe was not weakened as a result of all this discrimination.



Revolt in the exterminations-camps



- # “ And then people began to talk among themselves: If we have to die and if there is nothing we can do about it- then we won't go to the gas chambers to die- we will die
- # but not like sheep to the slaughter!”

- # Testimony of Kalman Taigman, a prisoner in Treblinka/
- # 0.3/7014, Yad Vashem Archive



Revolt in Auschwitz

- # From the words of Zalman Gradowski. 1944
- # “Dear finder, search every part of the ground, Buried in it are dozens of documents of others, and mine, which shed light on everything that happened here. As for us, we have lost any hope of ever reaching the day of liberation.
- # The future will judge us on basis of this evidence.
- # May the world understand some small part of the tragic world in which we lived. “



What is the meaning of spiritual resistance during the Holocaust?

How would you define the following terms: survival, struggle, resistance

Read the dictionary definitions below:

Survival: remaining, existing despite the obstacles

Struggle: contest, experience, coping, the strength to face a battle

Resistance: revolt, opposition

#



Ways of resistance

- ✦ To be creative during the Holocaust was also a protest. Each man when standing face to face with cruel danger, with death, reacts in his own way. The artist reacts in an artistic way. This is his weapon "...
Alexander BogenThe Pen and the Sword:
Jewish Artist and Partisan ,Alexander Bogen
- ✦ Disobey orders
- ✦ Underground
- ✦ Spiritual resistance



Kovno, Lithuania, A performance of the ghetto orchestra

Learning,singing...



“

“ We were meeting every Shabbat in the Zionist Youth movement. The young Zionist leaders cared for us, taught us Hebrew songs, and told beautiful stories about the land of Israel. Those meetings made me very happy, I didn't want to miss none of them. The special spirit of Shabbat had such a tremendous impact on our souls, that we completely forgot the pain of hunger in our stomach.”

Chaim Kaplan. Warsaw Ghetto, 1942 May 16en

Chaim Aharon Kaplan, Scroll of Agony. The Warsaw Ghetto Diary of Chaim Kaplan. Indiana University Press. 1999.



Keeping your Faith

- # “We were praying secretly at Rosh Hashanah, because of the prohibition of any religious ritual. But we kept our traditional ceremonies, and prayed to God of Israel in small and dark rooms, as the Spanish Jews did in the 15th century.” Chaim Aharon Kaplan,

#

Scroll of Agony:
Diary of Warsaw Ghetto



Cultural activity

Prisoners wrote poetry and prose in the camps.

Jewish Girls from Hungary organized cultural evenings at Oberhonenelbe.

Members of Jehova Witness kept their faith despite Nazi persecution.

Alma Rose continued conducting in Auschwitz.

Jewish musicians in Teresienstadt
performed Opera for children:
“Brundibar” —



Rescue actions

Hiding Jews in the rescuers' home or on their property .

In the rural areas in Eastern Europe hideouts or bunkers, as they were called, were dug under houses, cowsheds, barns, where the Jews would be concealed from sight. Jews were also hidden in attics, hideouts in the forest, and in any place that could provide shelter and concealment, such as a cemetery, sewers, animal cages in a zoo, etc.

Providing false papers and false identities - in order for Jews to assume the identity of non-Jews they needed false papers and assistance in establishing an existence under an assumed identity. Rescuers in this case would be forgers or officials who produced false documents, clergy who faked baptism certificates, and some foreign diplomats who issued visas or passports contrary to their country's instructions and policy .Some German rescuers, like Oskar Schindler, used deceitful pretexts to protect their workers from deportation claiming the Jews were required by the army for the war effort.

Smuggling and assisting Jews to escape – some rescuers helped Jews get out of a zone of special danger in order to escape to a less dangerous location..

The rescue of children - parents were faced with agonizing dilemmas to separate from their children and give them away in the hope of increasing their chances of survival. In some cases children who were left alone after their parents had been killed would be taken in by families or convents. for .

Milena Jesenská



■ Milena Jesenská was born August 10, 1896 in Prague .She worked as a Czech tutor and started working as a journalist, becoming the Viennese fashion correspondent for a Prague newspaper..After Kafka's death Milena left her husband. She moved first to Dresden and then back to Prague, and became an editor in *Národní listy* and eventually in *Přítomnost*. Her work as editor established her among a group of Czech writers and journalists, of Jewish and also German descentThe annexation of Sudetenland by the Germans in the fall of 1938 brought a mass of refugees, especially Jewish, to Prague. Milena, as well as many others, estimated that the Nazis would soon conquer the whole country and that the ideological dissidents residing there, mainly Jews, would be the first to be persecuted. Milena Jesenská therefore began to encourage her Jewish colleagues to cross the border to Poland and head to the west. The problem became more acute with the German invasion in the spring of 1939. Then, Milena's good friend, Count Joachim von Zedtwitz, of German descent, told her about an escape route that had been prepared for Czech pilots wanting to flee to France. It involved crossing the border near Moravská Ostrava with the help of local guides and then continuing on to Katowice, Poland A British-run office located there helped those escaping get to England. Jesenská and Zedtwitz decided to use this route to smuggle out threatened compatriots. Very soon, Jesenská's apartment became a temporary way station for those in flight. While they stayed in her house, Milena took care of their needs and supplied them with food and the false papers that they would need on the journey. Jesenská believed the danger that she faced as an anti-fascist was less than the danger faced by her Jewish friends and, therefore, that she should continue with the rescue activities for as long as possible. On November 11, 1939, the Gestapo arrested her. After being detained in several prisons, Jesenská was deported to RavensbrückDue to the camp conditions Milena's health deteriorated and she died on May 17, 1944, three weeks before D-Day.

Who is a Hero?

“Strength is the strength of the arm, heroism is the heroism of the heart!”

(Rashi, Hagiga:12)





Thank you for your attention !

Chava
