

XVI: Auschwitz II

Definition of Perpetrators = Anyone who knowingly contributed in some intimate way to the destruction of Jews (Goldhagen).

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|---|
| Active Perpetrator | v. | Passive Perpetrator |
| Active | | Instruments |
| SS, SD, Gestapo, Ordo | | Truck Drivers, rail operators, Judenrat, Sonderkommando |
| | | Anyone who Survived |

Cooperation is the Norm, resistance the Exception

How did the Nazis do what they did?

Initial Conditions:

Life xRy Pain xRy Death

Clindinnen' Explanation (Rate of completion = Fast)

| Stage: | Conditions | Destroys | Creates |
|----------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Close Confinement | No Food No Water No Air No Facilities No Space Infinite Time | Normalcy Reality Pride | Shame Humiliation Pain |
| 2. Separation | No Family No Friends No Belongings | Security Community Communication | Isolation Fear Helplessness |
| 3. Foreign Language | No Common Lg. | Reason Sense Comprehension Understanding | Irrationality Chaos Suspicion |
| 4. Random Violence | | Emotional Pain Hope | Compliance Instincts |
| 5. Reward System | | Belief Faith | Politics |

Point where all responsibility and Choice are Gone; only Instinct remains.

The Grey Area: the Jewish *Sonderkommando*

Survivor: Filip Müller (Stoker)

1. 4 groups of 50 each.
2. Executed every couple of months
3. Already hard and callous given conditions leading up to Auschwitz
4. Reward of Food
5. Reward of Less Pain
6. Physically exhausting work (12+ hours/day)
7. Necessary part of camp economy
8. Close proximity to:
 - a. SS (Normal, Civil relationships) = Softening
 - b. The Dead and the Dying = Hardening→ Contact effects ideology

Q: What happens if they tell someone in the Antechamber?

A: More pain and Violence, not less.

Q: So are they Guilty of anything?

A: ?

Judgment:

Culpability v. Exculpability
(Guilt) v. Innocence

Not Applicable because all are guilty. We need new terms.

Ask the Survivors:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Levi | Borowski | Weisel |
| “Crematory Rats” | this is how you survive | Dispicable |
| “the Triumph of Nazism” | | |

Q: How does a man respond to Pain?

A:

1. Give in = Life (the Blows Stop) → Disassociation, Detachment, no Reflection
2. Resist = Death (The Blows Continue)
3. Both are secondary to Pain

Pain → Compliance → Possibility for Life

| | | |
|----------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Final Solution | trumps | Military Goals + Economic Goals |
| Ideology | | Conventional Economics |
| | | Strategy |
| Extermination | | Armaments Labor |

Nazi Great Chain of Being:

| | | | |
|----------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Aryans = | Germans Austrians Danes Norwegians Swedes Swiss British Dutch Greeks | = | <i>Menschen</i> |
| Latins = | French Belgians Italians Spanish | | |
| Slavs = | Czechs Slovaks Hungarians Bulgarians Romanians Poles Russians | = | <i>Untermenschen</i> |
| Jews | | = | <i>Musselmänner</i> (“Mulsims”) |