

XIX: Holocaust Issues:

Perpetrators:

Q: How was this possible?

- A:
1. State Ideology Demands it
 2. War Sanctions it
 3. Career advancement depends on it
 4. No personal responsibility

1. Ideological

Least educated SS (Streicher, Goeth), Ordo, Askari, Polish guards

- a. Ideological beliefs
- b. Crude Prejudice and Racism
- c. Blood lust, hatred, fanatical

2. Dehumanize the Victims

Normal Citizens

- a. No rights = no dignity
- b. No dignity = caricatures
- c. West v. East = No human attributes
- d. Hate the Game, not the Player

3. Professionalism

Most SS (Stangl, Höss), most Einsatzkommandos, most government and Military officials (Funk, Keitel)

- a. Public v. Private Morality
- b. No Empathy (not ideological, not Cruel, not Anti-Semitic)
- c. Devotion to duty, not content
- d. Rewards = Pride, respect

4. Intellectual Curiosity

Most Doctors in KL's

- a. Medical experimentation
- b. Detachment from Morals (not absence of)
- c. Greater good outweighs individual good

5. Moral Blindness

Highest Nazis (Himmler, Ribbentrop, Rosenberg)

- a. Pseudo-religious Duty
- b. Moral and Amoral

6. Obedience

Most lower-level SS

- a. Blind Naivety = Trust
- b. No Reflection
- c. Accept the end, so must accept the means.

Victims:

Q: Why did they let this happen?

Q: Why a virtual lack of resistance?

Q: Why compliance at every stage of the process?

A:

1. Lack of Knowledge: Deception, misdirection, gossip
2. Isolation
3. Fear of collective Punishment
4. Belief and Trust in Reason: Economic value to the Nazis
5. Despair and Helplessness: hardened by circumstances, normality of death
6. Block out the unpalatable: rationalize and repress
7. Incomprehensibility of the Nazi plan
8. Cultural tradition of Passivity and Suffering
9. Not worthy of honorable death resistance provides
10. Struggle and resistance betrays those who have already died

Resistance:

A. Armed Resistance

- a. Ghetto Uprisings
- b. Partisan Activity
- c. Death Camp Revolts

B. Spiritual Resistance

- a. Preserve Jewish Culture and Existence through weddings, marriages, plays, bar Mitzvahs, etc.
- b. Martyrdom

C. Other

- a. Smuggling
- b. Writing, Drawing, Sculpture
- c. Photographs
- d. Living IS resistance

Bystanders:

A. German Citizens

- a. Passive Anti-Semitism
- b. Complacency
- c. Displacement (we have it bad too)

B. Anglo-American Allies

1. Allies DID NOT rescue Jews

Excuses:

- a. Can't recognize Jews as a special case
- b. Jews not a sufficient ally to help
- c. Jewish refugees create economic and anti-Semitic backlash
- d. Can't intervene in the civic affairs of other countries
- e. Pressure Neutrals to take in refugees

2. Church

a. Catholic Church

- i. 1500 years of Jewish Anti-Semitism and persecution

- ii. Vatican was Politically and Diplomatically Neutral
- iii. Self-preservation/Self-Interest (Nazis anti-communist)
- iv. Pope Pius XII only provided a general denunciation of wartime atrocities

BUT

- v. Never threatened Excommunication
 - vi. Pius spoke out against Euthanasia
 - vii. Western European Catholics were publicly Anti-Nazi
- b. Protestants/Lutherans
- i. Unified body with little influence or power (Martin Niemöller)