RESOURCE BOOK

FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR
Contents

Preface xiii
Introduction xx
Acknowledgments xxx

MARGOT STERN STROM

1. The Individual and Society 1-55

All the people like us are we, and everyone else is they.

RUDYARD KIPLING

1. The Bear That Wasn’t 2
2. “Little Boxes” 10
3. “Race” and Science 13
4. Stereotyping 16
5. Legacies 20
6. Finding One’s Voice 22
7. Fear 25
8. The “In” Group 29
9. Conformity and Identity 31
10. In the Barrio 33
11. The Power of Separation 37
12. What’s in a Name? 40
13. The Effects of Religious Stereotyping 43
14. Anti-Judaism: A Case Study in Discrimination 46
15. The Principle of Tolerance 52

Many individuals quoted in this book use the terms man and men to refer to women as well as men. This usage reflects the era in which they lived.
### 2. We and They

*Democracy is becoming rather than being. It can easily be lost, but never is fully won. Its essence is eternal struggle.*

**William H. Hastie**

1. Harrison Bergeron 58
2. First Encounters in North America 64
3. Slavery and Freedom 68
4. Membership in the United States 71
5. Nationalism, Power, and Identity in Europe 77
6. Nation Building in Germany 82
7. A Changing World 86
8. “Race Science” in a Changing World 87
9. “Race Science” and European Jews 91
10. “Race Science” and African Americans 94
11. Race and Identity in France 97
12. Nationalism, Race, and Empires 99
13. The Eve of World War 101
14. Creating Enemies of the State: The Armenians 102

### 3. Germany in the 1920s

*The shadowy figures that look out at us from the tarnished mirror of history are - in the final analysis - ourselves.*

**Detlev J.K. Peukert**

1. The Impact of Total War 110
2. War and Revolution in Russia 113
3. War and Revolution in Germany 115
4. The Treaty of Versailles 119
5. Anger and Humiliation 122
6. Voices in the Dark 126
7. What Did You Learn at School Today? 128
8. Order and Law 130
9. Criticizing Society 133
10. Inflation Batters the Weimar Republic 135
11. A Revolt in a Beer Hall 137
12. Creating the Enemy 141
13. Beyond the Stereotypes 144
14. Hard Times Return 146
15. Hitler In Power 151

4. The Nazis Take Power 154-208

Anyone who interprets National Socialism as merely a political movement knows almost nothing about it. It is more than a religion.
It is the determination to create the new man.

ADOLF HITLER

1. The Democrat and the Dictator 155
2. Threats to Democracy 160
3. Targeting the Communists 162
4. Targeting the Jews 165
5. Legalizing Racism 167
6. Dismantling Democracy 169
7. Turning Neighbor Against Neighbor 171
8. Taking Over the Universities 172
9. Changes at School 175
10. Teaching a Lesson 176
11. Killing Ideas 179
12. Whenever Two or Three Are Gathered 182
13. Breeding the New German “Race” 183
14. “One Nation! One God! One Reich! One Church!” 186
15. No Time To Think 189
16. A Refusal to Compromise 192
17. Eliminating Opposition 193
18. Isolating Gays 195
19. Pledging Allegiance 197
20. Do You Take The Oath? 198
21. Defining a Jew 201
22. The People Respond 203
23. “The Hangman” 204
5. Conformity and Obedience  209-251

When you think of the long and gloomy history of man, you find more hideous crimes have been committed in the name of obedience than have ever been committed in the name of rebellion.

C.P. Snow

1. A Matter of Obedience?  210
2. A Substitute for Religion  214
3. Propaganda  218
4. Propaganda and Sports  221
5. Art and Propaganda  223
6. Using Film as Propaganda  225
7. School for Barbarians  228
8. Belonging  232
9. Models of Obedience  235
10. The Birthday Party  237
11. A Matter of Loyalty  240
12. Propaganda and Education  242
13. Racial Instruction  243
14. Schools For Girls  245
15. A Lesson in Current Events  246
16. Rebels Without a Cause  249

6. Escalating Violence  252-306

And what was said long ago is true: Nations are made not of oak and rock but of men, and, as the men are, so will the nations be.

Milton Mayer

1. Hitler’s “Saturday Surprises”  253
2. Taking Austria  257
3. Stateless People  258
4. Appeasing Hitler  261
5. The Night of the Pogrom  263
6. Taking a Stand  268
7. World Responses  270
8. The Narrowing Circle  272
9. Death Threats and Broken Promises  274
10. The Failure to Help  275
11. Enemies Become Allies  278
12. Those Considered Unworthy to Live  279
13. Opposition to “Euthanasia”  282
14. Targeting the “Gypsies”  284
15. Targeting Poland  286
16. Conquests in the East  289
17. A Return to the Ghettoes  292
18. A Return to Tradition?  294
19. Conquests in the West  297
20. The Invasion of Russia  301
21. The United States Enters the War  303
22. Blame the Rabbits  304

7. The Holocaust  307-362

The more we come to know about the Holocaust, how it came about, how it was carried out, etc., the greater the possibility that we will become sensitized to inhumanity and suffering whenever they occur.

EVA FLEISCHNER

1. “Sanitary” Language  309
2. A War Within a War  310
3. Reserve Police Battalion 101  313
4. Mechanizing Death  317
5. Blueprint for the “Final Solution”  319
6. Obeying Orders  321
7. The “Final Solution” Accelerates  323
8. The Jewish Councils  328
9. Emptying the Ghettos  331
10. Deception, Terror, and Resistance  333
11. The Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto  335
12. In Hiding  337
13. The “Model” Concentration Camp  341
14. Auschwitz  343
Facing History and Ourselves

15. “Hell Has No Bottom” 350
16. “Choiceless Choices” 351
17. A Commandant’s View 353
18. Rationalizing Genocide 355
19. Resistance In the Death Camps 357
20. Is This a Person? 359

8. Bystanders and Rescuers 363-417

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

1. What Did People Know? 364
2. Is Knowledge Enough? 367
3. Bystanders at Mauthausen 370
5. From Bystanders to Resisters 373
6. Protest at Rosenstrasse 2-4 376
7. Fateful Decisions 378
8. Choosing to Rescue 380
9. Links in a Chain 382
10. The Courage of Le Chambon 385
11. The Mysterious Major 388
12. Schindler’s List 390
13. A Nation United 393
14. The Role of the Protestant Churches 396
15. The Role of the Catholic Church 399
16. The Response of the Allies 402
17. Should Auschwitz Have Been Bombed? 407
18. A Man with a Mission 408
19. As the War Ended 412
9. **Judgment** 418-469

*History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.*

**Maya Angelou**

1. Dogma Makes Obedient Ghosts 420
2. The Rules of War 422
3. “Humanity’s Aspirations to Do Justice” 425
4. Obedience to Orders 427
5. A Man of Words 429
6. Betraying the Children 430
7. “We Were Not Supposed to Think” 432
8. The Scientists of Annihilation 434
9. Less Than Slaves 437
10. Toward International Standards 440
11. “Making Good Again” 443
12. Levi Versus Mertens 445
13. On Trial 449
14. Justice Avoided 454
15. Eichmann in Jerusalem 455
16. The United Nations and Genocide 459
17. Choices 463
18. Learning from the Past 466
19. Telling Right From Wrong 467

10. **Historical Legacies** 470-522

*Only the spectators, who constitute the space of history (memory) in which all actions and works of art fall... can pass ultimate judgment on an event or action by the quality of their attention.*

**Hannah Arendt**

1. Survivors and Memory 471
2. Preserving Evidence of Evil 475
3. Amnesia 478
4. Family Legacies 479
5. Germans Confront the Past 482
6. Accepting Responsibility 486
7. Education and Memory 489
8. Denial and the Holocaust 490
9. The First Amendment and Denial 494
10. A Living Past 497
11. Truth: The Last Victim of Genocide 500
12. The Politics of Denial 501
13. What About My History? 505
14. Acknowledging the Past 507
15. Black and White Americans Confront the Past 510
16. Memorials and Monuments 514
17. In Commemoration 516
18. Education and the Future 519

### 11. Choosing to Participate  523-567

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY

20. “America’s Best Self” 524
21. Fighting Violence and Terror 527
22. Breaking Isolation 531
23. Role Models in a Democracy 535
24. American Dreams and Urban Realities 538
25. Breaking the Bonds of Hate 544
26. Pride and Prejudice 546
27. Finding Alternatives to Violence 548
28. Students Organize 552
29. Taking a Stand 554
30. City Year 556
31. Individuals Can Make a Difference 559
32. The World’s Conscience 563
33. The Road Not Taken 565

Index of Audio-Visual Resources  568
Index  570