

CONTENT, CONTEXT, COMPLEXITY

Friday, December 4, 2015

Do not each or imply
that the Holocaust was inevitable.

The Holocaust took place because
individuals, groups and nations made
decisions to act or not act.

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored
systematic persecution and annihilation
of European Jewry by Nazi Germany
and its collaborators between
1933 and 1945.

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Who? What? When? Where?

CONTENT, CONTEXT, COMPLEXITY

Who? What? When? Where?

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Why?

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Why was this picture taken?

CONTENT, CONTEXT, COMPLEXITY

Did the picture end up being what you thought it was after you received the uncropped version?

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How did the content change after it was placed in context?

How did your interpretation change after you received the uncropped photo?

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Did the picture end up being what you thought it was after you received the caption?

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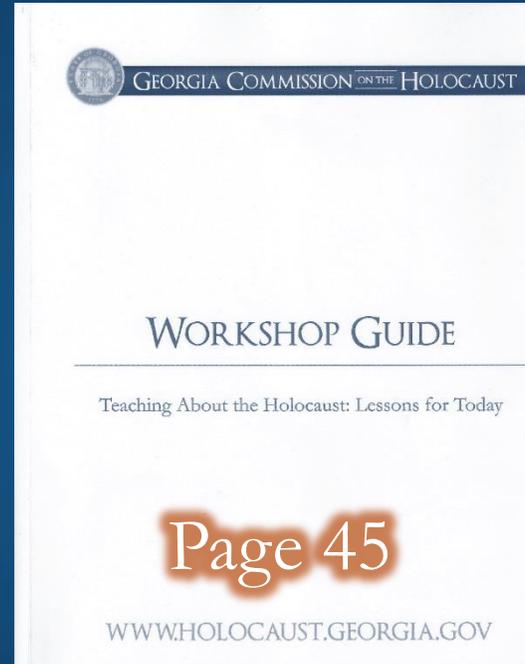
Not always what it appears to be...

CONTENT, CONTEXT, COMPLEXITY

Why?

Those involved in the Holocaust can be
placed in categories based on their
choices and behavior.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS
2. TARGETS
3. RESCUERS
4. RESISTANCE
5. BYSTANDERS



1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

Individuals and groups that were responsible for the Holocaust.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

The perpetrators were not beasts but human beings who made moral and ethical choices.

They chose to violate human rights.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

Beware of over-characterizing them as something greater than what they were – human beings who made choices.



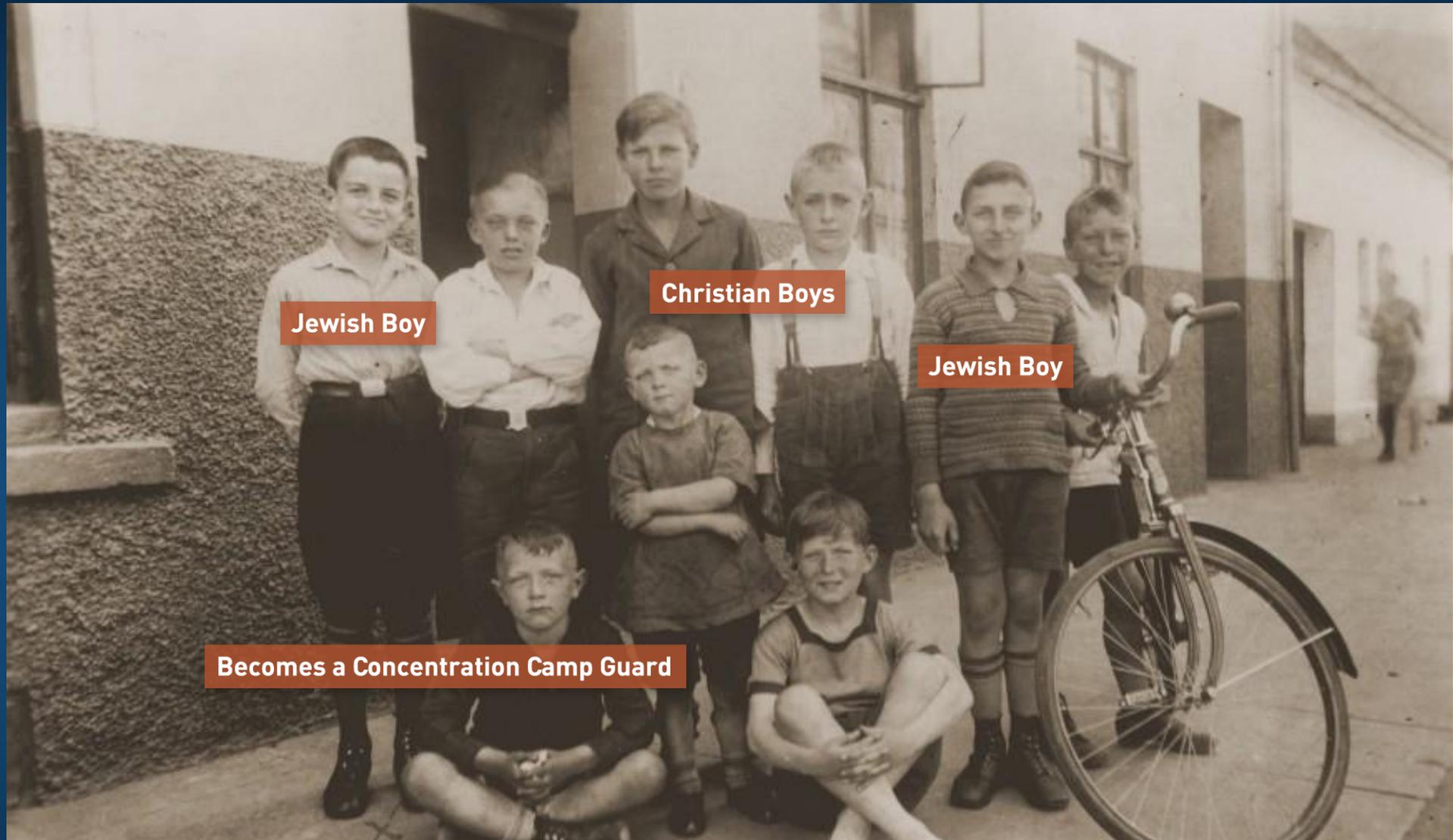
Canadian War Victory Bond
Poster, 1943

Hatred is taught – it is not an innate trait by birth.





Berlin, Germany – 1937: A group of young German boys view "Der Stürmer," "Die Woche," and other propaganda posters that are posted on a fence in Berlin.



Jewish Boy

Christian Boys

Jewish Boy

Becomes a Concentration Camp Guard

Breman, Germany – circa 1929: “We were a happy-go-lucky group, never thinking of harming each other.” [Source: [USHMM](#)]

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS

Individuals or groups who worked with the Nazis regardless of whether they shared a common goal or believed in the Nazi racial ideology.

What happened if you disobeyed an order to participate in an atrocity?

There is no reliable evidence that German soldiers or police officials were killed for refusing to kill civilians. Non-Germans serving as auxiliaries and refusing to carry out direct orders to kill could be subject to discipline, dismissal, imprisonment, or even death.



Train engineer describes delivering Jews to the Treblinka killing center. [Source: [USHMM](#)]

Latvian collaborators bring the men to a dug-out pit in the sand dunes, while many German sailors and other people watch the murders.

[Source: [USHMM](#)]



Bielefeld, Germany – 1936: German customs officials supervise the packing of a moving van containing the belongings of a Jewish family preparing to emigrate. Part of the officials' job was to prevent the smuggling of valuables that law prohibited Jews from taking with them. [Source: [USHMM](#)]



Hartheim Euthanasia Centre, Germany – circa 1940: Bus with driver.

[Source: [Dokumentationsstelle Hartheim](#)]



Germany – Thursday, August 1, 1940 - Friday, May 1, 1942: Group portrait of T-4 Euthanasia program personnel at a social gathering.

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]



RIGA, LATVIA – JULY 1941: Civilians attack a Jewish man in a street. [Source: [USHMM](#)]



Lithuania, July–August 1941: A member of the Lithuanian auxiliary police auctions off property of Jews who were recently executed in the nearby Rase Forest. [Source: [USHMM](#)]

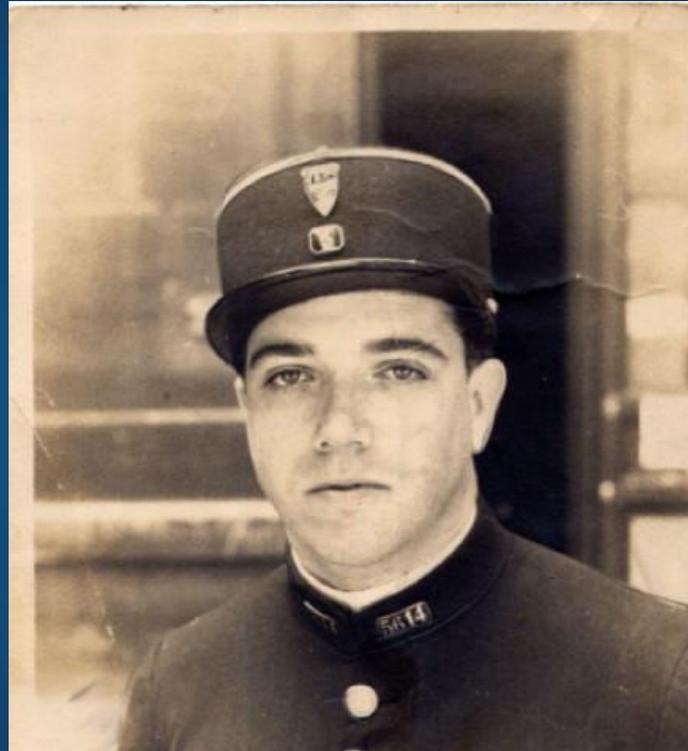


Paris, France – May 14, 1941: French police guard Jewish men, most of them Polish-born, who were among 3,747 men transported in four trains to French-guarded internment camps southwest of Paris. [Source: [USHMM](#)]



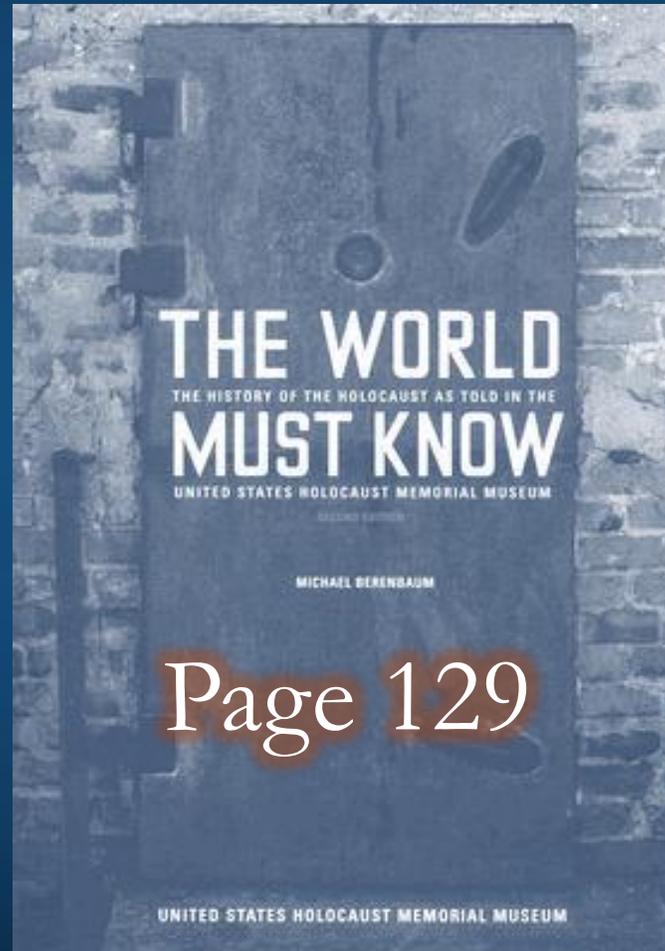
Paris, France – 1942: A police official distributes Jewish badges after German occupation orders require Jews residing in the northern occupied zone of France to wear badges. [Source: [USHMM Some Were Neighbors: Photo Activity](#)]

Beware of stereotyping and generalizing – these categories are based choices made by individuals.



Théophile Larue, a Paris policeman, warned his Jewish neighbors, of the upcoming “Vél d’Hiv” roundup and then, with his wife Madeleine, hid them in his home for a week. [Source: Yad Vashem via [USHMM](#)]

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS



To be neutral means helping both sides



1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS
2. TARGETS Groups and individuals who were targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS
2. TARGETS
3. **RESCUERS** Individuals or groups who made choices and risked their own lives to save others.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS
2. TARGETS
3. **RESCUERS** Although stories of rescue are very popular, only a tiny percentage of the targeted populations were rescued.

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS
2. TARGETS
3. RESCUERS
4. **RESISTANCE** Individuals or groups who made choices and risked their own lives to stand up against the Nazis and their collaborators.



Belarus, 1943: Jewish partisan photographer Faye Schulman poses in the forest.

[Source: Jweekly.com]



Hamburg, Germany – 1936: August Landmesser stands with arms crossed as crowd collectively performs Nazi salute. It is believed he had been a member of the Nazi Party from 1931 to 1935 but was expelled from the party for marrying a Jewish woman with whom he went on to father two children. [Source: [The Washington Post](#)]



Eibergen region, Netherlands – 1942-1943: A Dutch policeman looks out the hatch of a small bunker that served as a hiding place for Dutch Jews

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]



2-

Hij 4. Werkboek 'de Prinsengracht' als ik dan
 nieuwe 'Hemelslaar' hebje, ho 12.

6. Deen gijft de eel (mieuwe) brachten.
7. Hij is fout, het mindere, naar 'Prinsengracht' (mieuwe) hij zal alleen, langzaam.
8. Ziden is, morgen etc.
9. Hij, voor daden loof allen geprezen zijn, lullen, door den 'Koning' met groet gaven, begiftigd worden.
10. Dat je lachje lout, moet je thuis blijven.

6. II. Te vier Joden, naar de 'Griekse' geschiedenis van 'Geschiede' Johannes 'Korcius' vande uitgaan, meer bekend, het de, wafel, en met nummerd met alle joden, van den 'Loof'. Te liden, bij de 'Juma' Johannes 'Korcius' in den 'de' liden.

10. Hij de 'Juden', naar de 'oude' dichten, twee liden, de 'handelen' naar de 'Griekse' en 'Lidpore' dichten van 'Geschiede' Johannes 'Korcius'. Onvermoud in het 'handelen' Te 'Amsterdam' bij den 'drukker' Johannes 'Pilaau' liden.

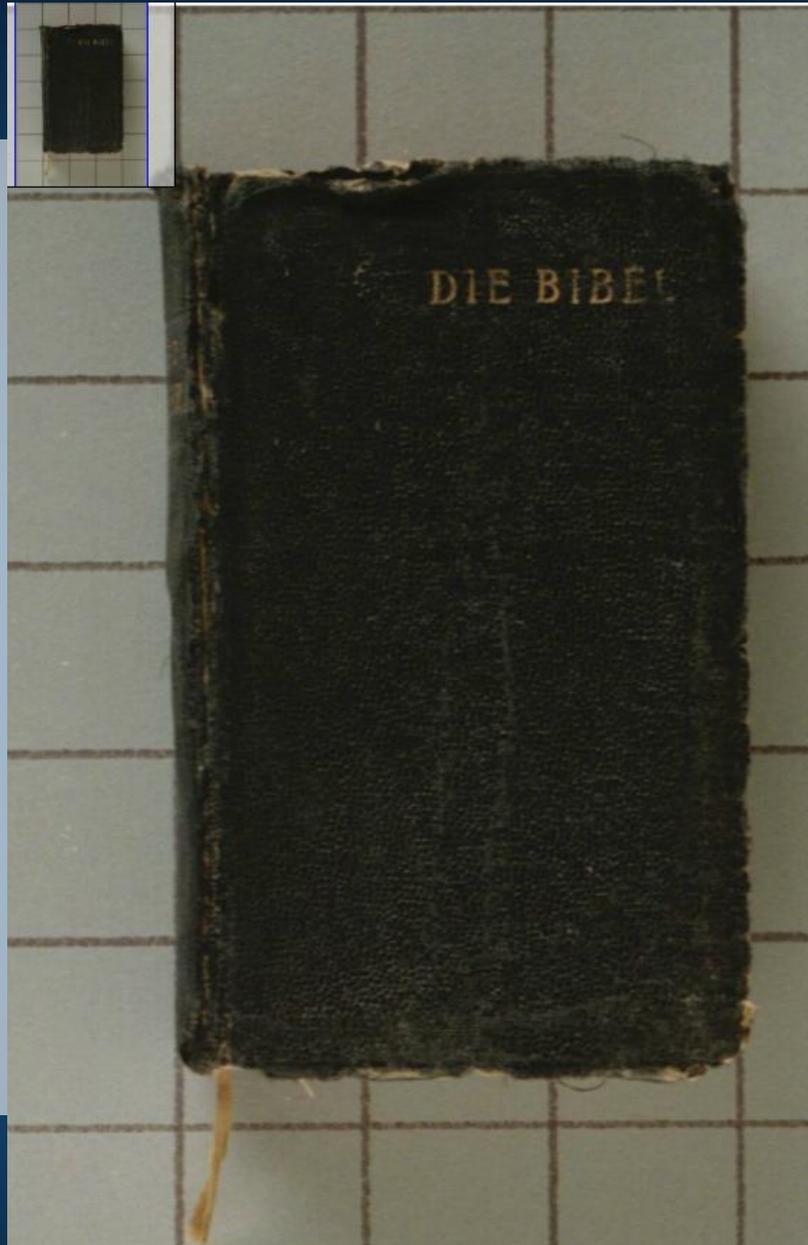
9. De 'pech' indelingen, over de 'trouw' verlaten in de 'verlating' van de 'drukker' van 'Jonge' 'Korcius', Te in 'Gronnhage' bij den 'drukker' 'Adriaan' liden.

Amsterdam, Netherlands – 1942-1943: Margot Frank's Latin course – Bep Voskuil had signed up for a correspondence Latin course in her own name but Margot completed the coursework.

[Source: [Anne Frank House](#)]

Sachsenhausen concentration camp, Germany – April 1945: In the camp, Soviet soldiers found this German edition of the Old and New Testaments on a dead prisoner, a Jehovah's Witness. The bible was sent to the prisoner's surviving family members.

[Source: [USHMM Collections](#)]



**Warsaw, Poland –
September 13,
1939:**

Photographer
Julien Bryan
comforts a ten-
year-old Polish
girl named
Kazimiera Mika,
whose older
sister was killed in
a field in Warsaw
during a German
air raid.

[Source: [USHMM
Collections](#)]



One of the three
milk cans in
which Emmanuel
Ringelblum saved
the “Oneg
Shabbat”
archives
chronicling the
history of the
Warsaw ghetto.
1939–1943

[Source: [USHMM](#)]

1. PERPETRATORS & COLLABORATORS
2. TARGETS
3. RESCUERS
4. RESISTANCE
5. **BYSTANDERS** Individuals, groups, or entire nations who chose to do nothing.



TOMASZÓW MAZOWIECKI, POLAND, SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 1939: German soldiers force one Jewish man to cut the beard of another in a humiliating violation of Jewish law. The ethnic identity of the civilian onlookers—German or Polish?—is unknown. [Source: [USHMM](#)]



Vienna, Austria – March 1-April 1, 1938: Austrian Nazis and local residents look on as Jews are forced to get on their hands and knees and scrub the pavement.

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]

**Darmstadt,
Germany –
November 10, 1938:**
Local residents
watch as the
synagogue is
destroyed by fire, on
the morning after
Kristallnacht

The fire department
prevented the fire
from spreading to a
nearby home, but
did not try to limit
the damage to the
synagogue.

[Source: [USHMM Photo
Archives](#)]





Krakow, Poland – 1940: A segregated streetcar in Krakow. The sign in German and Polish reads, "for Jews; for non-Jews."

[Source: [USHMM Photo Archives](#)]

FÜRTH, GERMANY – 1935: German girl at swimming pool entrance.

Knowing that Jewish neighbors were barred from entering, were people present at this pool complicit in discrimination? At what age should individuals be held responsible for discriminatory behavior? [Source: [USHMM](#)]





Kerpen, Germany – 1942: Uniformed Gestapo officials load Jews onto trucks for deportation in full view of many onlookers. [Source: [USHMM](#)]



Amsterdam, Netherlands – June 20, 1943: Jews assembled for transport to the Westerbork transit camp (a way station to the Auschwitz killing center), in a photograph taken clandestinely from a nearby building. Neighborhood boys watch from the corner (left) and other local residents from their window (center).

[Source: Dutch Resistance Museum via [USHMM](https://www.ushmm.org/)]

Most Europeans neither aided nor hindered the
“Final Solution.”

“One of the elements about ‘typical Holocaust history’ is it tends to be divided up into perpetrator, victim, and bystander. I think over time as we keep looking at this history the term bystander becomes less and less effective as a way of understanding what takes place in this history.”

-- Edward Phillips, Director of Exhibitions at
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum