

**LECTURES 12-14: WAR, GENOCIDE & HUMAN BEHAVIOR**

**I. Timeline**

- 1939, Sept: invasion of Poland
  - Sept: first ghettos created
- 1940, Spring: Denmark, Norway, Holland; Belgium, France ("Vichy" gov't; Madagascar Plan)
- 1940, Aug.-1941, Feb: "Blitz" on London
  - Nov: Warsaw ghetto sealed; 50-400/day die of disease and starvation
- 1941, by April: Greece, Yugoslavia conquered; Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria allied
- 1941, June 22: "Operation Barbarossa:" Kiev, Leningrad, Moscow
  - July: first mass shootings near Riga (Latvia, north of Poland)
  - Sept. 29-30: Babi Yar massacre near Kiev, 33,771 Jews murdered in 2 days
  - Oct: first gassings in sealed trucks at Chelmno/Kulmhof near Lodz
- 1941, Nov: Russian winter begins, Germans retreat
- 1941, Dec. 11: Hitler declares war on US
  - 1942, Jan. 20: Heydrich's conference at the Wannsee villa in Berlin (Göring on July 31, 1941)
- 1942, Spring-Summer: German advances on all fronts, but no decisive victory;
  - July 22-Sept.21: deportation of 300,000 from Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka (6000/day)
- 1942, Nov: Allies land in north Africa (7th); Soviet counteroffensive at Stalingrad (19th)
- 1943, Jan. 31/Feb. 2: German General Paulus surrenders at Stalingrad
  - Apr 19-23 - May 16: Warsaw ghetto uprising; Aug 2: Treblinka uprising; Oct 14: Sobibor uprising

**II. The Mentalities of the Murderers**

- Types of perpetrators
  1. hands-on: shooters at executions, police in ghettos, doctors administering injections  
slightly more removed: loading trains, guards in camps, dumping cyclon B (?)
  2. mid-level: officers in the field, doctors evaluating index cards (Kommandant Höss in Auschwitz; Major Trapp)
  3. professional: engineers, architects, intellectuals (bureaucratic "desk" murderers)
  4. administrative/organizational: policy-makers, factory CEOs
- Different motivations for genocide
  1. ideology/prejudice: antisemitism; social Darwinism; master race
  2. dehumanized victims: ghettoization, excruciating train journeys
  3. opportunism/careerism: a question of values
  4. situational/peer pressure: group spirit, camaraderie
  5. "ethical universe:" the moral blindness of leadership (Himmler, "Papa" Trapp)
  6. professional, scientific attitude (cold cult of professionalism): medical "experimenters"
  7. obedience to authority: (Auschwitz Kommandant Höss, Milgram experiments)

**III. Taxonomy of Behaviors from Active Perpetrator to Passive Victim (axes of power, agency)**

<b>"Aryan" (on the "dishing out" side)</b>	<b>intermediate groups</b> (element of choice) <b>nations:</b> Hungarians, Lithuanians, ... <b>organized beliefs:</b> Comm., Jeh. Witn.; <b>behavioral:</b> prostitutes, homosexuals, ...	<b>Jews, gypsies (on the "receiving" end)</b>
active perpetrators: develop initiative to realize goals of system	resistor: actively works to destroy system role of moral principle (conscious risk and choice)	resistor: works to destroy system (also a survival strategy)
accepts and carries out dictates of others	altruist: takes risk to thwart system goals; ameliorates consequences	survivor: attempts to shape own fate, works to thwart aspects of system
passive: "neutral" bystander, "doesn't know"		victim: accepts own fate, does not take action

**IV. Some concepts:** "preemptive obedience;" "working towards the Führer;" "complicity creates responsibility"