

Night by Elie Wiesel

*Remember – the significance of the title of the memoir – NIGHT – and short sentences and phrases that contain the word *night* in the book, is that Elie experienced and survived a situation that was so psychologically dark and inhumane, that only the word *night* could be used as a symbol of that time.

*Also, frequently in this memoir, Wiesel uses the *beauty of nature* in sharp contrast to the *ugliness and evil of the human condition*. EX: the beautiful, warm spring weather in chapter 1, as the cruelty and inhumanity of the Nazis descends upon the Jews.

EX: chapter 2 – “The lucky ones (people in the cattle cars) who happened to be near a window could see the blossoming countryside roll by.”

Notes: Chapter 2 –

1. Two days into the journey on the train, the young (teenagers) “. . . gave way openly to instinct, taking advantage of the darkness to flirt in our midst, without caring about anyone else, as though they were alone in the world.”
2. The train is stopped in a little town on the Czechoslovak frontier, a German officer and a Hungarian interpreter tell them that they are German prisoners. They demand jewelry and valuables. Anyone found later to have valuables will be shot. Anyone who feels ill should ask to go to the “hospital car.”
3. Madame Schachter – 50 year old woman with her 1 year old son. She goes insane because she and her young son have been separated from her husband and other sons. She has premonitions of fire and furnaces!
4. Finally, Madame Schachter is forcibly silenced. Men on the train ask a German soldier to take her to the “hospital car” when they arrive in the camp -*Auschwitz*.
5. The soldier tells them to be patient, that she will be attended to. The train moves on to the reception center at Auschwitz – *Birkenau*.
6. Once again, although badly beaten, Madame Schachter cries out! This time she is right! There are flames “gushing out of a tall chimney into the black sky.”

Night - Notes Chapter 3:

(pages 27- 43)

1. At Birkenau – the reception center in Auschwitz – they were ordered off the train.
2. The S.S. Officers gave them the order: “Men to the left! Women to the right!”
3. This would be the LAST TIME Elie would ever see his mother and his sister Tzipora again.
4. A prisoner told Elie to say that he was “eighteen” (not 15), and for his father to say “forty” (not 50).
5. Young men with knives wanted to attack the guards in revolt. Their fathers reminded them to “never lose faith, even when the sword hangs over your head.”
6. The young men respected the wishes of their fathers.
7. Dr. Mengele was in charge of “the selection”. He was a notoriously cruel S.S. Officer. He wore a monocle and waved a conductor’s baton.) HE DECIDED who lived and who died.
8. Elie stood before him and told the doctor that he was an eighteen year old farmer. (Not a 15 year old student)
9. The terror tactic used by the Germans was to lead the men 2 steps before the flaming pits and then turn to the left toward the barracks!
10. “Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever” (Elie)
11. Men assigned to the *Sonder-Kommando* unit, were responsible for placing bodies in the crematory ovens.
12. The dehumanization process = requiring men to undress completely (carrying belts and shoes); all body hair removed; disinfected in petrol; given hot showers; told to wait in the cold for hours before issuing uniforms.
13. Food = bread, soup, coffee.
14. Kapos = Prisoners who were forced to be Barrack Leaders. These men were often crueler than the German officers.
15. Elie had been able to KEEP his new shoes! (Coated with mud, no one could tell that they were new.)
16. They are told – “Work or the Crematory – the choice is in your hands.”
17. His father is struck by a Kapo. Elie does nothing.
18. On a beautiful April day, they are marched through the gates of Auschwitz. The gate inscription is “Work is Liberty.”
19. A new barracks. The Kapo in charge is a young Polish man. He is kind.
20. Elie’s number – tattooed on his forearm – A-7713. This was his new NAME.
21. A relative – Stein of Antwerp – asks about his wife and children. Elie LIES and tells him that before they were deported, his own mother had received a letter from Stein’s wife in Antwerp, saying that she and the children were fine.
22. Later, Stein tells Elie that it is the knowledge that his wife and children are safe is the only thing that keeps him going.
23. Eventually, Stein hears that a transport from his town is coming to Auschwitz. He hopes to meet his family as they get off the train.
24. Elie NEVER sees Stein again.
25. The kind Kapo is REMOVED; he is replaced by a “monster.”

Chapter 4: (page ~~52-57~~)

1. Buna is a Labor Camp.
2. New uniforms are issued.
3. The veteran prisoners tell them that Buna is a "good camp" as long as you don't get sent to the "building unit."
4. The head of Elie's tent – GERMAN. "He had an assassin's face, fleshy lips, hands like a wolf's paws. He was so fat he could hardly move."
5. *Like the leader of the camp, this man "loved children." There were several children (boys) in this camp. The boys were treated better than others. These boys were called – *pipels*. (Unfortunately, Elie would learn later that these boys were abused sexually by the officers.)
6. Often, these boys could be very cruel. One boy wanted Elie's shoes! He refused to give them to him, even though the boy offered to get him bread and margarine. (*Later, his shoes were taken from him for nothing in return.)
7. Dentists searched for gold and silver fillings. If you had these, your teeth would be removed! (*Elie had a gold crown!)
8. The members of the band = Juliek, Louis, Hans, Franek. They play violin music as the men march to the factory! (Very strange!) They are not allowed to play Beethoven!
9. Juliek warns them about the "crazy" Kapo at the factory – Idek. They are told to keep out of his way.
10. At the factory, they must count "bolts, bulbs and small electrical fittings."
11. Other factory workers included, French women and Polish civilians.
12. Yossi and Tibi – Czech brothers about Elie's age.
13. Episode with Elie and the Dentist (~~49-53~~)
14. Elie is beaten by Idek for no reason!
15. A French girl comforts Elie after the attack. (In perfect German she whispers – "Bite your lip, little brother.")
16. Years later in France, Elie meets this woman again! (She was a Jew who had passed herself off as French.)
17. Idek beats Elie's father with an iron bar – Elie does NOTHING.
18. Franek, the foreman, demands Elie's gold crown . . . (~~page 52~~)
19. The Sunday Morning Episode!!! What had Elie seen Idek doing? Idek's revenge! (54-56)
20. The air-raid! The "hero" at the soup caldrons! (~~56-57~~)
21. The hangings! The rebel shouts, "Long Live Liberty! A curse upon Germany!" The soup tastes "excellent." (~~57~~)
22. More hangings! "The sad-eyed angel" – the *pipel* is hanged.
23. "Bare your heads! Cover your heads!"
24. "Where is God?" someone asked.
25. "He is hanging here on this gallows . . ." (The voice within Elie answers.)
26. "That night the soup tasted of corpses."

On movies and memory

EDITOR'S NOTE

Steven Spielberg is not only one of the most respected filmmakers in the world, he is also, arguably, the most successful. Two of his films—*E.T.* and *Jurassic Park*—are the highest grossing movies ever made. But Spielberg is more than a commercial success. *Schindler's List*, his 1993 film of the Holocaust, has become a modern classic. The film won seven Academy Awards, including those for best picture and best director. Here, Mr. Spielberg talks about the making of the movie and what it means to him.

LC *Were you surprised that Schindler's List was seen by so many people all over the world?*

Spielberg Yes. I never expected it to attract such large audiences in theaters. I thought it could eventually reach some audience on videotape, in schools and television. Its theatrical success was an unexpected vindication of a difficult subject.

LC *You were first offered this film in 1982. Why did you wait until 1992 to make it?*

Spielberg This is the most realistic movie I've ever made. I wasn't ready to make it in 1982 because I wasn't mature enough, wasn't emotionally resolved with my life, and I hadn't had children. Yet, without knowing it, I had been preparing for it, I guess, all my life, back to the time I was a little kid in Cincinnati. My grandma would teach English to German, Polish, and Russian Jews, and I remember quite well a man who I thought was a fantastic magician because he rolled up his sleeve and there were all these numbers stamped on his arm. He taught me my numbers. Then one day, he said, "I'll show you some magic," and he pointed out a nine and then he turned his arm and said, "now it's a six." I learned what a nine and a six was on somebody's tattoo—that never left me.

LC *The film is so different from anything you've ever done. Why did you make it?*

Spielberg I made it for the millions who

had never heard the word *holocaust*, and for the shocking numbers of Americans who had the barest knowledge of its existence, and for those in denial that the 6 million murders ever took place. I had been looking at schoolbooks where there was either a loud absence of information or a simple footnote. A footnote! For younger people—and they were the ones I thought about most—it had the potential for a plague of ignorance.

I can't do much to fix the past, but a film like this can make a strong statement about what must never happen again.

If people don't know about the Holocaust, how much do they really know about slavery and segregation? Wounded Knee and the Cherokee Nation, the Ku Klux Klan, the internment of the Japanese



in World War II, or even the death threats to Hank Aaron when he was being considered for the Hall of Fame?

When I made *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* in 1977, I was obsessed with the theme that we are not alone in the universe. I am still obsessed with that theme—that we are not alone with our pain. People all over the world who are oppressed share the same history. The common link between slavery and the Holocaust is the pain of racial hatred. That's why I can say to my kids, and to the audience, "This didn't happen a long time ago. It happened as recently as yes-

terday in Bosnia, in Rwanda, in our own neighborhoods. You saw it on the news."

We cannot forget the lessons of the past. To deny and forget the hate crimes will guarantee their recurrence.

LC *What was your most memorable experience during the making of the movie?*

Spielberg It was frightening for me every day. I never had a day where I didn't think that where I was standing, being a Jew, 50 years ago, was an automatic death sentence. I felt I was working on the most notorious killing field in recorded human history; all of us felt that way.

LC *After you made the film, could you define what made Schindler do what he did to save the lives of 1,100 men, women, and children?*

Spielberg The witnesses that I've met are not able to tell me with any great clarity, in terms of agreement, why he did what he did. I think the film continues to pose more questions than the survivors can give answers. He did come to know his workers as people, and he was a man who enjoyed acts of kindness which made him feel pretty good about himself at a time when there was no kindness in the world. Oskar Schindler was a shining star in an otherwise stormy sky. He was a party giver. He loved women, and he loved to drink all sorts of spirits. He was a German, a Catholic, a war profiteer who was in the Oskar Schindler business for most of his career, but something

happened along the way that made him risk it all to rescue 1,100 human lives from the incinerators at Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

LC *What do you want people to talk to each other about the day after they see the film?*

Spielberg About the need to acknowledge that such events happened, must never be forgotten, and must never happen again, and the need to understand each other and our differences. And I hope they recognize that one person can make a difference. Oskar Schindler made a difference, and so can all of us, each in our own way.

LC

Notes: Adolf Hitler

- 1) Born on April 20, 1889 in Braunau, Austria – a small town on the German border.
- 2) Father – Alois Schickgruber (changed his name to Hitler when he became a businessman.) He was of Austro-Hungarian ancestry. At 47, he married Adolf's mother, his third wife. His other wives died. He had one son, Alois Jr. and a daughter, Angela.
- 3) Mother – Klara Polzl – a peasant girl, age 24 when she married Alois – she had formerly been his maid. Klara miscarried many children before she had Adolf. When Adolf was 5 she had another son who died a few years later, and when Adolf was 7, she had a daughter named Paula. Paula would outlive Adolf.
- 4) Mother was kind and doting. Father beat Adolf on a regular basis! His children had to call him "Herr Vater" – Sir Father. Adolf hated him!
- 5) Adolf loved to study poetry, art, and music early on in his school career.
- 6) Alois hated artists. He called them. "Loose, lazy, dirty people who wasted their lives in poverty." He placed Adolf in a technical school so he could become a clerk/businessman like himself.
- 7) At the new school he became a behavior problem because all of the teachers reminded him of his father. He failed many subjects.
- 8) ~~When Adolf was 14, his father died. Adolf convinced his mother to allow him to drop out of school. He told her he could learn more on his own – by himself.~~
- 9) Adolf didn't have to work. His mother received a pension. It was just Adolf, Paula, and mother at home. Adolf wandered around – he did frequent libraries and he did study history, mythology, art, and architecture. At night, he went to the Opera. Favorite musician – Richard Wagner.
- 10) He had only ONE friend – August Kubizek, a young musician. Kubizek would later write a book – *The Young Hitler I Knew* detailing his friendship with Adolf at 17. He would write that Adolf was a disturbed and moody person. He distrusted people and didn't know how to interact with them.
- 11) In 1907, Hitler went to Vienna to become a full-time art student. He failed his entrance exams. The professors didn't like his artwork either.
- 12) He returned home, and his mother died of cancer.
- 13) He returned to Vienna, and in 1908 – took the exams again, and failed again!
- 14) He BLAMED his failure on a corrupt system. He began to study a group of people he'd noticed in Vienna. They dressed and wore their hair differently than other people. They were Hasidic Jews.
- 15) Hitler began reading Anti-Semitic pamphlets he bought at newsstands. These pamphlets made outlandish claims that Jews were plotting to control all businesses and then the entire economy. These pamphlets also called for the Germans – the Superior Race to rise up and take back what the Jews were taking away!
- 16) Hitler needed to blame someone other than himself for being a failure. He chose the Jews.
- 17) Hitler was destitute until 1914, when WWI began! He decided to enlist in the German army.
- 18) Finally, his life had purpose. He was a good soldier, who loved war! He fought in 47 battles, and was considered a reliable comrade. He was not well liked as a person, however. He was too obsessed with death. He had a strange obsession with trench rats. He liked to stay awake at night and hunt them.

- 19) WWI ended. Germany was forced to surrender. Adolf was devastated! He blamed Germany's defeat on the Jews. He vowed revenge.
- 20) He joined a rebel group – The German Worker's Party" – a political club created by Anton Drexler, a mechanic in the railroad yards. It met to plan a better Germany. Everyone agreed that the Jews and the Marxists were to blame for Germany's problems. Hitler was 31 years old. He became the group's leader. He decided to use "the hooked cross" OR "swastika" as the party's emblem. The ancient symbol of good luck – as the sun passes across the sky.
- 21) Hitler's swastika – represented the purity of the Aryan race. In April 1920, he changed the name of the group to The National Socialist German Workers' Party or NAZI PARTY. He gave himself the title of *Fuehrer* = (father or leader).
- 22) Hitler believed –

- "His speeches were exercises in what he called the Big Lie. Hitler thought That most people were "stupid" and "lazy" and swayed by their emotions. To win them over, therefore, it was necessary to stir their emotions with lies. If he lied long enough and strong enough, he thought people would believe anything, no matter how ridiculous it sounded."

- Hitler by Albert Marrin

- 23) August 2, 1934 – Hitler became the President and Chancellor of Germany. He immediately instituted a Totalitarian Government. He became he dictator of Germany.
-

Ofner, Terry ed. Voices of the Holocaust
Perfection Learning, Logan: Iowa, 2000

CONCEPT VOCABULARY

You will find the following terms and definitions useful as you read and discuss the selections in this book.

Aryan race "Aryan" was originally applied to people who spoke any Indo-European language (in India, western Asia, and Europe). The Nazis, however, primarily used the term to refer to people of Northern European racial ancestry—especially those with blue eyes and blonde hair.

concentration camp Upon their ascent to power on January 30, 1933, the Nazis established concentration camps for the imprisonment of all "enemies" of their regime: political opponents, Jehovah's Witnesses, gypsies, homosexuals, and other "asocials." Beginning in 1938, Jews were targeted for internment solely because they were Jews.

Final solution The cover name for the plan to destroy the Jews of Europe—the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question." It began in December, 1941. Jews were rounded up and sent to extermination camps in the East. The program was deceptively disguised as "resettlement."

genocide The deliberate and systematic destruction of a religious, racial, national, or cultural group of people.

ghetto The Nazis revived the concept of medieval ghetto in creating their compulsory "Jewish Quarter." The ghetto was a section of a city where all Jews from the surrounding areas were forced to reside, surrounded by barbed wire or walls.

Nazi From the German words for Na(tional-so)zi(alist). A Nazi was a member or supporter of the National Socialist Party in Germany led by Adolf Hitler.

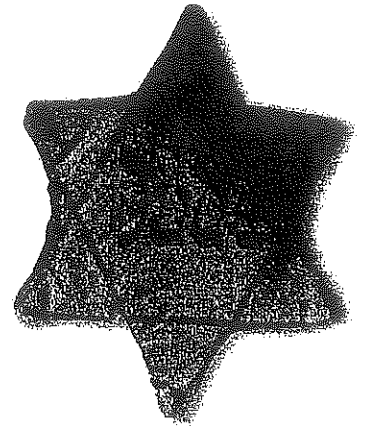
propaganda ideas or claims spread deliberately to further one's cause or to damage an opponent's cause.

scapegoat a person or group that bears the blame for others. Scapegoating is the process of blaming others for one's problems.

Third Reich the German state during the Nazi period.



In my will it will one day be written that nothing is to be engraved on my tombstone but "Adolf Hitler." I shall create my own title for myself in my name itself. —ADOLF HITLER



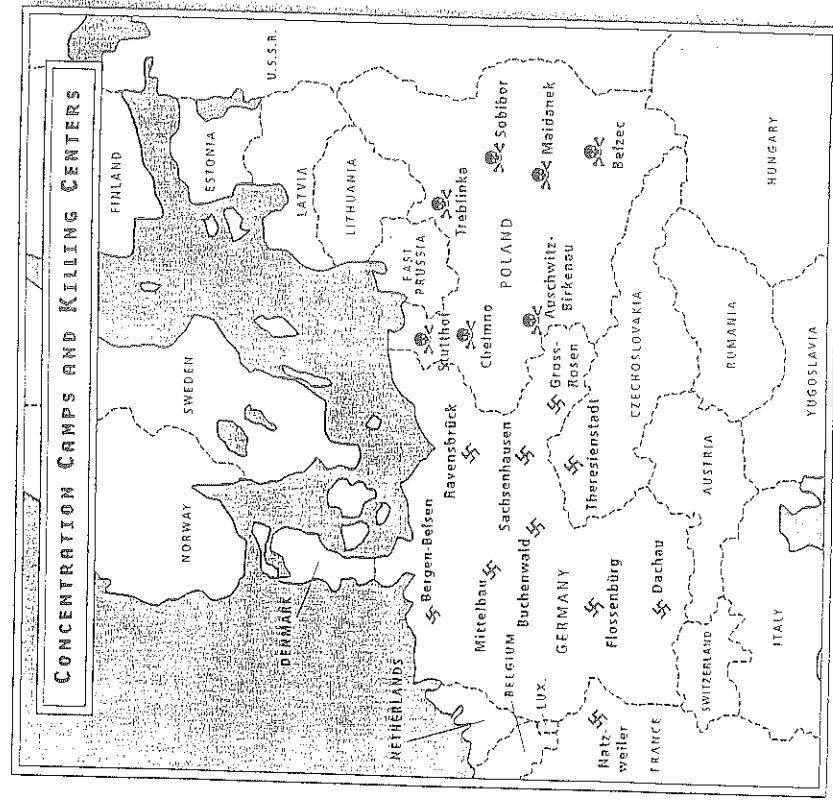
First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the Communists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.

—Pastor Martin Niemöller

(who spent seven years in concentration camps
after protesting the Nazi mistreatment of Jews)

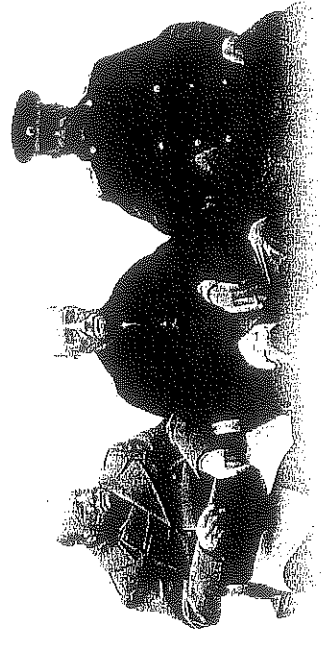
speechmaking led to his appointment as Chancellor in 1933. In 1934 he was elected president and named himself *Führer* or supreme leader.

Once in power Hitler turned anti-Semitism into an official government policy. Within a decade that policy had led to the murder of nearly 6 million European Jews as well as gypsies, intellectuals, homosexuals, handicapped, Marxists, and other "enemies of the state." While millions were murdered outright through the use of gas chambers and other methods of extermination, hundreds of thousands of others died from disease, starvation, and slave labor.

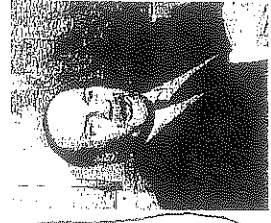


☛ concentration camp ☛ killing center

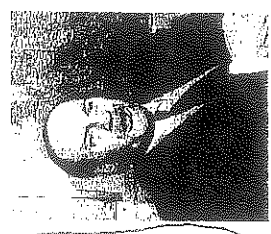
FACES OF THE HOLOCAUST



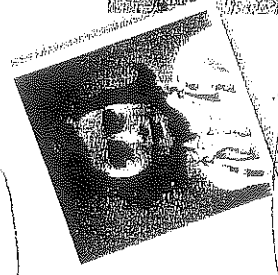
Allied leaders meet at Yalta, in Russia. (From left) Winston Churchill (1875-1965) British Prime Minister; Franklin Roosevelt (1882-1945) U.S. President; Josef Stalin (1879-1953) Dictator of Soviet Russia



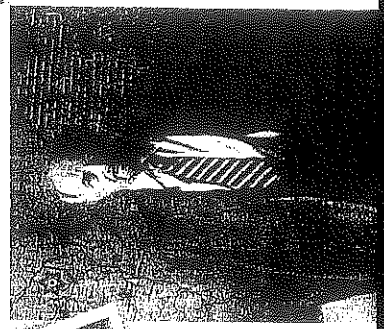
Oskar Schindler (1908-1974) German businessman who first profited from the war but later became a hero by saving 1300 Jewish workers from the gas chambers.



Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) *Führer* and Reichskanzler. He promised glory for the Germans and destruction for the Jews.



Anne Frank (1929-1945) Her diary, written while hiding from the Nazis, brought the horror of the Holocaust to the world.



Simon Wiesenthal (1908) A Holocaust survivor, he gave up a career in architecture to become a relentless Nazi hunter.

MAJOR EVENTS OF WORLD WAR II AND THE HOLOCAUST

1933

January
Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany

March

Dachau concentration camp opens

April

One-day boycott of Jewish shops and businesses; Gestapo (German internal security police) established

May

Public burnings of books written by Jews, political dissidents, and others not approved by the state

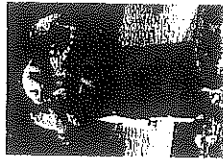
1935

Key
Jews barred from serving in German army

September
"Nuremberg Laws" passed. As a result, Jews no longer considered German citizens; Jews could not marry Aryans; nor could they fly the German flag

1937

July
Bucheneid concentration camp opens



1934

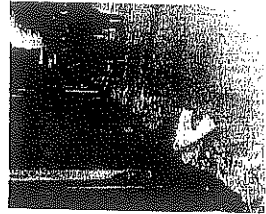
August
Hitler proclaims himself Führer und Reichskanzler (Leader and Reich Chancellor)



1936

March
Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in German institutions

August
Juden Verboten (No Jews) signs displayed outside many towns are removed during the Olympic Games in Berlin



1938

March
Hitler annexes Austria

August
Italy enacts sweeping anti-Semitic laws

October
Germans make all Jewish passports with a large J to restrict Jews from leaving the country

September
Munich Agreement: Britain and France accept German takeover of part of Czechoslovakia

October
17,000 Polish Jews expelled from Germany

November
Kristallnacht (9-10)
Decree forces all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands. All Jewish pupils expelled from German schools

1941

June
Germany invades the Soviet Union

July
Hitler appoints Reinhard Heydrich to implement the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question"

September
34,000 Jews massacred at Babi Yar outside Kiev, Russia

December
Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; United States declares war on Japan and Germany



1939

September
Germany invades Poland; World War II begins

November
Jews in German-occupied Poland forced to wear an arm band or yellow star

1940

April
Germany invades Denmark and Norway

May
Germany invades Holland, Belgium, and France; concentration camp established at Auschwitz

June
France surrenders

August
Battle of Britain (Germany's attempt to bomb Britain into submission) begins

1942

January
Heydrich outlines plan to murder Europe's Jews; German 6th Army surrenders at Stalingrad

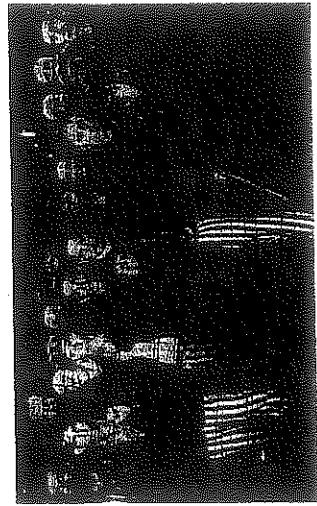
October
Armed revolt in Sobibor extermination camp

1944

June
D-Day: Allied invasion at Normandy, France

July
Group of German officers attempts to assassinate Hitler; Russians liberate Majdanek killing center

October
Revolt by inmates at Auschwitz



1945

April
Hitler commits suicide

May
V-E (Victory in Europe) Day; Germany surrenders; end of Third Reich

August
First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan

September
Japan surrenders; end of World War II



Final Solution
Hitler's death
Evil
Surrender

Assassination attempt
Revolt



The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity

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Elie Wiesel

Giving
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"Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Whenever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe."

Elie Wiesel
ELIE WIESEL
NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE



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October 21, 2009

Dear Dr. Wiesel,

Your memoir Night was very touching. It was definitely one of the first books about World War II that really made me think about the people, the prisoners. I'm not saying that I never thought about how hard and terrifying it must have been to be in a concentration camp, but I never pondered that every single thing you did was a matter of life or death. I understand that some choices you had to make were horrible.

I do not believe I would have survived a concentration camp. And if I had, I don't believe I could have admitted any of the truest thoughts that may have run through my mind. Was it hard for you to write down the barest truths of what you thought and felt? For example, your admitted broken relationship with God.

In my opinion, you are one of the toughest people for not only having survived, but for admitting to the whole world how corrupt the concentration camps made you and everybody else in them feel.

Thank you for your time. I want you to know that I read Night in my Sophomore English class and it was one of the best books I have ever read. I was compelled to write this letter to you. I can only hope that perhaps, you may have the time to respond to my inquiry.

Sincerely,

Nikki MacGillivray

February 20, 2010

Dr. Elie Wiesel
Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities
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Leanna Ciukaj
P.O. box 1052
Sturbridge MA, 01566

Dear Dr. Wiesel,

I enjoyed reading your memoir *Night*. It was very touching. This book provides facts concerning the Holocaust this was incredible. It is one thing to read about World War two history from a textbook, but it is more meaningful to read about someone who has actually been in the in the Holocaust. I like how in your memoir you didn't "sugar coat" the facts. Textbooks seem to do that; no one wants to say how bad something really was. It is very unbelievable that one man, Hitler, could do this to a larger group of people.

I read this book in my English class a book that my peers and I seem to talk about out of school. Past students remember this book. I am very appreciative that my English teacher along with English department at my school, Tantasqua High School, decided to put this in the curriculum. We also watched *Schindler's List*, along with *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, produced by David Heyman.

I understand that living in the concentration camp, was hard for you to believe in God. I think that I would have lost my faith in Him too. I think living in a concentration camp would have been living in a hell on earth. Do you believe in God, having made it out alive, do you believe in God, today? You must wonder why did I make it out alive when everyone around you was dead or dying? I think I might have some type of answer for that, I believe you lived for the purpose to tell everyone else on earth the truth of living in that horrifying time period. With out you writing a book like this I would have never got the "facts" of this horrifying time period. I would have got the "sugar coated facts" or maybe I just couldn't come to believe it because it's in a textbook. I could never say I don't know anyone that has lived thought this. I sincerely hope that you will answer this letter, I realize you get thousands of letters. I want you to know that I believe the horrifying events that took place over the years, because of your story.

I do have some questions for you too:

I understand that you live in New York. How did you end up getting to New York after the Holocaust?

Today do the memories still haunt you?

Did writing the book help you deal with living through Holocaust?

Do you today associate with anyone who live through the Holocaust as you did?

Eugenics defined:

The science of improving the human species through the use of principles of heredity.

Table 15.3

A Chronology of Eugenics

1883	Sir Francis Galton coins the term <i>eugenics</i> .
1889	Sir Francis Galton's writings are published in the book <i>Natural Inheritance</i> .
1896	Connecticut enacts law forbidding sex with a person who has epilepsy or is "feeble-minded" or an "imbecile."
1904	Galton establishes the Eugenics Record Office at the University of London to keep family records.
1907	First eugenic law in the United States orders sterilization of institutionalized mentally retarded males and criminal males, when experts recommend it.
1910	Eugenics Record Office founded in Cold Spring Harbor, New York, to collect family and institutional data.
1924	Immigration Act limits entry into the United States of "idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded, epileptics, insane persons," and restricts immigration to 7 percent of the U.S. population from a particular country according to the 1890 census—keeping out those from southern and eastern Europe.
1927	Supreme Court (<i>Buck vs. Bell</i>) upholds compulsory sterilization of the mentally retarded by a vote of 8 to 1, leading to many state laws.
1934	Eugenic sterilization law of Nazi Germany orders sterilization of individuals with conditions thought to be inherited, including epilepsy, schizophrenia, and blindness, depending upon rulings in Genetic Health Courts.
1939	Nazis begin killing 5,000 children with birth defects or mental retardation, then 70,000 "unfit" adults.
1956	U.S. state eugenic sterilization laws are repealed, but 58,000 people have already been sterilized.
1965	U.S. immigration laws reformed, lifting many restrictions.
1980s	California's Center for Germinal Choice is established, where Nobel Prize winners can deposit sperm to inseminate carefully chosen women.
1990s	Laws passed to prevent health insurance or employment discrimination based on genotype.
2000+	Human genome project completed. Many new genetic tests available.

The central idea of eugenics:

"... that the physical, mental and behavioral qualities of the human race [can] be improved by suitable management and manipulation of the hereditary essence..."

(Kevles, *In the Name of Eugenics*)

The eugenics movement was thus both:

-- a scientific research program aimed at understanding the fine points of human heredity

and

-- a reform movement aimed at correcting existing social ills

"Evolution must become an experimental science. First it must be controlled and studied, afterwards conducted along selected lines, and finally shaped to the use of man..."

(Hugo deVries at the dedication ceremonies for the Station of Experimental Evolution, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1904)

“Our growing ability to unscramble human genetic destinies will increasingly impact how humans view themselves and justify their behavior towards others. Our children will more be seen not as expressions of God’s will, but as results of the uncontrollable throw of genetic dice that does not always give us the results we want. At the same time, we will increasingly have the power to spot the good throws and to consider discarding the bad ones.

... We are increasingly going to be accused of unwisely playing God when we use genetics to improve the quality of either current or future human life. Partly these accusations reflect individuals who don’t think we have the right to do ‘God’s work.’ But at other times, I sense the uneasiness comes from the fear that we might someday use genetic procedures in Hitler-like ways, using our scientific powers to further discriminate against unpopular political and racial groups.

But as diabolical as Hitler was... we should not be held hostage to his awful past. For the genetic dice will continue to inflict awful fates to all too many individuals and their families who do not deserve this damnation. Decency demands that someone must rescue them from genetic hells. If we don’t play God, who will?”

(James Watson, in an address to fellow scientists at a meeting commemorating 40 years of the double helix, October 1993)



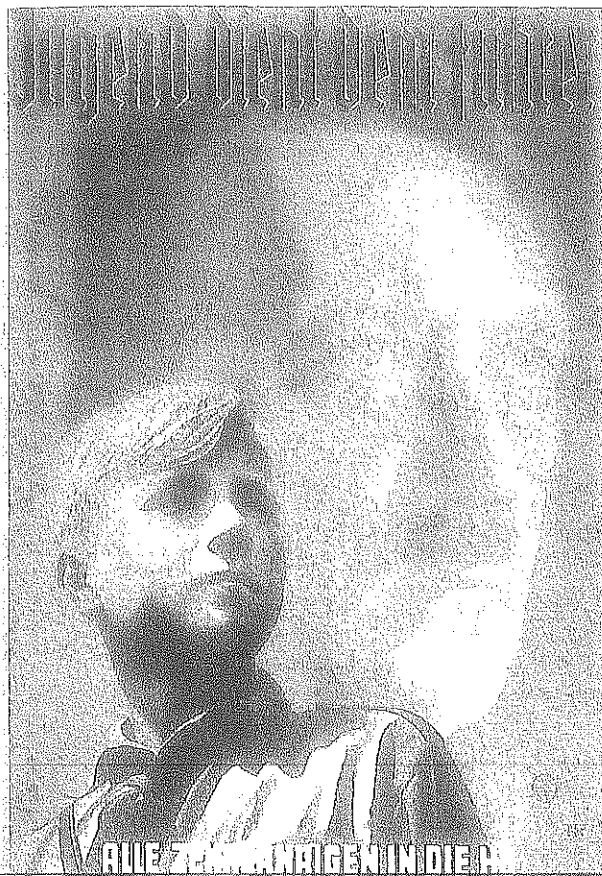
“You, too, belong to the Fuehrer.”

“Almost immediately the Nazis exercised the very first priority, which was to captivate the young. Twice a week we were taught racial science which was a specific instruction to be able to differentiate us from the so-called inferior races. That’s when I heard for the first time the term “master race.” They taught us about racial purity...”

“I remember seeing one movie which went much further... One thing we knew for sure—that you had to be on constant watch for Jews.”

“[Hitler] said, ‘Before us lies Germany. In us Germany marches. And after us comes Germany.’ It was mesmerizing to hear the Fuehrer speak... That’s the feeling that I had... Suddenly you had become invincible.”

Alfons Heck, former
Hitler Youth



Youth Serves the Fuehrer

All ten-year-olds in the Hitler Youth

“As my parents’ second daughter, I was a great disappointment to my father, who wanted to produce sons for the Fuehrer and the nation... He was furious that, unlike my fair-haired older Sister, who looked so Nordic, I had been cursed With auburn hair and dark brown eyes... [I]ndoctrination was universal. Children experienced it in kindergarten, at home—everywhere. We grew up believing that Hitler was a supergod, and Germany an anointed nation. We were taught our German superiority in everything. Country, race, science, art, music, history, literature.

“At the same time, our parents and teachers trained my sister and me to be the unquestioning helpmates of men...”

Hede von Nagel, on her
childhood in Nazi
Germany



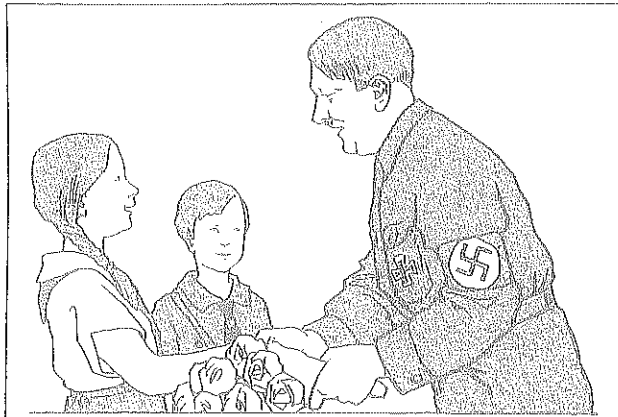
The National Socialist (Nazi) Party
Ensures the people's community

If you need counsel and help turn
to our local organization

"...Our state never releases the human being from the cradle to the grave. We start with the child of three years: as soon as he begins to think, he is already given a flag to carry.

"...A definite factor in getting a lie believed is the size of the lie. The broad mass of the people, in the simplicity of their hearts, more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one.

Adolf Hitler



Mein Führer!

(Das Kind spricht:)

Ich kenne dich wohl und habe dich lieb
wie Vater und Mutter.
Ich will dir immer gehorham sein
wie Vater und Mutter.
Und wenn ich groß bin, helfe ich dir
wie Vater und Mutter,
Und freuen sollst du dich an mir
wie Vater und Mutter!

(Girl, to Hitler)

I know you well and love you,
Like father and mother.

I shall always obey you,

Like father and mother.

And when I grow up I shall help you,

Like father and mother.

And you will be proud of me,

Like father and mother.

“We went to this movie and sat and made smart remarks all the way through and laughed at it because it was so outrageous. And yet when we came out of the movie, one of my Gentile friends said to me, ‘I wish I hadn’t seen it. I know that it was all ridiculous and propaganda, but for the first time in my life I have a sense of them and us—Jews and Gentiles...I wish I didn’t have this feeling’.”

Marion Pritchard, after
watching the Nazi
film, *The Eternal Jew*,
depicting the Jews as
an inferior group