

Trudy Gold | Evian and Kristallnacht

- So for those of you who have just come on, this is a postcard of Evian les Bains, and as I said to those who are already here, it's almost mind blowing because it's a beautiful resort, an upmarket resort. And I'm going to show you the hotel soon, and to thank again, the person who sent it to me on who's part of our, of our crowd, our community. We are a community now, aren't we? And I'm going to stop 10 minutes early. So because yes, last week there are an incredible amount of questions. So I'd like you to post the questions so we have a chance to go through them.

And I also want to say, I've had some extraordinary notes from people who are so connected to this, either that from their really people whose parents or grandparents went through it. And I'm learning new information all the time. You see, this is what's so fascinating about history. I read the books, I meet a few, quite a few people, but many of you have memories that have never been written about. And that's why I've said, if you've got memories, write them down. It's so important because that's how we come up with a picture of this very, very, very dark time. But also, it doesn't have to be dark history. Write your histories. It's a great legacy for your families.

- [Judi] Hi, Trudy, it's Judi .

- Hi, Judi. Are are you ready for me to start?

- [Judi] I am ready for you to start. Wendy's just running late in another meeting. So I will, we will, we will start, start now. So please, when you're ready.

- Okay. Thank you very, very much, Judi. And let me again, thank the chap who sent me these incredible postcards. They are so useful. And of course, this is Evian-les-Bains. Now, this is going to be the conference that is going to be convened by James P. McDonald to look at the plight of German Austrian refugees. Now, as I've said to you many times, and it's one of the great misconceptions of an understanding of what Nazism was all about, was murder always in Hitler's mind. Who knows? In a letter of 1919, he talked about elimination. But what is absolutely factual is that up until the invasion of Russia, there is no plan for the wholesale murder of every man, woman, and child who is Jewish in Europe.

And remember again, when I talk about Jewish, that is the Nazi definition of a Jew. It is whether you have Jewish blood, whether you are half Jewish, whether you are convert to Christianity, and in some cases, whether you are a quarter Jewish. It's the taint of Jewish blood definition is not just how you see yourself, it's how the others see you. Now, I also told you last week that you had this gradual ratcheting up of the Nazi programme. That, and then in 1935, the laws which excluded the Jews from citizenship and also made intermarriage a crime. And of course, you've got to think of the ramifications of this because these are all acts enacted by the Nazi state. And I'm sure this is something that Dennis Davis is going to talk about when he looks at lawyers, in particularly Jewish lawyers in Weimar, Germany.

Because the problem is you have lawyers adjudicating over what we would see as completely immoral laws. And it was judges who had to decide whether the Nuremberg laws had been contravened. If a Jew slept with an Aryan, then that was a punishable offence. For the Jew it meant a concentration camp, and for the Aryan it meant a prison sentence. So basically, this is the law of the land. And then I also told you 1936, Germany hosts the Olympic Games. Now that's an interesting issue, isn't it? When a country is put, fulfilling such an appalling, an appalling programme against some of its own citizens, what do you do about it? And of course, America at least had a vote on it.

121 people voted to go one, A Jewish sprinter said, we shouldn't go. Ironically, it was the American team that did so brilliantly, mainly because they had a lot of black athletes. It's not just Jesse Owens. There was another 18 of them. And there's a very interesting documentary on it. And of course, Hitler was furious, because it was the showcase for the pure Aryan. And of course members of the British aristocracy was there. The problem, one of the problems we have to look at at this time, it's not just what the Nazis are doing, it's the attitudes of other people. And before we get to the Evian conference, I'm going to talk a little about how the Nazis ratcheted up because of course, many Jews, after '36, they'd had a lull year, the Nazis actually removed signs in, for example, on park benches.

Jews aren't allowed to sit here, signs on swimming pools. Jews aren't allowed to go in because all the foreign press were in Berlin, and they wanted it to be the showcase to talk about the Reich that would last for a thousand years. And then of course, in 1937, he ratchets his up again. And you have a, and one of the most awful things is the Aryanization of businesses, which meant that you had to sell and that meant you could sell, and it's a buyer's market, and it, it's a buyer's market, not a seller's market. And you're getting more and more, you're getting more and more squeezed. Let me just give you one or two of the laws of 1937. And there's hundreds of them. Jews have forbidden to receive licences to carry firearms.

Well, that's pretty obvious. Jews may not be employed on the railway or the Reich Bank. The Reich Postal Ministry forcibly retires or postal officials whose spouses are, are not purely Aryan origin. This is to try, if you are married to a Jew, what can we do to make you divorce them? And can you just imagine the soul agony? Let's say you are a loving couple and you have a couple of children. The Jewish partner is putting pressure on because they're saying, if I'm not married to you, at least maybe the children will be safe. Jewish scientists may not work in laboratories of any kind. The Reich Ministry of Education decrees that Jewish University students will not be admitted to doctoral exams. This is April, 1937. Already there's a huge quota on Jews.

And I told you Jews couldn't sit from 1933 onwards, they couldn't sit for the the legal exams or the medical exams, but they didn't get rid of the Jewish doctors yet, or the Jewish lawyers because there were too many of them. They had to train the Aryans up. Infertile women have the right to be examined at public expense in order to determine whether their infertility can be remedied. Now this is interesting because remember, Hitler expected women just to be breeding

machines. The Reich Interior Ministry, and this is law, declares that Jewish women have no right for such examination.

Due to foreign reports of a trustees against Jews, SS Chief Heinrich Himmler decreed that Jews will not be released from concentration camp Dachau. What he's saying is, you are making a fuss in the foreign press and you are going to pay for it. Now, this is a very serious one, and this is the beginning of 1938. As chairman of the four year plan, Goring orders that all Jews must declare the value of their entire domestic and foreign property and assets. Because the Nazis are also about venality. All Jews have been sentenced to a prison term of more than one month will be arrested and without interrogation sent to a concentration camp.

So more and more and more, and absolutely bizarre, Jews are not often forbidden to keep carrier pigeons. Jews have all their driver's licence revoked. And this is an interesting, a tragic one. And this is after the Anschluss, the Reich Economics Anschluss freezes all Jewish property and assets. Now, this is the total impoverishment of the Jewish community. Remember, Germany was short of foreign currency. It was short of currency. And one of the ways he thought it could make it up was to squeeze the Jews absolutely dry. And also you have lots of nasty little legals, like for example, the Town Council of Tilsit.

So it's a local government as well orders that bakeries, bakeries must not sell bread to Jews. The state of Baden prohibits the use of the Jewish language, Yiddish in cattle markets. The Nazi leadership, this is very early on, in the Wallenstein district, forbids any Jew to enter a bar or a cafe. The Hessian ministry excludes the Old Testament from the Protestant religious education and so on and on and on. It's the horrific humiliation and it's the economic squeeze and it's also now a legal squeeze. So he's, what he has done is he's economically excluding the Jews from Germany. What's he doing then? He is then morally and in any way, he's cutting them off from the rest of the German population, economic, political, and taking them out of any kind of life of Germany. And please don't forget that before Hitler came to power, there was a liberal group in Germany. Just think of Berlin, the culture of Berlin.

And of course Jews would go to supper parties with Aryans. Think about it, intermarriage was running at 45% in Germany, higher than anywhere in the world. And I just think one gets a notion of the soul agony. Remember, it was their culture, their language. And they had believed that they were the real German citizens. They were loyal to the Fatherland. Just remember how many fought in the first World War and have been awarded the Iron Cross. I'm sure there's many of you on the, in the group today who will have relatives, fathers, uncles, great uncles, grandfathers who have that Iron Cross. And it's such a tragic, tragic story. Now, after the Anschluss, and this is when you have this horrific situation, which I talked about the other day, where basically it takes the Nazis five months to Nazify Austria.

All these areas of law that I've looked at and remember, they are areas of law. This is through the courts, through act of government departments. This is what is so extraordinary about Nazi Germany. And this is what makes it actually a precedent. Because what it's going to do, it's

going to take all the mechanisms of the state for exclusion. But what is, what is the kind of end of Nazi policy? It's going to go from exclusion. And we've seen that in other places, in other societies. It's going to go from exclusion. If we can't exclude them, then let's eliminate them. And the question that I know the Zionist organisations at the time asked themselves, and I think modern Israel is still really touched by this issue, what could have happened? And the question is, could German and Austrian Jewry have been saved in their entirety?

Look, by the time of the Anschluss, within three months of the Anschluss, let's say by the spring, the late spring of 1938, over 300,000 Jews had managed to get out of Austria and Germany. It's going to be after the Evian conference that the Nazis are going to totally regularise. So basically it's a slow, regular immigration. They have to provide financial help. If they can't provide it themselves, then it's often provided by Jewish relief organisations. And by the time we are talking about over 30,000 had gone to West in the first year, beg pardon, in 1935, three, 30,000 went to Western European countries, 15,000 to America, 21,000 to South America, 4,000 to South Africa. And 20, what is 20,000 Jews returned to the countries of Eastern Europe where they'd come from.

Please don't forget, at the end of the first World War, there was horrific antisemitism in Poland, Lithuania, the Ukraine, I'm going to talk about that next week. The interwar period. And consequently over a 100,000 Austrian had fled into Germany. In the main, they were not very well treated by German Jews who thought that they would just blame for the antisemitism. It's not us, it's the others. Now, what could be done, and there's an incredible amount of noise in the Western press, this is important. Although Goebbels runs the Reich's Ministry of culture, he's in charge of looking after the press. And frankly, many of the press regarded him as a junket, there were some very good pressmen like William Shira, I already mentioned Varian Fry to you.

And I'm going to come back to him. And they were telling the story. And depending on what newspaper you read, almost on a weekly basis, there would be an article about what was happening in Nazi Germany. So, and of course the Anschluss was incredibly well funded. It was, well, beg your pardon, it was funded from the Nazi point of view. Sure, they stole and they stolen and they stole, right? Let's talk about Evian itself. It hap, there was a commission for refugees attached to the League of Nations run by a man called McDonald. And he was a pretty good man, actually. He came, he was an American, he came from a very ordinary background. His parents ran a hotel, but he was absolutely brilliant. He won a teaching fellowship to Harvard. And he becomes the high commissioner for refugees in 1933.

And he's very well aware of what's going on. And he also realises just how impotent the League of Nations was. What if I tell you the organisation he had set up, he chaired rather, was an autonomous organisation in charge, in charge of finding its own funding. It received no funding from the League of Nations. It was only affiliated, the commission didn't report back to the league, but only to its ruling body. And what it had he had to do was to find money to relieve the suffering of German Jews. Basically, how are you going to get them out? Because I need to lighten it a little bit because it's not a complete horror story, back in England, there were two

very eccentric women, Ida, Ida, and I think it was Ida Cook.

And they called the, they wrote their biography, autobiography, they called themselves spinster women. They lived in South London. They were absolutely obsessed with opera. They were totally non-political. And these eccentric were English women, they weren't very rich until Ida, who had a fantastic imagination began to write stories for one of the most famous publications in the world, Mills and Boone. It's basically love stories. And she becomes very good at it, and she becomes very rich. They travel, they go to Germany, they adore opera. And because they're eccentric English women, even the high command they go , the German high command, just think that they're rather odd, but so what?

And through one of the opera stars who befriends them, they realise what's happening to German Jewry. And these women, they go to Germany and basically they give, on, they stitch diamonds onto their clothing. They go with wonderful furs and they give them to Jewish families. They saved about 30 families that way, which enabled them to have the money to get out because it, you see, you've got the Nazis impoverishing them. And of course I told you last week that Eichmann under Heinrich and Himmler, this is the province of the SS, set up an immigration bureau in Vienna and in Berlin to facilitate Jewish immigration. Let's drain them dry all their money, squeeze them out, and then let's send them penniless.

Now going back to McDonald, he spent so much time trying to find areas of support. He was one of the good guys. There's a lot of pressure now on President Roosevelt, and now is not the time to talk about the personality of Roosevelt. We'll be spending a lot of time on that when we look at America. But he was getting criticism from, for his policy. What was the reaction of American Jewry, British Jewry, the Jews of the free world, to what was going on in Germany? Well, Rabbi Stephen Wise, you will recall, had organised a huge rally back in 1933, 4 days before the one day boycott. He'd organised this rally and it really did have an effect on Goebbels. But the problem was, as the years went by the level of prejudice in the country, bearing in mind the Wall Street crash, the fear of foreigners was going up.

That Jews were beginning to, many Jews, particularly Jews who wanted to be part of the establishment, found themselves in a position where they felt it might be unAmerican or un-English to try too much to help. Now, having said that, there were extraordinary people in America and in Britain, and I will be talking about them, but in America, I talked about the German bond and I talked about Lindbergh. And then of course you have characters like Joseph Kennedy, and I'm going to pinpoint him because he was incredibly, he was an incredibly powerful man. Not only was he incredibly rich man, he was powerful, and he was in a position to do something. And what he did was to cause a lot of trouble for the Jews.

And I'm going to tell you exactly what he did. They had a huge fortune. His father, Catholic political family from East Boston, his family had a whole range of businesses, and he himself made a huge fortune. And as a result of that, he gets involved in Hollywood. He refinances huge Hollywood studios, several acquisitions merged into RKO. He had many affairs with actresses,

and also he increased his fortune because he had the distribution rights for scotch. He also owned the largest private building in America at the time, Chicago's Merchandise Mart. Of course, he was a leading Democrat, very much the leader of the Irish Catholic community. And he becomes Britain's, he becomes America's ambassador to Britain.

And that meant he was a person of huge power in Britain. He becomes very friendly with Viscountess Nancy Astor. Nancy Astor, of course, the Cleveland set. She is part of the English aristocracy. And she, and he became very close and they wrote letters to each other. And basically she saw Hitler as a welcome solution to the world's problems. And this is what she wrote to Joseph Kennedy. Hitler would have to do more than just give a rough time to the killers of Christ before I will be in favour of launching Armageddon to save them. Because think about it, you'd had this appalling World War I, you'd had the protocols of the elders of Zion, which it was, spread like wildfire. Many conservatives from country to country thought all Jews were communists and felt that they messed things up.

The level of antisemitism, you had economic, social, and political instability. The ruling classes wanted to hold onto power. And they, and basically anti-Semitism is at an alarming level. And this is what also what she wrote, "The wheel of history strings round as the Lord would have it. Who are we to stand in the way of the future?" And this is Kennedy's reply. "The Jew media in America will be a problem. And that Jewish pundits in New York and LA were already making noises contriving to set in motion a match to fuse the world. You see, they were saying, our countries must not go against, must not go against Hitler. Hitler's doing a good job.

There's law and order, and it's the Jews who are going to egg us on into a world war. Now, he also gets involved in extensive discussions with the German ambassador. Our Ribbentrop is recalled to Berlin for much greater things. And of course, later on he's going to be hanged at Nuremberg. And I mentioned to you last week, he of course was probably the lover of Molly Simpson. He sent her flowers every week. And I've already mentioned to what extent they were, they were flirting with Nazism and he advise, so he has a very close relationship with the German ambassador, Herbert von Dirksen. And he said he advised him, because this gets back to, in a report to Berlin, Roosevelt was a victim of Jewish influence. And the ambassador sent a note to his superiors saying that Kennedy was Germany's best friend in London.

And ironically, his son, Joe Junior, admired Hitler. I'm going to read you something. You know, tragically, a lot of, a lot of myths are overturned in this study. "Jews were at the head of big business in the law. It is to their credit to get so far, but their methods are unscrupulous. The lawyers and the judges were Jews. And if you have a case against a Jew, you are always sure to lose it. As for the brutality of antisemitism, it might have been necessary to use some." Now, Edward Prince of Wales to a German relative. It's, no, this is before the application crisis. "It's no business of ours to interfere in Germany's internal affairs about the Jews or anything else. Dictators are very popular these days. We might want one in England before long." Now the I'm turning to England. So you have the Clifton set.

You also had a lot of right wing aristocrats. And unfortunately one of them is going to be the British ambassador to Evian, a man called the Earl of Winterton. It was said of him that he was too wet for jack boots. And in fact, when he was appointed the Yorkshire observer, he was appointed a British, a delegate to Evian, illustrates the spirit of compromise with which the British government is entering the conference. Note, and it notes that Britain, Britain has grudgingly acquiesced to Roosevelt's desire. And the Jewish Chronicle demanded Palestine be allowed to assist the refugee problem. So Winterton, the son of Edward, turn out fifth heir of Winton, he's a very wealthy aristocrat. He's called Wellies Winterton, too wet for jackpots. He's going to be the British delegate.

And he flirts with aristocrats in London who are very much part of the appeasement lobby around Lord Halifax, around Dawes who is the editor of the "Times". So this is, I'm giving you this background so that you see in the end why Evian really failed. And it culminates in a group called the Reich Club. It was run by a Scottish unionist MP, a man called Archibald Maule Ramsay. He was a former army officer. And basically his wife, when she gave a speech to the Our Growth Business Club, it was reported in the national press. This is what she said, "Everything is under Jewish control. And that an international group of Jews are behind every world revolution in every single country.

And Hitler must have his reasons for what he has done." That was reported in the press. In fact, the head of the Hebrew congregation in Edinburgh wrote to the Scotsman challenging her. And it did lead to the family having problems, his family having problems with the constituents. But on the 27th of April, he speaks to a branch of this is, this is Ramsay, he speaks to a branch of the Nordic League in Kilburn . "A few months ago I talked about the Kilburn Wanderers who were a bunch of Jewish intellectuals. Solomon Sheta, Israel Zam, well, now I'm talking about the Nordic League." It had been set up in 1935. It was a coordinating body for right wing extremism in England. And it originated in 1935 when Alfred Rosenberg, and you will know who he is, he's Hitler's chief theorist, the chap who writes all about the origins of the 20th century. It's all about the pyramid of the races.

He's a pagan, he's anti-Christian. And he sent agents to London to establish a version of the movement. And Ramsey is the chair, met brigadier generals, all sorts of aristocrats. And in the end it finishes up in a group called the Reich Club, which was chaired by the Duke of Wellington. So the atmosphere amongst certain aristos in London is actually quite problematic, plus what's going on in the rest of the world. So what happens is Roosevelt is given his way, Britain gives into it, but he is not happy about it. 32 countries decide to send representatives. The foreign office in particular, they were asked to help organise things.

And this is a briefing given to Lord Halifax in advance of the conference. The conference was first mooted just after the Angelos. And this, it's going to happen in July of 1938. And this is May '38. This is a briefing for Lord Halifax. "The question of Jews in central Europe we raise sooner or later and can only be resolved comprehensively and perhaps radically. And also it was reported that they were afraid that there'd be a crackdown of Jews in Poland, Romania, and

Hungary, which would unleash a movement of population involving several million."

Now I'm having to jump on a bit because I'll be looking at, as I said to you, I'll be looking at into all Poland, Romania, et cetera next week. This is the Romanian foreign minister, a man called Nikolai Petrescu. This is what he said to the US ambassador. He hoped that Jewish resettlement issue would be extended to his country. In an interview with the Nazi paper, this is what he said. This is in February, 1938. "We have to force the Western democracies to choose between opening up new territories for Jewish immigration and accepting a violent solution to the conflict. It is very difficult to constrain people from carrying out pogroms. And those in Paris and London should be made to know that we won't always be able to do this.

You must take a decision quickly." And the next Romanian government draws up a memorandum, which it presents to London. "A Jewish state must be established in cooperation with Jewish organisations and be and be supported with decisive action on the part of the Western powers to quickly and thoroughly solve the Jewish problem." Now this is September the 20th, discussions between Hitler and the Polish ambassador Lipsky. The furor stated, "The Jewish problem could be solved by immigration to the British colonies based on an agreement with Poland, Hungary, and possibly Romania."

This is the Poland Polish foreign minister Beck, his answer. "On this score, I have told Hitler we would erect a magnificent monument to him in Warsaw if he bought about such a solution." At this stage, German Polish relations were okay because of the Sudetenland. Alright, so this is the situation. In America, you have characters with the power of Father O'Coughlin, the anti-Semitic rabble rouser who had three and a half million people listening to his radio station. You have the German bund, you had Lindberg, and to what extent was Roosevelt himself, such a friend of the Jews. But anyway, in the end, the Evian the conference goes ahead and here you see some of the delegates. He goes ahead at Evian, this extraordinary place on the border, on the Swiss, it's on the Swiss French border. And if we could see the next slide, Judy, I want them to have a look. Can we go onto the next slide?

Because that is Evian les Bains, that is the hotel they met at. And basically 32 countries sent representatives and they spent most of the time playing golf. So, and of course there's one area that I haven't even mentioned, and that's Palestine. Okay. I've talked about the American delegates. The person who was sent by Roosevelt as advisor to James McDonald, was a man called Myron Taylor. He was a lawyer, he was a businessman, he was a very close friend of Roosevelt. He turned around the finances of US steel. He was the chairman and chief executive, and he was, he was very interested in labour conciliation. And Roosevelt instructed him, this is what he said, all you need is to get people together.

He also served as the person of the envoy later on to Pius the 12th. Now, it was actually Sumner Wells who was an under secretary, who had, who he was a great friend, you know, he was one of the good guys as far as the Jews were concerned. He was under secretary from 1936 to 43, very well connected politically, believed passionately in liberal democracy. And he



has been, he was the one who was pushing with James P. MacDonald. So these were the American team. The British had Lord Winterton, and they all come together. But Britain's got itself into a real situation, because as far as the Zionist were concerned, and this is where we have to cross reference into Zionism.

And later on, certainly before we, the Christmas holidays, I'm going to give us few sessions on Zionism because I think it's important we bring it up. Look what's happening in the '20's and '30's. Well, the palace, if you think about it, the Balfour Declaration, the issue of Palestine was becoming a thriving, a thriving entity. But this is where you come to the notion of Jewish powerlessness. Under their leader, the Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayn, the Arabs of Palestine were becoming more and more equivocal. They do not want Jewish immigration into Palestine. And by 1938, the British are seriously listening to them. Back in 1936, because of the response to the number of German Jews coming into Palestine, the Mufti had organised a general strike and riots. They'd been put down. but the British decided to send a delegation to Palestine to try and solve the situation. And it was headed up by Lord Peel.

Lord Peel, there's a wonderful footage of him arriving by train in a July day in top hat and frock coat. Basically, they decide after 10 months of deliberation that the equitable thing to do was to partition Palestine. And let's be very careful here, and when I look at it, I'm going to show you maps. Palestine as awarded to the British by the League of Nations, encompassed what is today's Israel, Gaza and Trans Jordan. Back in 1921, Winston Churchill had chopped off two-thirds of it and created Transjordan, which he'd given to Arab Allies. More about that later. So when I talk about the partition of Palestine, I am talking about what is today, Israel, the West Bank, and a little bit to the north of the where the Golden Heights is.

So that's what I'm talking about. And they decided to give the Jews land about the size of Cornwall. There are heartbreaking appeals from both Jar Budinski and Weizmann to the appeal commission. But the appeal, the Arab said, we are not going to accommodate it. And, and by 1937, '38, the British, the foreign office had to take on that there could be a war. They don't want a war. The appeasement lobby is very, very strong. But if there is a war, we need the Arabs on our side. So back in 1938, the memo is quite, is quite clear. In any future war, the Jews will have no cause but to side with us, it's going to be in our interests to back the Arabs.

And consequently, they've more or less closed the door. So Palestine, which ironically Hitler, not just Hitler, but the authoritarian rulers in Romania, Lithuania, Poland thought would solve an inverted home as their Jewish problem is becoming more and more of a remote possibility. And you can imagine the pain of the Zionist in Palestine, which now had very much, they were now very much codified into different groups. You have the Haganah, Ben-Gurion, Weizmann, you had the Irgun, which is Jabotinsky, and later on you're going to have the Lehi, which is even more of an extremist group. How on earth do you respond to this terrible situation?

They couldn't predict the Shoah, but they knew something terrible was happening because it's not just what's going on in Germany and in Austria, as I said to you before, it's going to, there's

a horror story emerging in Poland and Lithuania and also in Romania to say nothing of, Latvia. Jewish life, it's ironic, the Jews really do become the scapegoat at this time. So these 32 countries come together and basically the Dominican Republic is the only country that agrees to, in any way really lift the quotas. But unfortunately that comes to nothing.

And the British make it quite clear that they are not going to do anything to open the gates of Palestine. And they say British government's investigating policy. This is from the Daily Express Friday, the 8th of July. So I'm read '38, so I'm reading you extracts from the press. This is so, the British say, we're going to see if we can settle refugees in East Africa. South Africa says we can, we will take in only Jews who have family there. America will only take within the quota. Country after country. What is suggested is that they actually set up another commission to investigate it. This is the article about Australia. This is lieutenant Colonel White, who was the Australian minister at Evian. He told the Evian Conference he could not offer any hope to refugees from Germany and Austria. We have no real racial problem.

We are not desirous importing one by encouraging any scheme of large scale immigration. Let me just read an article from the "Sunday Express" of June the 19th, 1938. "And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And he pursued after the children of Israel, there is a new exodus of the children of Israel, not from Egypt, but from Germany. But it is the old method which is being used to drive them forth. It is the method of terror. In Britain, half a million Jews find their home. They are never persecuted. And indeed, in many respects, the Jews are given favoured treatment here. But now there is a big influx of foreign Jews into the country. They are overrunning the country. They are trying to enter the medical profession in great numbers. They wish to practise as dentists. Worst of all, many of them are holding themselves out to the public as psychoanalysts.

A psychoanalyst needs no medical training, but arrogates to himself the function of a doctor. And he often obtains an ascendancy over the patient at which he makes base use of he's a bad man. The hostility to the Jews in Germany cannot be condoned, but beware less the present rush of Jews into this country injures the cause of Jewry here, for professional men naturally resent their livings being taken from them by immigrants from foreign countries, whether they be Jew or Gentile." And this is how it finishes. "There is no intolerance in Britain today. Intolerance is loathed and hated by almost everyone in the country. And by keeping a close watch on the causes which fed the intolerance of the Jews in other countries, we shall be able to continue to treat well those Jews who have made their homes amongst us."

So basically the atmosphere, and as I said, there were a lot of exceptions. I'm going to be talking later on about, when I'm going to do a whole session on the good guys. I mean in the British Parliament, for example, you had Eleanor Rathburn, you had Josiah Wedgewood, you had Winston Churchill. They're all screaming out, you've got to do something. But in the end, Halifax is for appeasement. And at Evian, basically the countries of the world do nothing. And I'm going to read, I want to read what Golden Meyer said. She was an observer at Evian. She had no voting rights. She was observer representing the Jewish Agency. "I don't think anyone

who didn't live through it can understand what I felt at Evian. A mixture of sorrow, rage, frustration, and horror. I wanted to get up and scream at them all. Don't you know that these numbers are human beings who may spend the rest of their lives in concentration camps or wandering around like lepers if you don't let them in?"

Now, this is a, this was a memo in the German foreign office regarding Jews just after the conference. "In North America, in South America, in France, in Holland, Scandinavia, and Greece. Wherever the stream of Jewish immigrants is poured in, a clear increase in anti-Semitism has already been recorded. It must be the aim of German foreign policy to strengthen this wave of anti-Semitism. Now, Hitler writes an extraordinary thing. He says, "We savages are better than the so-called civilised world because we say what we are going to do. And of course, Evian, in a way, gives Hitler the because after Evian, he expels 12,000 Polish Jews back to the Polish border, to a place called . Now, I'm, unfortunately, I've miscalculated and I will, I want to have a whole session on this in Kristallnacht, obviously.

So I'm just going to give you an outline, but I'll go back to this in detail. So Evian, when the countries of the free world decided to think about what to do about the Jews, and basically they decide not to do anything, and think of the situation Hitler set up through Himmler and Heinrich, these immigration bureaus. He sets up one in Berlin in 1939. I want these people out. I want them penniless. If they come into England, they are, they are allowed in within the quota, but they have to have a sponsor. Jewish organisations in America and Britain, and some of them were magnificent. They were going round, raising money, raising money. There was the great Rabbi Schonfeld, who was approached by Rabbi Weissman, to save boys from his yeshiva. And he would go around the Jewish areas in Stamford Hill, banging on people's doors. You've got to take someone, you've got to take someone. And later on, of course there was the kinder transport. But the point is, Hitler had a policy. And the countries of the world are saying it's not really our problem.

And the British out of pragmatism, unfortunately, many of the army officers in Palestine, they were seasoned. and of course the Irgun and the Haganah were making a lot of trouble for them. These seasoned officers, and basically, and I remember this, I'm not going to tell you who said this to me, but a man who was involved in Israeli politics for years, he said, we made terrible colonials. We couldn't play the game. So there was a level of anti-Semitism in the mandate anyway, amongst many of the officer class. Of course, there are exceptions, like the extraordinary old Wingate. But the problem was that, the problem was that in the end, nobody really did anything.

And this was the lesson that the Zionists were have, would, were going to have to learn and they learned it well, actually. And the other question that I want to bring up before we go to discussing matters, one of the most appalling accusations against the state of Israel today is that the Zionists collaborated with the Nazis. They bring up the Haavara agreement, they bring up all sorts of things, including of course, the Kasper affair, which I've already talked about in one of my classes. And I just feel so strongly about this, I get so angry. I go to the words of

Rabbi Sacks. First they hated our religion, then they hated our race. Now they hate our nation. I think the fact that they can actually accuse Zionists of collusion with the Nazis to create a state, to me is one of the greatest slanders possible against anyone.

And it shows you that antisemitism, how it's infiltrated again, it never really went away, but it's back with a vengeance. So on that happy note, let's have a look at the questions. And I hope you have put them on the chat. Oh. Oh. Okay. I've got some I'm going to read. I'm going to read them out. All right? I'll read the question, so.

Q&A and Comments:

Q: This is someone saying there was a wonderful documentary on Channel five about the Nuremberg Trials. Yes. Did I see the film, "The Wave", a psychological experiment about how you could brainwash children?

A: Yes. It's a brilliant film.

Q: This is another one. I'm a Mischling with a Jewish mother who worked in a fish factory. I lived in Germany throughout the war, but I've never met anyone else who survived in Germany.

A: Yes, a lot of people survived in Germany. Thousands, you see, particularly in Berlin, not all Germans were Nazis and many Jews were saved. And if you write to me, I'll tell you who to get in touch with.

And he's saying, my name is Maron Maron. There are lots of people who survived in Germany saved by, you know, people survived in many ways. They say they survived because there were decent people. They survived because they managed to bribe people. And sometimes they survived because they were lucky.

Q: Now this is from Mitzi. If England hadn't colluded with the Arabs, especially in the 1939, limiting Jewish immigration to Palestine, could the Holocaust have happened or curtailed?

A: Oh Mitzi, that's such a difficult problem. All I could say to you is that Austrian and German Jew could have been saved. That is true. I don't think any historian would disagree with that. Once you go on to Poland and the three and the quarter million Britain went to war with Germany, would that, would they have been able to get Jews out of Poland? I very much doubted, but certainly the white paper in, in May, 1939, the British basically closed the door. They cut immigration to 15,000 a year for five years. So, and then whoever had the majority had the state. So basically on the eve of war, and you're going to see next time I talk to you that Hitler's ratcheting it up, ratcheting up on the eve of war, the gates of Palestine were slammed in the face of the Jews.

- Trudy?

- Yes.

- Can you mention the credits of all of the the-

- Oh yeah.

- The people-

- [Judi] Mentioned their name. This is from Ram Ramonoff. I saw a document where the Northern Rhodesian government passed a motion they would accept as many European Jews as wanted to come. Now they're, and he's saying obviously to bring whites to Africa and the leaders of European Jews felt to Africa was not the place. Can I comment on this? I know about South Africa. I'm going to have to look at that up for you. It doesn't make sense to me, frankly, because South Africa said they only wanted, they would only take in Jews who already had relatives there. So they didn't want, if that, so I don't believe, but I'll try and check that for you.

This is Rodalho. Initially the United States Olympic team was about sending a team to Berlin. The Navy Brandage and an anti-semitic pressured committee members voted to send a team, only one, one person held out. And that was a sprinter, Johnny Noy Glass. Yes. And he's talking about Avery Bondage. Later the head of the international committee refused to halt the Munich Olympics following the murder of the Israeli athletes. Yes. That's a very interesting comment.

Okay, this is Barrington Black. If it had been a criminal defence advocate, when Ken Livingston described Hitler's a Zionist and was charged with misbehaviour, I might have been embarrassed into taking his case. Hmm. That's very interesting, Judge. Ken Livingston. Did he, does he cross the line from anti-Zionism to antisemitism? I know what I think. What was the date of the Evian conference? That was the sixth to the 13th of July, 1938. Was Switzerland represented at Evian, and I think they were, and I don't think they offered very much at all. Switzerland had become very problematic. You know, Switzerland was doing an incredible amount of business with Nazi Germany and they actually purged their offices of Jews back in '38 so as not to upset the Nazis. So. Why would China and Japan not involved?

They're up to their neck in war. They have their own problem. I mean, you know, in 1937 the Japanese invaded China and over two, I think no, 300,000 Chinese civilians were murdered by the Japanese. But you know how strange the world is? There was a German, a member of the Nazi party living in Manjing and he saved thousands of Chinese civilians. There was a Chinese consul in Vienna who saved thousands of Vietnamese Jews by giving them visas. And also there was a Japanese consul in Lithuania, in Vilnius who gave, who gave transit visas to Shanghai. So it's complex people are people, they only wanted agricultural workers. There wasn't enough time to get it all going. My family survived. Yes, Joan. Are any reason why there was no Jewish resistance to the events taking place in 1936 to 1938 later. What do you mean by Jewish resistance? Felipe Lopez.

In Palestine, yes, they were, they were beginning to become militant. The Irgun had broken away from the Haganah back in 1933. What on earth can you do? This is about Jewish powerlessness. Yes, the Canadian prime minister, this is from Sheila, the Canadian prime minister excelled himself by saying if even one is too many. Yep. Yes. And this is from Robin. You mentioned Varian Fry. A wonderful novel about him is called "Flight Portfolio". Yes. Why did Roosevelt not listen?

Q: This is from Marion. Why did Roosevelt not listen to his ambassador in Germany who warned in about Hitler and what was happening to the Jews?

A: Well, basically Roosevelt had a lot of problems on his hands. Let me give you an example. The southern states, you know, there was a whole, there was a whole lobby in America. There was isolationists, why should America be getting, get involved in a war? Antisemitism was up 20 notches. Does the Americans want to get involved in another European war? That's basically, and did, and what, and as far as the Jews were concerned, was Roosevelt such a wonderful guy? That's something a we'll talk about when we come to America. Let me just go on.

Were Jews from Berlin taken to? This is from Marion. They were Eastern European. If you can, if you remember the German workers party, if you came in after, if you came in after 1914, you were considered, you were an Eastern European Jew, you'd lost your citizenship. And they were the ones who were taken. If you were Eastern European, if you'd been born in Poland or in Latvia, Lithuania, they're the ones who were taken back. What about Kristallnacht, I will be dealing that in my next session because there's a direct connection. I didn't want to rush. This is too important. I have read there were plots to assassinate Hitler. Is that correct? And if there were many plots to assassinate Hitler, tragically the monster was very lucky.

My mother, this is Relli, my mother used to say more German Jews survived because they see what was coming early and weren't caught off guard as were, for example, Hungarian Jewry. Well, oh goodness, that is such a complex question Ellie. Yes, they could see what was coming, but they couldn't imagine the inferno. And of course, once war breaks out, how are they going to get out? David Sefton, was there any jealousy amongst British Jews in the German and Austrian immigration to Britain? David, brilliant question. Absolutely fascinating. It seems every immigration, for example, the Safian came here first, then the Germans came over and the, I'm talking about the Germans from Central Europe, they weren't treated too well by the Sephardi. In Davis Mark Shore they had pews at the back for the Ashkenazi, then the Eastern Europeans came over and they had to be civilised.

And when the Germans and Austrian came over, it's fascinating because I'm going to stick my neck out and say they were probably the most impressive immigration that Britain has ever seen. And I'm talking about every immigration in terms of what they did for British culture sciences. Yes. You see, also, you've got to remember the anti-Semitism in Britain made a lot of British Jews feel very antsy and foreigners come in. It's a very important question and I will be

coming back to it because you see one of the issues of teaching history to a group such as you, you're all thoughtful. You've thought these things through. I've said this to Wendy many times, in many ways we have to bring the psychologists in as well.

Yvonne, what were the names of the two spinsters? And I only called them spinsters because well that's what they called themselves. Ida and I can't remember the other name. Ida and somebody Cook. The last Jews in Berlin deals details how 5,000 Jews survived in Berlin. That's from Mr. Lesberger. Thank you. Vera Brazinski, Jewish partners married to Aryans also survived. And also later on we, yes you, Vera Wrenchen, the Rosen Stria protest. Yes. That's important. And when we get to the war, we'll be talking about that. Do you think that American and British Jews did enough to save their brothers? Oh.

Can we talk about that when we, when we actually look at the Shoah itself and post Shoah, because that needs a whole presentation. It's a very important question. You know, when you think of the psychology of Israel after the, do you remember those terrible bombings in Paris when Netanyahu went to condone, to pray with the victim's families. And what did he say to them? He said, "Come home". He did the same thing in Denmark. Come home. You see for the Zionists and up until 1933, Zionism is a, a minority movement anywhere, everywhere in the Jewish world. Yeah, minority movement. But think about it, the Zionist's prognosis, they said the world will expunge you.

That quote Liam Pinsker, I often use, when he says the western world, he says this, back in 1882 after the pogroms, "The western world suffers from Jewry phobia. It's a psychic aberration. It is incurable." Now the Zionists, their view, they no, but, but they even they couldn't predict the Shoah. So what I, the, it's such a big question and the reason I want to leave it for a big question is that in what in the end could American and British Jewry do? They didn't have an army. Some of them had influence, but in the end it wasn't enough. And some of them were scared, you know, with the kinder, not enough Jewish families took in Jewish children, many of them went to good Christian families. Maggie Thatcher's family for example, took in kinder. So did Harold McMillan, he's a state in the country, so did the Attenborough family. These are famous families that who took in kinder transport.

I went to the Kinder Transport reunion back in in 1988. And I'll never forget I met a couple of women and they'd been taken in by a vicar, 'cause no Jewish families took them. And they'd been brought up as Christian and the daughter, one of them had married the son of the vicar and another one had married another religious Christian. And they were terribly upset. They said it was Jews who robbed us of our heritage. On the other hand, the Jewish community raised the money. It was 50 pounds to sponsorship. You see, this was the problem. It was about money. You had organisations like the Joint, there was all sorts of organisations. A lot of people did very well. I knew a lady, I don't think her story's ever been told.

You know, I was very lucky teaching enhanced it in the '80's because I met people, so many people who were involved in all this. I met this rather wonderful lady who had six children of her

own and she drove by car and all her children were on her passport and she took a terrible chance. She drove to Germany in her car, picked up six children who came, who were the same sex and age of the her children and got them back to England. There are lots of stories like that. When I comment on the role of IB, when we get onto the industrialists, Carol, there is so much to, there is so much to say.

My grand, this is from Shani, my grandfather, who was a rabbi and Bratislava appealed to the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv for helping getting his family out after Kristallnacht. Nothing happened to my grandparents. And many members of the family were murdered. You see the tragedy, and Bratislava is a terrible story. The Slovaks were actually selling their Jews to the Nazis. They were allied to the Nazis, the Czechs were invaded. The Slovaks were under the head of the state, was actually a clergyman Tisa. So I would imagine, I don't want to comment on something I don't know, but how could he have got them out? How could the chief rabbi, if in, if in when, when out after Kristallnacht, could he have done?

I don't know, but what a terrible, terrible story. I don't know the answer to that, Shani. And these are the stories that we are left with, the anger I would imagine that we are left with, well, I am. Jews with Polish citizenship, where were they taken in? They were taken to the Polish borders, Manchin. It was freezing. It's October. The Germans were firing one way. The Poles wouldn't let them in and they were put up in stables. I'll talk about that next time. Isn't it true that the elites, this is from Ellie, isn't it true that the elites in Berlin were generally not pro-Nazi? Depends who you're talking about. Don't forget, in 1933, a lot of people did deals with Hitler. They thought they could control him. So I don't, I don't know whether, whether the elites in Berlin, a lot of them were not Nazis, but they went along with it.

That's the point. It was in their interests. Shouldn't the Jews thank the Philippines yet? So Saul, the Northern Rhodesian story is correct. It has nothing to do with South Africa. That's interesting. I'd be awfully grateful if through Judi, you could send me more information. That is an area I don't know enough about. So thank you very much for this. This is when we have, this is having a real international group and what is fantastic, we're going to enrich each other's knowledge. Now Michael Block's saying, he's saying it's terribly important that the only, the only country for the Jews was Judea, as he calls it. So be careful. Look after Israel.

- Trudy?

- Yes.

- Trudy, I just want to jump in here because we, you have to jump off yourself because we-

- Oh, should we stop there?

- I just want to add two things please. Just to everybody that's listening, first of all to say that whoever, all the, our permanent presenters, nobody is anti-Semitic and nobody would make



anti-Semitic comments. So please, I want you all to be, to be very open-minded when our presenters are talking and not to take offence. And sometimes when things are misinterpreted, just to hold that thought and not to be too emotional about it. That's the first thing. The second thing I just want to comment on yes, just on, on a conversation that happened yesterday. I personally am data driven, so that's me personally. But this is a platform where when questions are opposed, take take the questions home and discuss it with your family and your friends, because we are not here to give our opinion. So, you know, I just want to say that for you Trudy as well, just for people to make allowances. If you do say something that offends you want, you know, one of our participants.

- Why have we had some comments?

- We yes. Well, yes we have. Not about you, but just generally just to say, you know, people are going to say things that might offend or people might misinterpret. But this is really, you know, it's a platform for us. As I've said before, it's an informal platform. It's a, it's for family, it's for friends or family and fam, you know, family or friends. Just for us to have the discussion. So let's just keep it neutral and-

- Okay.

- Thank you very-

- All right, Wendy.

- Thanks a lot.

- Take care.

- Thanks.

- I'll see you in a minute. Yes.

- Thanks. Bye-Bye everyone.

- Bye-bye.