

Centre for
Holocaust Education



Being Human?

Perpetrators, Collaborators, Bystanders and Rescuers

Think back to our earlier questions

Why did they kill
Barney
Greenman?

How was this
possible in the
modern world?

Does this matter
to us today?



What sort of
person would
kill a two year
old child?

Why didn't
somebody
save Barney?

Did people
know
what was
happening?

Who could do such a thing?

What sorts of people:

- Ordered, organised or carried out the killings?
- Supported the Nazis/ helped to make the killing possible?
- Did nothing either to help the Nazis or their victims?
- Tried to save Jewish lives or to stop the Nazis?

How can we know if we've got it right?

In your groups, discuss the real people who are described on your cards.

Perpetrators	Collaborators	Bystanders	Rescuers and resisters
Ordered, organised or carried out the persecution/killing.	Supported the Nazis. Helped make the killing possible.	Did nothing to support the Nazis or to help their victims.	Saved people or tried to stop the Nazis.

Be careful not to describe *what they did* but *to explain why* they did it

“ Scared, brave, no choice, peer pressure, mad, others were doing it, political belief, religious belief, did what they were told, money, kind, selfish, ambitious, duty, good, evil, other...? ”

Why did they do it?

- Did they have a choice?
- What would have happened if they had acted differently?

Rethinking the perpetrators



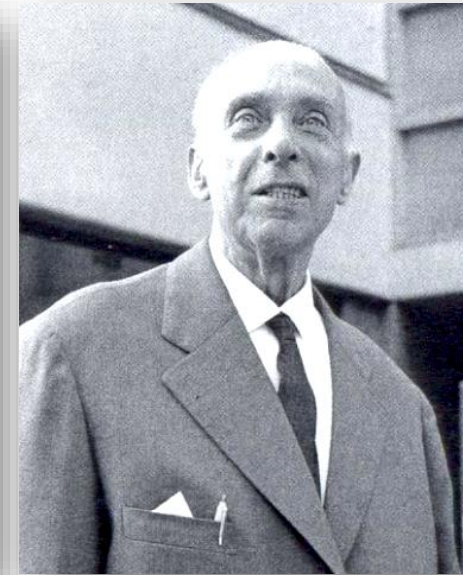
- How important were Nazi beliefs in the decision to murder?
- Could the Holocaust have happened without Nazi anti-Semitism?

Rethinking the perpetrators

- Did these men take part in the genocide because they were frightened?
- If not, why did they become perpetrators?



Police Battalion 101,
murdered Jewish families



Dr Kremer, chose
who would be gassed



Greiser, asked for
permission to kill



Gemmeker, commandant
of Westerbork camp



Otto Moll, SS supervisor
of the gas chambers and
crematoria at Auschwitz-
Birkenau

Rescuers or perpetrators?



Dr. Victor Capesius



Hans Biebow

- What part did each of these men play in the killing?
- Who did they save?
- Why did they save these people?
- Were they perpetrators or rescuers?

Rethinking the rescuers and resisters

- What risks did people take in actively opposing the Nazis, or in hiding Jewish people?
- What kinds of people became rescuers and resisters?
- Do they have much in common with each other?



Zofia Kossack



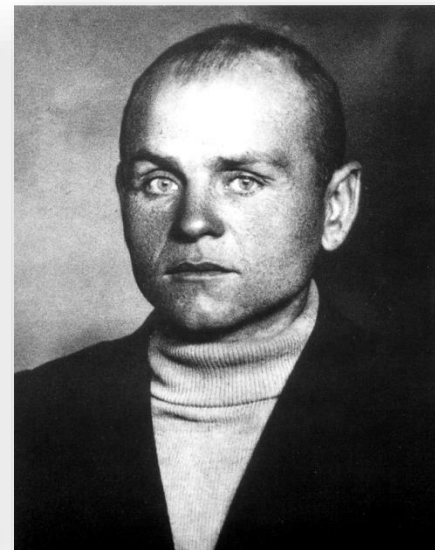
Kurt Gerstein



Irene Sendler



Otto Weidt



Leopold Socha

Complicity: genocide at a distance?



Race scientists made Nazi beliefs seem 'respectable'.



Thousands of office workers made it possible for the Nazis to find their victims.



Thousands of railway workers helped in the deportation of Jews and Gypsies to the death camps.

Rethinking the collaborators and bystanders



Rene Bousquet



Mauthausen



The home of Theresa Stangl



The public sale of Jewish-owned property



Reinhard Wiener

Who killed Barney Greenman?



Genocide: a very social act?

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