

Overview of the Holocaust



The Holocaust

- The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons.
- Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

Historian Raul Hilberg's Six Stages of the Holocaust

- Stage one: Definition
- Stage two: Expropriation
- Stage three: Concentration
- Stage four: Mobile Killing Units
- Stage five: Deportation
- Stage six: Killing Centers

Mira Ryczke Kimmelman

Oak Ridge, Tennessee

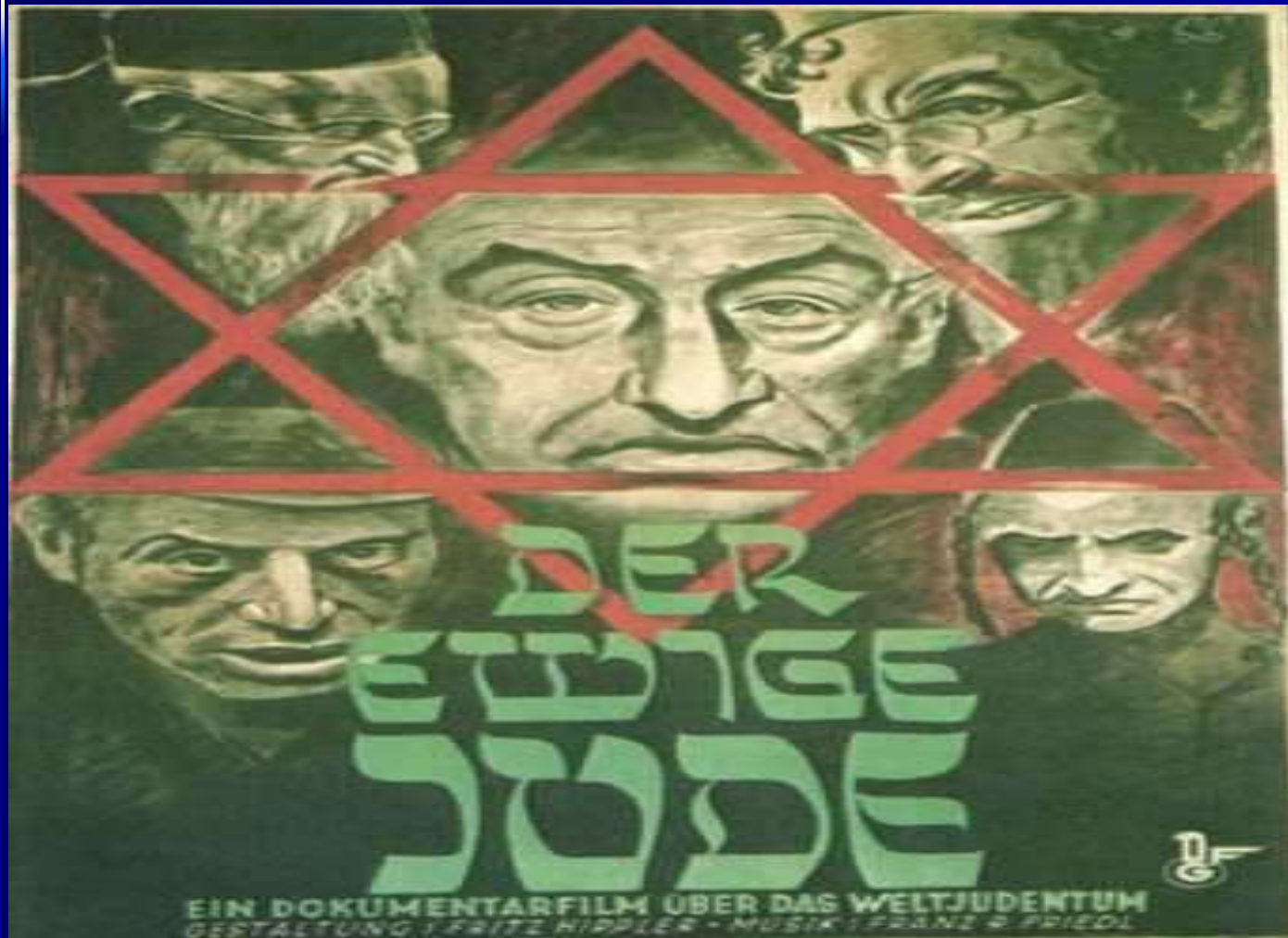
Born: 1923 Danzig (Gdansk), Poland

Survivor : Warsaw and Tomazow-Mazowiecki ghettos; Blizyn-Majdanek,

Auschwitz, Nordhausen and Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camps



Stage One: Definition



Historian Raul Hilberg

- 12th Century Crusades: "You have no right to live among us as Jews."
- 16th Century Ghettos: "You have no right to live among us."
- 20th Century Nazi Party: "You have no right to live."

Der Jude

Orientele



Hamit



Vorder-Asiat



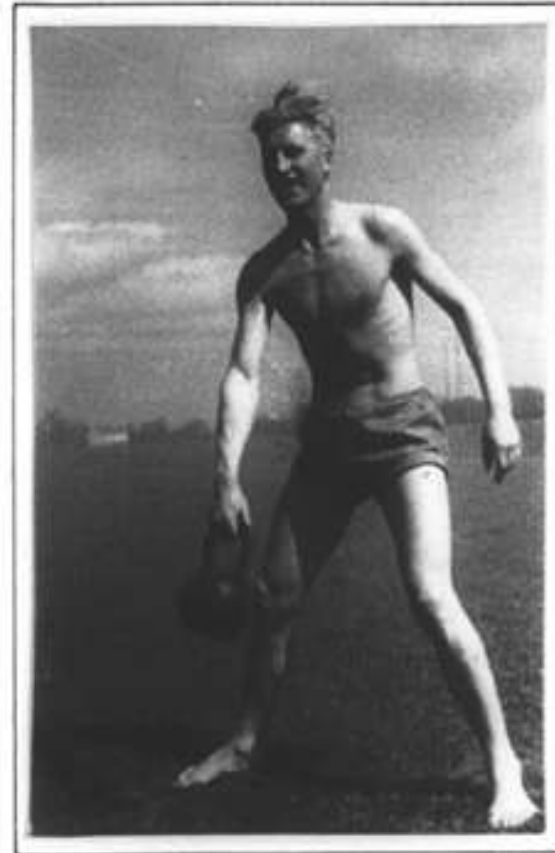
Neger



ein Bastard



Race Mixing



Rasse

Die Giftgilde



Erzählungen von Ernst Büchner
Bilder von F. F. F.

Jugend dient dem Führer



ALLE ZEHNJÄHRIGEN IN DIE HJ.



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Stage Two: Expropriation Removal of Jews from Public Education and Civil Life 1933-1938

April 7, 1933 Law for the Reestablishment of the Professional Civil Service removed about 3,000 Jews and politically "suspect" teachers from public schools.

April 25, 1933 Law Against Overcrowding at German Schools and Institutes for Higher Learning restricted the percentage of Jews enrolled in public schools to 1.5 percent.

September 15, 1935 The Nazi government decreed the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for the Protection of the German Blood and Honor. These Nuremberg "racial laws" made Jews second-class citizens. They prohibited sexual relations and intermarriage between Jews and "persons of German or related blood."

December 1, 1938 New Regulation for the Assignment of School Instruction for Jews expelled all Jews from public schools and transferred responsibility for their education to the Reich Representation of Jews in Germany.

Nazification of Schools



"Die Judenfrage ist der Schlüssel zur Weltgeschichte" - Klassenzimmer

Classroom: "The Jewish Question is the key to world history."

Synagogue in Danzig where Mira's parents were married in 1921. It was destroyed by the Nazis in 1938



Stage Three: Concentration

- When the Germans invaded Poland (September, 1939), Mira and eighteen members of her family were separated from their non-Jewish neighbors and forced to live in ghettos, where they suffered from hunger, extreme cold, and typhus. The Jewish administration of the ghettos opened secret schools. "To be caught with a pen or paper would mean instant death, so we taught privately through song and poetry. I was a student and then a teacher," recalls Mira.

WARSAW GHETTO

- POPULATION: 445,000
- AREA IN SQ. MILES: 1.3
- PERSONS PER ROOM: 7.2
- CALORIES PER DAY: 300
- POPULATION WHO DIED OF STARVATION IN 1941: 11,000

Warsaw Ghetto

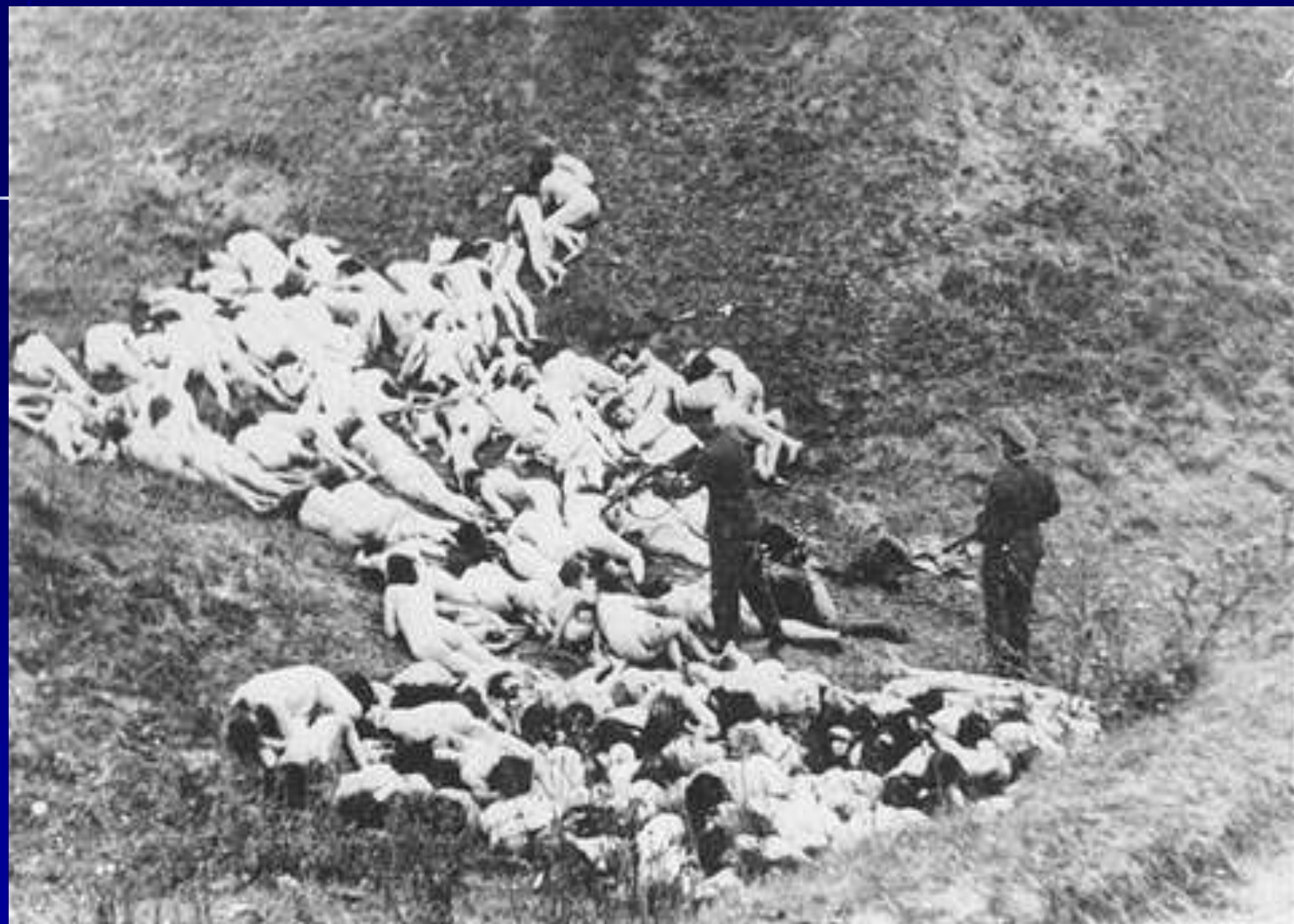


Stage Four: Mobile Killing Units

- In June of 1941 Germany and its Axis forces invaded the Soviet Union in Operation Barbarossa. German mobile killing squads called Einsatzgruppen were assigned to identify, concentrate, and kill Jews behind the front lines. By the spring of 1943, the Einsatzgruppen had killed more than a million Jews and an undetermined number of partisans, Roma (Gypsies), and officials of the Soviet state and the Soviet Communist party.

Mobile Killing Units





Stage Five: Deportation

- In 1942 the Germans liquidated their ghetto and spoke of opportunities for work in the east. Mira says, "We believed it. Work meant security and food. We were hopeful...and we didn't have a choice. My mother and I were marched out of the ghetto toward the railroad station. An SS officer ordered me to step out."

“SANITARY LANGUAGE”

<u>German Word</u>	<u>Literal Meaning</u>	<u>Meaning in Context</u>
<i>Ausgemertz</i>	exterminated (insects)	murdered
<i>Erledigt</i>	finished	murdered
<i>Liquidiert</i>	liquidated	murdered
<i>Badeanstalten</i>	bath houses	gas chambers
<i>Umsiedlung</i>	resettlement	murder of Jews
<i>Sauberung</i>	cleansing	sent through death process
<i>Endlosung</i>	final solution	decision to murder all Jews

Stage Six: Killing Centers

■ CAMP	VICTIMS	SURVIVORS
■ Chelmno	360,000	3
■ Belzec	600,000	2
■ Sobibor	250,000	64
■ Treblinka	800,000	Under 40
■ Maidanek	500,000	Under 60
■ Auschwitz	2,000,000	Several 1,000's

Entrance to Auschwitz



Mira Kimmelman

- Mira was sent to Blizyn, a concentration camp attached to Majdanek in Poland, and then to Auschwitz. She is haunted by a final memory of seeing her brother, who died at seventeen, at the gates of Auschwitz.
- "We boarded open coal cars, unable to leave, unable to move...for three weeks. We ate snow... there was no food. 50% of us died in transport," says Mira Kimmelman, who survived a death march out of Auschwitz in the bitter winter of 1945. Under armed guard she and other women walked for two days and two nights in sub-zero temperatures.
- Mira's journey ended at Bergen-Belsen. With no work or food or water, the women drank urine to survive. In mid-April 1945 the camp was liberated by the British Army.

Questions and statements for reflection:

- What does it mean to be an educated person in the 21st century?
- “The world is too dangerous to live in-not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who sit and let it happen.”- Albert Einstein
- “Goodness, like evil, often begins in small steps. Heroes evolve; they aren’t born.” – Ervin Staub

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