

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1988-1989

History 572

Life and Death in the Ghettos:
The End of Polish Jewry

Prof. Browning

Books:

Celia Heller, On the Edge of Destruction.
Emmanuel Ringelblum, Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto.
Yisrael Gutman, The Jews of Warsaw, 1939-1943: Ghetto, Underground, Revolt.
Lucjan Dobroszycki, The Chronicles of the Lodz Ghetto, 1941-44.
Yehuda Bauer and Nathan Rotenstreich, ed., The Holocaust as Historical Experience.
Yisrael Gutman and Shmuel Krakowski, Unequal Victims: Poles and Jews during World War II.

Reserve reading:

Isaiah Trunk, Judenrat.
Raul Hilberg, The Warsaw Diary of Adam Czerniakow.
Leonard Tushnet, The Pavement of Hell.
Philip Friedman, Roads to Extinction.
Richard Lukas, The Forgotten Holocaust: The Poles Under German Occupation.
David Engel, In the Shadow of Auschwitz: The Polish Government-in-Exile and the Jews, 1939-1942.
Chimen Abramsky, Maciej Jachimczyk and Antony Polonsky, ed., The Jews of Poland.
Solomon Bloom, "Dictator of the Lodz Ghetto: The Strange History of Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski," Commentary, VII (1949), 111-122.
Shmuel Huppert, "The King of the Ghetto--Mordechai Haim Rumkowski, the Elder of Lodz," Yad Vashem Studies, XV (1983), 125-57.
Isaiah Trunk, "Note: Why Was There No Armed Resistance Against the Nazis in the Lodz Ghetto?" Jewish Social Studies, 49 (1981), 329-334.
Christopher Browning, "Nazi Ghettoization Policy in Poland: 1939-1941," Central European History, 19/4 (1986), 343-68.
Christopher Browning, "Nazi Resettlement Policy and the Search for a Solution to the Jewish Question," German Studies Review, IX/3 (1986), 497-519.
Christopher Browning and Israel Gutman, "The Reports of an 'Informer' in the Warsaw Ghetto--Selected Documents," Yad Vashem Studies, 17 (1986), 247-93.
Christopher Browning, "Genocide and the Public Health: German Doctors and Polish Jews, 1939-41," Holocaust and Genocide Studies, 3/1 (1988), 21-36.

Journals of particular relevance:

Yad Vashem Studies
Simon Wiesenthal Center Annual
Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Polin: A Journal of Polish and Jewish Studies

Schedule:

- Sept. 6 Organizational meeting
- Sept. 13 Background
- Sept. 20 The interwar years
Heller, entire book
Gutman and Krakowski, Chap. 1
E. Mendelsohn, "Interwar Poland: Good for Jews or Bad for Jews?" The Jews of Poland
- Sept. 27 The Warsaw Ghetto
Gutman, Introduction and Chap. 1-6
Friedman, Chap. 3
- Oct. 4 The Warsaw Ghetto
E. Ringelblum, entire book
Friedman, Chap. 6
- Oct. 11 The Lodz Ghetto
Dobroszycki, Introduction and Part I
Friedman, Chap. 12
- Oct. 18 The Lodz Ghetto
Dobroszycki, Part II
Bloom, "Dictator of the Lodz Ghetto"
Huppert, "King of the Ghetto"
- Oct. 25 The Lodz Ghetto
Dobroszycki, Parts III and IV
- Nov. 1 The Jewish Councils
Bauer and Rotenstreich, pp. 155-192
Trunk, Judenrat, Introduction and Chap. 11, 16, 21
(Chap. 2, 12, 17, 18 also highly recommended)
- Nov. 8 The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
Gutman, Chap. 7, 9-15
Bauer and Rotenstreich, 193-221
Trunk, "Note: Why Was There No Armed Resistance Against the Nazis in the Lodz Ghetto"
- Nov. 15 Poles and Jews
Gutman and Krakowski, Chap. 2-10
Lukas, Chap. 5 and 6
Gutman, Chap. 8
Engel, Chap. 5 and Conclusion (recommended)
- Nov. 22 Reports

Nov. 29 Reports
Dec. 6 Reports
Dec. 13 Reports. SEMINAR PAPER DUE (no extensions, so don't ask!)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Each seminar participant will be evaluated on four criteria: 1) Leadership of two discussions; 2) General participation in discussions; 3) One 15-20 page research paper, due on Dec. 13; and 4) One 20-minute oral report to the seminar based on the paper.

Discussion:

A seminar is not a lecture course. Its success above all depends upon the preparation and participation of its members. Thus between September 20 and November 15 the seminar will be divided into two groups during the first hour of each meeting. Each group will have a discussion leader responsible for stimulating and directing the discussion; all students, however, are responsible for being prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that week. All students are expected to participate! Discussion leadership and participation of each member of the seminar will be evaluated and graded by the other members of the seminar at the end of the course and will constitute an important factor in determining each participant's grade.

Possible research paper topics:

1. Individual ghetto leaders (Rumkowski, Czerniakow, Gens, Barash, Merin)
2. Ghetto economy
3. Social and medical aspects of ghetto life
4. Cultural aspects of ghetto life
5. Jewish-Polish relations
6. Rescue and hiding
7. Other ghettos (Vilna, Minsk, Bialystok, etc.)
8. Resistance in the ghettos
9. German policies, administrators, etc.
10. Polish Jewry and the outside world
11. The death camps
12. Uprisings in the death camps (Treblinka, Sobibor)
13. Jewish ghetto police, informers, etc.