

Trudy Gold | Nazi Policies Towards the Jews in the 1930's

- Good morning everybody. Hi Trudy, hi Jude.

- [Trudy] Good morning.

- Good morning. Just before I hand over to you, Trudy, I just want just mention to all our participants, that we now have over 10,000 subscribers, and just to mention that they are people from all over the world, and it's not possible for Judy to respond immediately. So please be patient, if it takes time for her to get back to you. So, that's really what I want to say. Let's make life easy for Judy. All right Trudy, over to you. Thank you very much.

- Thank you very much, Wendy.

- [Wendy] Thanks. Looking forward to today, bye.

Videos and photos are displayed throughout the presentation.

- Thanks, Wendy. Well, good morning, good evening everyone. And before I get on to the presentation today, I'd like very much to thank people for the incredible information that I'm being sent. I'm really learning a lot from it. And of course, as we go into the '30s and the '40s, I know many of you will have family memories, and for historians, or really for anyone, they are absolutely invaluable. So, I really want to thank you. I've also had quite a few lawyers emailing me about legality, which is fascinating for me because, and I must tell you, I'm getting contradictory ideas, so, I'll come back to that later on. Now today, we are looking at the Nazi policies towards the Jews in the '30s. Because we've been teaching for a year now, obviously I have looked at this in depth in the past, but because we are now coming to that period when we'll be looking at Kristallnacht, and then the Shoah, I felt that it would be a very good idea, to actually go over this very, very difficult and painful subject with you. So we're going to, these are the areas I want to cover today. I hope to actually be able to get up to the Anschluss.

And I know a lot of you know an awful lot about this, others of you will know some, and I'm not even really in a position to recommend any one book. There are just so many. I mean tragically, Hitler is a great fascination. Evil always is. And this is a presentation that David and Dennis are going to be working on later on in the year. And I also want to mention that on Saturday evening, David and Dennis are going to be talking about Walter Benjamin, who was one of the great Renaissance figures of Germany, who tragically committed suicide at the border, when he didn't believe he could escape. And so, a lot of the, for the next few weeks, David, Dennis, myself and Patrick are trying to run concurrently. We've discussed this with Wendy, and we felt that with the kind of area we're going into now, we need to look at it from all different disciplines and all different points of view. So, we've spent a lot of time looking at the road to power of Adolf Hitler. And there are questions, and I'm going to give you the questions for you to think about,

because it's a serious question.

How did one of the best-educated, civilised countries in the world elect into power a totalitarian, antisemitic, racist regime who had actually programmed their hatred? Everyone knew what the Nazis meant. Why did so few people in the end care about freedom of thought? And for this, we really have to digress into the fact that even though Germany had an incredible cultural history, it didn't have much, it didn't really have much of democracy. In fact, you can make the case, that the first ever democratic elections in Germany were in 1919. Another question, which I think is so important for today, why do such ruthless ideologies take root? And I think these can be closed systems. They're either to the left or to the right, and they allow no flexibility or freedom of thought. And that is the kind of philosophy frankly, that terrifies me.

And, why is it that in times of crisis, liberalism seems to go out of the window? And another point, why is it that it's in times of crisis, people look for a salvation figure, a charismatic, a populist. And the important thing to think about, is how on earth do we protect democracy? And, I suppose the last point that I want you to consider, how was it that so many good Germans actually voted Hitler into power? 44% of Germany finally voted for Adolf Hitler. And with another right-wing party, he took control. And once he had taken control, he of course took away all democracy in Germany. And then you had a one-party state. And it's important to remember, that the people who voted for Hitler, and a lot of work's been done on this mainly by German historians, it's across the board, university professors, intellectuals, musicians, artists, housewives, students, in the main, the working class didn't desert the left. It is certainly not, it's very much a revolution of the middle class. And then we are left with this terrible problem. I do not believe, and all the evidence proves this actually, that the majority of people who voted Hitler into power, had a terrible hatred for Jews.

Never forget that intermarriage was running at 45% in Weimar. Never forget that Jews were an integral part of the cultural and artistic life of Germany. But Jew hatred, and we argued this out a couple of weeks ago, and there was some incredible responses on the chat over this, how was it that Jew hatred was at the core of Hitler and his inner circle? So, they elect into a power, a man who is committed to a Judenrein Reich. As far back as 1919, in a letter to his friend Gemlich, he actually said, "The ultimate aim must be the removal of the Jews from Germany." On the whole issue of what removal means, and this is where it gets very, very complicated. Jews could leave Germany right up until October 1941, which is actually after the beginnings of the, what the Germans euphemistically called the final solution, which began of course, with the invasion of Russia. More about that later on. So, Jews could leave Germany. And certainly up until 1939, when Hitler had set up immigration bureaus to facilitate Jewish immigration out, and at the same time rob them blind, they could get out.

So then you have to ask another huge question. Did the powers, who knew what was going on in Germany, because never forget that all the press were in Germany. There are some extraordinary characters like Varian Fry, who was representing an American paper. And he was so horrified by what he saw, that he actually became a great rescuer in France. Patrick's going

to do a whole session on Varian Fry. He saved nearly 3,000 intellectuals, also very, very controversial. So, every important British paper, American paper, French paper, Belgian paper, they have their representatives in France, in Germany, and it was reported. Of course, you had a brilliant propaganda minister, probably the greatest propaganda genius of the 20th century. And what did he and Hitler believe? If you tell a big lie enough, it is believed. Hitler said, "Don't tell little lies. Only tell big lies, because that's what will be believed, and also, fake news." And the other thing, that of course is incredibly important, when you need to control a society, it's bread and circuses. The Romans understood that.

What the Nazis did, was to improve the lot of the average German. If you do not care about freedom of thought, and if you were a White-German, Aryan, by 1935, your lot had improved. He managed to solve the economic crisis, insofar as he managed to provide jobs for the people. He was a paternalist. He wanted a completely classless society, one folk, one people, who could together fulfil the Aryan dream of conquest. Now, how do you keep a people happy? Well the first thing you have to do is remove the opposition. The first concentration camp Dachau was established on the 1st of April, and its actual establishment was on the front page of "The London Times." Anyone who spoke out, many left-wingers, many MPs, liberal members of the Reichstag, they went into Dachau. Many priests who spoke out, in the main, the church was very quiescent. In 1933, the papal nuncio for foreign affairs, the man who later became Pius the Twelfth, he did a deal, he did a deal with Hitler. Basically, "You leave me alone and I'll leave you alone." The Lutheran church of course had a terrible history of antisemitism.

And there was also Mueller, who basically who was his Nazi cleric, half a million Germans belonged to his particular branch of a very warped form of Christianity. So, you control the church, you control education, a total core curriculum, the burning of the books, you weed out the libraries, you burn the books, you weed out the libraries, by 1935, no non-Nazi could teach, by 1935, no judge in Germany, unless you wore the swastika on your uniform. So basically, you pervert the whole of society. What were the medium of entertainment? The cinema. Under Weimar, UFA, Fritz Palmer's UFA was one of the greatest cinemas in the world, if you like sharp edge. It was taken over by a man called Von Hippler. He was actually a 32-year-old documentary filmmaker. And he went on to make one of the most ghastly films, propaganda films ever made, called "The Eternal Jew." You take over film. And it's not just propaganda films, it's musicals, it's films of German glory. And Patrick has already talked a little about this, and he is going to talk much more about it.

The image of the beautiful Aryan maiden, the strong, clean Aryan man. A lot of strength on clean, a lot of emphasis on strength, a lot of emphasis on cleanliness. So, Hitler also designed furniture for the perfect German family, and the role of women. The role of women, women shouldn't work, women should have children. If you manage to provide your husband with eight children, you got a medal from the state, a gold medal, six children got you a silver medal, four got you a bronze medal, peer pressure, church, kitchen, and providing children, that's the role of women. And they loved him, and they worshipped him. So, you control, you also further propaganda, you control every textbook in Germany, because you have a core curriculum. You

control the radio. Goebbels took over Hitler's image, he becomes the clean-cut boy of Germany. And more than that, he had one of the most brilliant filmmakers working for him, Leni Riefenstahl.

And she created the part of the Fuehrer myth. The Fuehrer myth is this man, who's almost this almost godlike man, he never married because he was wed to Germany. The whole story of him, and basically his niece, and then of course his mistress was hidden from the German public. So, you have this whole propaganda regime, and the enemy is the Jew. Now, why did people allow it to happen? Partially terror. Also partially self-interest. Please don't forget, that once you throw the Jews, one of the first important acts was the Career Civil Service Act, which threw the Jews out of the universities and out of scientific establishments. Later on they're going to be thrown out of the orchestras. Just imagine, if you've always wanted that post, you're not quite good enough. 50% of the doctors in Berlin and 50% of the lawyers in Berlin were Jews. Many of them didn't see themselves as Jews. But now, it's about blood and race. You can get that job. And of course the paternalistic society, if your production line did very well, you got a holiday on the state, trade unions were abolished, but we're going to look after the workers. So, you need the approval of your peers.

All youth clubs were destroyed, but not Hitler Youth. And with the Hitler Youth, all sorts of interesting programmes for the young, you are witnessing a revolution in Germany. It's in a way, a revolution forward and a revolution backwards. There's a huge emphasis on the German peasantry taking the boys into the countryside, singing around the fire, the myths and legends of Germany, never forget the inner circle are pagan. They do a deal with the churches, but they themselves have a different dream, and have a different reality, and a different God. When you deal with characters like Himmler, I mean he was almost on the edge of black magic. And he believed in the recreation of the Templars, I mean some of his ideas are absolutely extraordinary. None of this bears reason. This tragically is the death knell of the enlightenment. So Hitler comes to power in Germany, he's committed to a Judenrein Reich. And his plan is to socially, politically, and economically exclude the Jews from German society. Now, can we see the first slide, Judy? Yes, here you see Adolf Hitler, and I want you to have a look at the sunshine photo. You see Goering at the front. You see, this is the man, this is the pinup boy, he was almost worshipped.

Adolf Hitler becomes what Robert Wistrich calls the dark Messiah, a German messiah with a sword in his hand. He is the leader who is going to restore all the problems, he's going to make them the greatest race in the world. And let's face it, if you've suffered from a lot of insecurity, joblessness, whatever, along comes someone who says, "By blood, you are the greatest people in the world, and I'm going to make you so, and I am going to take over the world for you," and these kind of speeches, and we've spent a lot of time looking at the crowds. In fact, the film "Cabaret," "Tomorrow belongs to me," I think David has already shown it to us, it is so powerful. In many ways, it's worth a whole hour of teaching. Bob Fosse was a genius. You just look at the faces, come together as a people. Can we look at the next slide please, Judy, if you don't mind? Yes. One of the first acts of the regime was a boycott of all Jewish shops and places of

business.

The Nazis, they actually advertised it in advance, on the 27th of March, 1933, they advertised it. and in response, Stephen Wise organised a huge rally in Madison Square Garden to protest. It goes ahead on April the 1st. And here you see German stormtroopers actually stopping, they're at the door, this is terror stopping people going into Jewish shops and stores. And you may remember, I mentioned in the past, that 80% of the department stores in Germany were controlled by Jews. Of course there was a lot of corruption. I mean, the wonderful Wilfrid Israel, who was half-British, half-German, he managed to save so many people. He used to do a deal with the Nazis, with the Nazi-party members, "Turn a blind eye to what I'm doing, and of course your wife can come and shop at my store for nothing." So there's always corruption as well. Now, the other, the slide you see at the top with the man and the woman, that is part of a law of 1935 that I'll be coming to later, that is the law that forbade the Jews citizenship.

They actually disenfranchised the Jews, but at the same time they made sexual relations between Jew and Aryan a crime. And here you see an unfortunate couple who were being pilloried, and the man and the woman were both have been sent to jail for sleeping together basically. So, this is the kind of terror, but it's being reported everywhere in the Western press. And what I'm going to do is, in the first year, there were over 80 separate, little decrees, now, and some of it is so petty, that it makes life so difficult. The Reich Transportation Ministry forbids the spelling of Jewish names when transmitting telegrams by phone. Jews are not permitted to be employed in broadcasting, aren't allowed to speak on the radio. The import of sale of foreign Jewish newspapers is forbidden. Jews have no liberty of speech. They may not be writers, publishers or journalists. Now the two most important publishing houses in Germany, the Ullstein and the Mosse were controlled by Jewish families, and something like 40% of the journalists, particularly the liberals and the left-wingers.

They may not print periodicals, papers, in which they could defend themselves. This is August 1933. It's early. And what it means, of course, the Career Civil Service Act and these kind of acts meant that a lot of very prominent characters actually managed to get out. There was an organisation in London called Cara, and it was set up by a couple of Cambridge academics, because they were actually in Vienna when Hitler came to power, they read the newspapers and they realised, with the evicting of the scientists from all these incredible organisations, how wonderful it could be, if they could come to Britain. So they saved about 3,000 scientists. They wanted Einstein, but of course he finished up at Princeton. But so, 90% of the physicists in Germany were born Jewish. Even Fritz Haber who converted, the man who had created the Haber-Bosch process, the man who had perfected poison gas in the First World War, a war criminal according to some, but awarded the Nobel Prize, he converted. He thought he was safe. And he was, until Hindenburg died in '34, then he had to get out.

If you had received honours in the First World War, whilst Hindenburg was still alive, Hitler didn't turn against them. But afterwards of course he had to get out, but he had to dismiss many of his friends. So the famous, many of the writers, I mean the great Max Reinhardt, who was the great

theatre director, he fled to Hollywood. And Patrick will be dealing with this, so many of the great stars fled to Hollywood. The writers, not just Jews, Bertolt Brecht, Kurt Weill, they get out, they manage to get out because they lose their jobs very, very early. And not only that, if you think about, 'cause one of the questions I'm often asked by younger students, "Why didn't they leave?" Well, you see, there's a problem. There are many reasons why people don't leave. And it's not just the issue of getting a pass into another country, at a time when the majority of countries are closing their doors. There's something else as well.

Let's imagine you are an ordinary fellow, an ordinary family. The wife doesn't work, couple of kids, maybe elderly grandparents, maybe you've got sick relatives, maybe he manages a department store, maybe he's got a little job, a lower-middle class job, he doesn't have any other languages. How is he going to get out? So you've got to remember, it's the person, and also if you can get out, who's going to take you in? So the irony is, at this stage, Hitler wants them out. He's doing everything to squeeze them out, and to show you how difficult it becomes, I'm going to read a few more of these laws. Now it's ironic, they couldn't exclude Jewish doctors and lawyers in 1933. They stopped any new Jewish doctors and lawyers by closing the exams to Jews. But because they needed them, they weren't actually excluded till 1937, by which time they'd managed to train up enough of their own. But listen to this, the Mayor of Munich prohibits Jewish doctors from treating non-Jewish patients in city hospitals.

The Reich Interior Ministry forbids the listing of Jewish holidays on office calendars. Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess, he decrees that members of the Nazi party must not have any personal contact with Jews, because an awful lot of people had their exceptional Jews. No, all contact with Jews is not allowed. And so it goes on, over 80 separate, horrific, little pronouncements in the first year. And it really comes to the four in 1935 with the Nuremberg Laws. As I said, you can see that picture, the Nuremberg Laws, and can we see the next slide, Judy, if you don't mind? Here you see that again, very strongly. Can you imagine the horror, what that couple said? And the Nuremberg Laws, here you see this from the "SUN" newspaper, "Hitler deprives Jews of citizenship, bans intermarriages." 45% of Jews have married Germans. You have the situation where the Jewish partner is trying to persuade the German partner to divorce. "At least let's try and save the children." So, it's not just sexual relations, it's the Reich citizenship law and intermarriage. And it's fully reported in the Western press.

So you have 1936, can we go on to '36 now? Because in 1936 everything changes. It's after 1935. A lot of German Jews thought, "This is as bad as it's going to get. We now know where we stand, it's bad, but it's almost impossible for us to get entry visas. What are we going to do?" And of course that year, Hitler hosts the Olympics. Now this is fascinating, the great sports-politics debate. Hitler wanted Germany to be a showcase. So the Berlin Olympics, can you imagine? Because one of the issues that he was so strong on, was physical fitness. What Hitler wanted, and it's in the German Workers Party manifesto, which was never reneged on, he wanted the perfectly-fit individual, with the obedient mind. Can you imagine how he felt when Jesse Owens, there were 21 Black athletes, mainly American, and Jesse Owens, that incredible athlete. Look at him, look at that live man. He was the star of the Berlin Olympics. He won four

gold medals. Because Hitler's view of people of colour, they were right at the bottom of his racial pile. But Edward the Eighth was at the Olympics.

Many of the British aristocrats came over. You can just imagine, ambassadors from every country was present. The Nazis had their show, their showcase. And if you think of the Mitford sisters, of course, Unity Mitford was very close to Hitler. And her sister who married Oswald Mosley, the beautiful Diana, they were actually guests of Hitler in the box. So important to remember, that a lot of people at this stage, they negated what was happening to the Jews, because one of the great fears of anyone who had anything to conserve in the West, was the fear of communism. And to many people, communism was associated with Jewishness. And we can argue until we are blue in the face, that communism was never a majority Jewish response. But the fact that you have characters like, if you look at the people who created the revolution, so many of them were of Jewish birth. And remember, Munich, Hitler's city, the three revolutions, one after the other were dominated by people of Jewish birth. This is the real question of Jewish definition. As far as the Nazis were concerned, it didn't matter if you converted, it didn't matter if you were a rabbi, it didn't matter what your own self-definition was, as far as the Nazis were concerned, it is a definition of blood.

And later on they're going to work out, is it half-Jewish, quarter-Jewish, et cetera. And please don't forget, the Nuremberg Laws were put together by lawyers, very well qualified doctors of law. In fact the, and I've mentioned this to you before, if you believe in education, the highest membership of the Nazi party was teaching, legal and professorial, teaching, legal, professorial and medical. And later on, the appalling Euthanasia Programme, when Hitler decided, remember he's trying to create the perfect Aryan specimen, he decided that the physically and mentally, who were not perfect, in inverted commas, had no right to life. And the numbers are way over a 100,000. And they were murdered by doctors. And please don't forget that the first people, that those tragic victims saw up in the ramps at the death camps were doctors in white coats. So, when we talk about education, I think we have to rethink what we mean by education. It's certainly not high levels of academic or scientific achievement, it's something else. And I don't think as a civilization, we've come up with it yet. Nasty, nasty things. Jewish painters may not exhibit. Jewish musicians may not give concerts. What was fascinating is, because the Nazis wanted a Jewish body to deal with, they actually set up Jewish organisations.

And ironically, for the first time in Germany for many years, you have Jewish organisations which are studying Jewish history, Jewish culture, Jewish musicians coming together, and terribly painful letters, where one of the partners is Jewish, the other partner is German, elderly couples who go to everything together. And of course, the gentile is not allowed to go to Jewish concerts, and the Jew is not allowed to go to gentile concerts. And the Gestapo then confiscates membership lists of every Jewish organisation. They want to know all Jews in Germany. Another nastiness, the names of Jews killed in World War I have to be taken off war memorials. And what do you do with great Jewish musicians, writers, artists? Well, you smash their statues. They had a real problem with Heinrich Heine because of "Lorelei," which of course had been used by so many great German musicians like Schumann and Schubert. So you know what

happened? They write anonymous.

Reich Ministry of Interior, this is '35, declares that racial affiliation must be emphasised in all reports to the press about crimes committed by Jews. Jews are forbidden to receive licences to carry firearms. Jewish children, now this is when it gets really, really painful, because during the, I beg your pardon, the Berlin Olympics, it kind of simmered down, because Berlin becomes a sort of showcase. If you went to a local park, you will see a sign on a bench, Jews not allowed to sit down. If you went into a swimming pool, Jews are not allowed to swim. Jews not allowed to go on the public transport. Jews not allowed to go into cinemas. So, all these nasty, vicious, little petty things, that come together to make an incredibly unpleasant picture. But they actually clean Berlin up for the Olympics. So, there's a lull. And of course, as we established in, when I was looking with you at the Arlosoroff deal, about, in the first, in '33, '33 to '34, 80,000 Jews did get out to Palestine. So by 1935, about a third of German Jews have got out. But it tended to be the people who could. And that meant, it's not very difficult for an Einstein to find a job. It's not very difficult for a top doctor to find a job.

And in fact, if you look at the number of German and Austrian Jews who came to Britain, that's the subject I know most about, an incredible number of German doctors, German-Jewish doctors, psychologists, they came to London, and that's going to cause a problem later on. Because Hitler is so keen on fertility. they have all sorts of clinics to assess fertility, but no Jewish woman can ever be assessed. Due to foreign reports of atrocities against Jews, Heinrich Himmler declares that Jews will not be released from concentration camps of Dachau. That's to punish the press, because when something appalling happens, it is reported. Mind you, Goebbels did manage to keep the press pretty tame. William Shirer is very interesting on that. Of course, he was an American journalist in Germany through the '30s, and he wrote a brilliant book about it. And he talked about going to the rallies because the other reason, think of bread and circuses. The other way he kept people happy of course, was the great rallies, just look at those crowds. You keep a people together, you tell them they're lords of the earth. His foreign policy is becoming aggressive and it's successful. "We are lords of the earth and life is getting better." Jews cannot become members of the German Red Cross.

Jews are forbidden to own radios. Jews are forbidden to keep carrier pigeons. Jews aren't allowed to keep pets, it goes on and on and on. The little, the big, it's absolutely horrific. '37, Aryanization of property. We need to give them another impetus. So, everyone, every Jew who still had a business had to sell it to an Aryan. Well, you can imagine how much money was lost then. In fact, a friend of mine, Wolf Kaiser, who was head of the Wannsee House, the education centre, he said, "If Germany had fully repaid, it would've been bankrupt." You know, the stealth, and if you think of some of the great art collections, we still don't know what happened to all of that art. And it's very difficult, if you think of the art collections, if you think of property, if you think of houses, if you think of every aspect of life, what happened to all of Max Reinhardt's theatres? He owns 31 of them. There are so many examples I can give you. What happens to you when you have to get out, what happens to your property? It's all gone. And in the end, what is left? Now, 1938, Hitler goes home to Austria. And as you know, let's see the pictures

please Judy, because this is absolutely extraordinary. This is the Anschluss.

After the war, and it's something we'll be dealing with, Austria managed to put herself out as the first victim of Nazism. A third of the SS were Austrian, Hitler, Kaltenbrunner, Eichmann were Austrian. Remember Hitler preferred Germany to Austria. He always wanted unification. At the end of the First World War, after the dismemberment of the Austrian-Hungarian empire, the Austrians had asked for Anschluss. They had wanted the President of Germany and Austria, six months in Austria, six months in Germany. It was forbidden. And now in 1938, Hitler goes home, and 90% of the population of Vienna came to greet him. Don't forget that Vienna was 10% Jewish. And this is when the humiliation starts. Here you see, and I've heard many stories of this, and I'm sure many of you listening, maybe some of your families come from this part of the world, the humiliation, look what they're doing. They're making Jews scrub the pavements with toothbrushes, and you can see the population screaming and shouting and crying for Adolf Hitler. This is the Anschluss, and of course, after the Anschluss, Eichmann, who is the functionary behind the, later on, behind the final solution, he actually sets up a bureau under the command of Himmler, and of course Hitler, to facilitate Jewish immigration from Austria.

And in 1939, he sets up a bureau to facilitate Jewish immigration from Berlin. This is January, 1939. He also, there is a plan at one stage to ship all the Jews to the island of Madagascar. They haven't yet decided what they mean to do. There's a huge debate amongst historians, and frankly, I have absolutely no time for it, did he always intend to murder the Jews, or did the road happen because of how everyone else behaved? Frankly, what I know is, that he did. And could they have been saved? Well, I think unfortunately, we can say that German and Austrian Jewry could have been saved if the world had opened them up, because what I've heard from many friends who stuck it out, the actual break was Kristallnacht, which I'm going to be talking about on Monday, because Kristallnacht, the smashing of the glass, after that, there was no Jew who wanted to be left in Germany, but where were they to go? So what I'm going to do now, because I know a lot of you know a lot about this, and some of you, it's relatively new, about three years ago with a friend of mine, Doreen Brown, we'd realised just how terrible the situation was for Jewish kids at universities and at SIT forms. And what came up was an idea of making short teaching films for kids.

The Guenthers helped, the Hellers helped, and then Wendy, bless her, came in, and the Kirsh Foundation decided to support this endeavour. And what we've done now, is to create 16 short films on Jewish history. And what I want to show you now is two of our films, and I'm showing it to you for two purposes. They're brilliantly made by young Ollie Anisfeld in "Jewish Television." But the reason I want to show you, is because I want you to see some of the footage we've put together, but also, it gives you a note. One of the problems that I think we are facing, and I'm moving on to another topic now altogether, but a real bugbear of mine and of Wendy's, a lot of our kids don't know enough to be able to deal with the antisemitism they are facing at university. And I do believe that education, I do believe that knowledge can actually cloak you in a kind of safety net. So, what I want to do, is show two of these short films. They're only five minutes each, so this is not new information for any of you, but I think by looking at the footage,

reinforces it for you. But also, we've made these films, they are available. And again, it's the incredible large gesture of the Kirsh Foundation and wonderful Wendy.

And they are available free to everybody. So, they've been seen by 400,000 people, a lot of young Jewish youth organisations and schools are taking them up. So have a look and in question time, we can discuss them along with what I've been talking about. So, if you don't mind Judy, if we could see the first film? When Hitler took power, the Jews made up 1% of the population. Majority were fully integrated into the cultural, political, social and economic life of the country, and defined themselves as German. Intermarriage in Weimar, Germany, was 45%, the highest anywhere in the Jewish world. Granted full emancipation in 1871, they were a vibrant part of life, mainly city dwellers. They were at the sharp edge of modernity. Individuals of Jewish birth gravitated into law, medicine, economics, philosophy, liberal and left-wing politics, publishing, literature and music, the new sciences, business, department stores, the film industry attracted them in droves. More German than the Germans, their Jewishness was lightly worn and for many disregarded. It was Nazi race theory that imposed on them their Jewishness. Between 1933 and 1939, Nazi policy was the social, political and economic exclusion of the Jews from Germany, to create a Judenrein Reich.

It began on April the 1st, 1933, with the boycott of all Jewish businesses, with stormtroopers terrorising the Jewish population and anyone who attempted to shop at their stores. Another early measure was the Career Civil Service Act, which pushed Jews out of the teaching professions and scientific establishments. Albert Einstein, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist, and the most famous scientist in the world, was stripped of all his honours and positions, and had a price on his head. Jews were gradually excluded from the cultural life of Germany. Filmmakers, writers, musicians and artists could no longer work. Jews could no longer enter the medical and legal professions. In September 1935, Jews were deprived of citizenship by the Nuremberg Laws. These laws also forbade intermarriage, and sexual relations between Jew and Aryan became a criminal offence. These laws were enforced by the German judiciary. By 1935, every judge in Germany had to wear the swastika on his robes. The Reich Citizenship Law provided a new racial definition of the concept of Jew, a person descended from at least three Jewish grandparents who were full Jews by race.

You could convert to Christianity, but it wouldn't matter, if you were racially Jewish, you were a Jew. The Nuremberg Laws were seen by some Jews as a definitive solution with which they could learn to live. To leave the country whose language is part of you, your language, and all that is familiar, is always a huge decision. Since the Wall Street crash of 1929, most countries had a restrictive immigration policy, and the social, economic and political uncertainties throughout Europe and the USA, meant there was hostility towards refugees. In 1936, Germany hosted the Olympics. With the attention of the world focused on Berlin, anti-Jewish measures and the rhetoric was toned down. However, by 1937, Hitler had achieved full employment, and accelerated the elimination of Jews from the Germany economy, with the Aryanization of Property Act. All remaining Jewish businesses had to be sold to Aryans, which led to the impoverishment of thousands. As a measure of further humiliation, Jews had to add the name

Sarah or Israel, and all Jewish passports had to be stamped J, signifying Judah.

Despite the quotas, over half of German Jewry had fled the country by 1938. Those who found haven in Britain and the USA would go on to contribute to the scientific, business and cultural life of their adoptive countries, out of all proportion to their numbers. Can we have the next one Jude? As the situation of German Jews deteriorated, Austrian Jewry also came under threat. In March, 1938, Hitler went home to Austria, and a further 200,000 Jews came under Nazi control. An international conference was held at Evian in July 1938. Convened at the behest of President Roosevelt, it was to discuss the plight of European Jews. Antisemitism was at an alarming level, not only in the German sphere of influence, but also in Italy, allied to Germany, and in Poland, the home of the largest Jewish community in Europe. The conference was summed up by the Australian delegate, Lieutenant T.E. White, who stated, "We have no real racial problem, and we are not desirous of importing one." Only the Netherlands and Denmark agreed to temporarily relax quotas.

The Dominican Republic offered to take a 100,000 refugees in order to settle undeveloped areas, but nothing came of it. Golda Meir, a conference delegate from Palestine, and future Prime Minister of Israel told the press, "There is only one thing I hope to see before I die, and that is, that my people should not need expressions of sympathy anymore." Hitler stated before the conference, "I can only hope that the other world, which has such deep sympathy for these war criminals, would at least be generous enough to convert sympathy into practical aid." The real lesson was that Hitler realised, that no one would come to the aid of the Jews. In Europe, the right-wing press were hostile to any relaxation of immigration policies. This is an extract from the "Sunday Express" of June the 19th, 1938, in advance of the Evian Conference. "In Britain, half a million Jews find their homes, they are never persecuted, and in many respects, the Jews are given favoured treatment here. There is a big influx of foreign Jews into Britain. 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 psychologists.

A psychologist needs no medical training, but arrogates to himself the functions of a doctor. And he often obtains an ascendancy over the patient of which he makes base use if he is a bad man. The hostility to the Jews in Germany cannot be condoned, but beware, lest the present rush of Jews into this country injures the cause of Jewry here. Professional men naturally resent their living being taken from them by immigrants from foreign countries, whether they be Jew or gentile. There is no intolerance in Britain today." One such individual did find refuge in Hampstead, although later his two elderly sisters who remained behind were murdered by the Nazis. That man was Sigmund Freud, an Austrian Jew. He had been interrogated by the Gestapo, who made him sign a piece of paper, saying he had not been mistreated. He wrote, "I can heartily recommend the Gestapo to everybody." Some historians take the view that Evian proved to the Nazis that no foreign power would intervene to save Jews. On the 28th of October, 1938, referring back to a promise in the manifesto of 1920, 18,000 Polish Jews and their families were forcibly repatriated, and all their property confiscated amid scenes of

appalling cruelty. One such family were the Grynszpans, whose son Herschel studying in France, received a postcard from them outlining their plight.

In an attempt to focus the world's attention, he assassinated a German official at the embassy in Paris. The official vom Rath died two days later. It led to Kristallnacht, the 9th and 10th of November, 1938, the Night of the Broken Glass. Orchestrated by Joseph Goebbels, it was the most violent pogrom in German history. 400 synagogues, 7,500 businesses and shops were looted, ransacked and burnt. 91 Jews were murdered, but a further number died either through suicide or ill treatment. 30,000 prominent Jews were sent to concentration camps. Further, in a move of macabre cynicism, a fine of one billion Marks, equivalent to the value of 1/6th of all Jewish property in Germany was levied on the Jewish community. On the 12th of November, 1938, Jews were forbidden from attending theatres, concerts, cinemas and exhibitions. They couldn't use swimming pools, public parks, spas, or even park benches. Now they could not even own a dog. To hasten the departure of Jews, immigration bureaus were established in both Vienna and Berlin. They were under the auspices of the arch bureaucrat, Adolf Eichmann. Kristallnacht was widely reported in the press.

There were strong protests in the free world. "The Times of London," the 11th of November, 1938, "No foreign propagandist bent upon blackening Germany before the world, could outdo the tale of burning and beatings of blackguardly assaults on defenceless and innocent people, which disgraced that country yesterday." The American government recalled its ambassador, but didn't break off diplomatic relations. One response was the approval of the British government for the Kindertransport. On the 15th of November, five days after the attack, a delegation of British, Quaker and Jewish representatives appealed to Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister. After deliberation, the government allowed the entry of unaccompanied children from infants to 17 years old. Each child was allowed to bring only one small suitcase. Agencies had to provide homes for all the children. They also had to fund the operation, and make sure no child would become a burden to the state.

Each child would have a £50 guarantee to finance their eventual re-immigration in the ensuing nine months. Before the outbreak of war, almost 10,000 children travelled to the United Kingdom. There were also rescuers in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Sweden. Although they took the children, they wouldn't take the parents. For loving parents to send their children away, and the ensuing trauma, gives a hint of the desperation Jewish families felt, as the Nazis closed their net. Thanks, Judy. Thank you very much. Judy. It's not quite synchronised, is it? Wendy, shall I open it, shall I open it for questions now?

- [Wendy] Sure.

- [Trudy] Yeah.

- Well done Trudy, came across very well, came across very well.

- I'd like to redo it, but it's the facts, it's the information that matters and that's what matters. All right.

- Excellent, excellent.

Q&A and Comments:

- You're getting wonderful, thank you Wendy.

Q: "Do we know what percentage of Jews voted for Hitler?"

A: There were about 5,000 of them, Barbara, who wanted to, but of course they weren't allowed to.

This is from Leonard. "Because the dislike of Jews outweighs any rational political consideration, just like the fear of Blacks, immigrants, except..." It's the, yeah, there's absolutely no doubt that when there's economic and social unrest, that we do find a scapegoat. But I think the point is that, look, I think we've got to be careful here. I do not believe the majority of people who voted for Hitler, they probably didn't think much about Jews at all. But the point was, the fact that there was this kind of dislike in the air. It really kind of stops all your normal sensibilities.

Q: How do we access the films made, Barbara?

A: It's trudygold.com, and it's, what we're hoping, is that more and more young people watch them, because there's a lot of Jewish schools even where they're not teaching Jewish history.

Yeah, there's lots of comparisons with politics today. Lots of comments about politics.

Q: "Just one note, Hitler did marry Eva Braun."

A: Yes Pamela, Hitler did marry Eva Braun. Yes, but he didn't marry her until two hours before he killed himself. Because you know, the German public didn't know about her. That's what's so fascinating.

Q: "How many Jews were allowed out of Germany?"

A: Let me give you that information, between September '39 and October '41. Let me give you that answer on Monday. I don't want to give misinformation. I don't have my chart with me.

This is from Rachel. "The most appropriate and proper name for Germans who perpetrated the Holocaust is Germans. Some were Nazis, some were SS, and some were not. But the chief common denominator was that they were all Germans." You see, Rachel, we've got a real problem here. Yes of course, the Germans were, the Nazis were the perpetrators, but not all

Germans were Nazis. And one of the other issues we have to face as we look at this terrible, terrible period of history, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Holland, Finland, they all had huge SS regiments.

Yes Cheryl, you just go to trudygold.com, and thanks to the friends who helped set up, and to Wendy. It's available online for anybody who wants it.

"Could you please publicise the questions for consideration?" Yes Salry, I will give them to Judy, and we'll type them up.

"Just for information, this is from Frida, Bertolt Brecht's mother was Jewish." Ah, ah.

"Thomas Mann left and saved his honour." This is interesting Ronnie, because you know, the Mann brothers, both went to Hollywood, and he said, he shouldn't have left, "Because if we'd stayed, maybe we could have fought it." But of course they couldn't because, it could have been stopped in Germany prior to 1933. But once Hitler took power, because of the regime of terror. But there were half a million men in the SS. Can you imagine what that means? So, it could only have been stopped after '33 from outside Germany.

Q: Yes. "In an earlier lecture, there are accounts of Berlin, as marriage to Jewish women who refused to cooperate and pretty much left alone. How is this possible?"

A: This is very interesting, Amanda. The Jews of Berlin were not transported at the beginning. The first thing was to get rid of Eastern-European Jews. And there was an incredible demonstration in Rosenstrasse outside the Gestapo headquarters. They took away Jewish men, which is I think in May '43, the men were taken away, and this was non-Jewish wives, because you see the Nuremberg Laws had forbidden intermarriage, but if you already married, they couldn't make you divorced. Some couples did, and it was women. They went to Gestapo headquarters and they just sat there. And because the Nazis didn't know how to deal with this very public descent of German women, the men were released. It's an extraordinary cert.

Monica, will I be speaking of Salka Viertel and how she helped many famous Jewish figures? Now that's Patrick, but we're going to be doing it.

Q: What did I mean by saying that, everyone had their extraordinary Jew?

A: Well, in Berlin, practically everyone had their special Jewish friends, and every Nazi said, "We've got an exceptional Jew."

Q: Margaret, "You said that Nazi's anti-Jewish actions were reported in the foreign press. Was there no reaction abroad? So many Jews arriving in the US. Was there no reaction over there?"

A: Yes, there was. I mean, and that's something we will be dealing with. I'm going to do a whole

couple of sessions on that. And yes, there were lots of good people who tried to do something, but basically very few governments would budge. This is the point. And actually, if you look at the record of the British and the Americans, it's not the reaction we would've hoped. Yes, and I'm afraid, I mean, I just read one article to you. There are stacks and stacks of articles. Look, when something important like the Evian Conference happened, it was headline news. So every paper from the left to the right, and some of the left-wing and liberal papers in Britain, and in America, and even France and Belgium, they were sympathetic, but nobody was prepared to do anything.

This is Eli Strauss. Yeah, Roosevelt did have problems. Yeah, there's a lot of work done on that now. Yes, Roosevelt was slightly antisemitic, inverted commas.

This is from Arnold. "My parents-in-law in Hamburg was desperate to leave '38, '39, and tried to get visas from South America and other countries. Only Shanghai was a possibility. But my father-in-law was a philatelist, who was given a visa for him and his wife, and a very poor East End Jewish stamp collector sponsors a visa to UK at a cost of £50 pound each. They came to the UK in May 1939. My father-in-law did not believe that Hitler would actually implement the race laws and committed to suicide." Oh Arnold, that's such a terrible, terrible story. Let me answer that in certain stages, what happened to your father-in-law? Oh, I mean look, it was their country, it was their culture.

I remember, when I started teaching in the late '70s, so many of my students, 'cause I was teaching in Hampstead, were German or Austrian Jews. And I'll never forget one of the students saying to me, "You've got to understand that Germany was to us culture, every little city had its art gallery, its opera house." And I remember when the great Klaus Moser, which Sandra's going to be talking about later on, when the great Klaus Moser, I was interviewing him and he said, "You realise I came from the land of culture to the land of the Philistines." So, also it was their language, their home, and German Jewry were more integrated than any other Jewry. Don't forget the Heine quote, the two quotes. What did Heine say? "Those two ethical nations, the Jews and the Germans can create a new Jerusalem." But also the other unbelievable quote, "If the talisman, the cross will fall in Germany, and the hammer of Thor rises up." So you've got these two quotes.

Now, Shanghai was interesting, because Shanghai was divided into four zones, and part of it was a free city, and about 25,000 German and Austrian Jews did make it to Shanghai. And many of them were granted visas through Lithuania by a Japanese called Sugihara. Again, there are so many interesting people who did save. The majority of people stood by, some collaborated, some were perpetrators, but there were those who really did save and some lost their lives.

Heinrich Heine, yes Anna, Heinrich Heine, read his quote, burning books, "The burning of books eventually leads to the burning of people." It's interesting, when in 1933, the first books that were thrown into the flames were of Freud. And he actually said in '33, remember he's in

Vienna, not Berlin. He said, "It's better than it used to be a 100 years ago, that it were burnt. They would've burnt me." Even he didn't envisage the horror. I mean, I don't think anyone could. We knew I suppose, something terrible was going to happen. I interrogated my own father, who was not an emotional man. He was in England. I was lucky, my family were in England, and they knew about all the ghastly events of the '30s. They were quite political. But my father talked about going to a rally at a Town Hall where Lord Haw-Haw was the guest of the Mayor. There was a lot of fascism in Britain. There was a lot of fascism in France. France was a divided nation. In America, you had the German Bunds, you had characters like Lindbergh, you had characters like Henry Ford, and what could people do?

This is interesting from Simon Shapiro. "Jesse Owens won the fourth gold medal in the relay, only because Avery Brundage bowed to German request to move two Jewish sprinters who were supposed to run. To his credit, Owens protested that decision." Yeah, there were good people.

I've lost you, I'll be back. Sorry, I lost, let me get back. Two good questions. Sorry about that. I'm going on, bear with me. A lot of you are making political comments and making parallels.

This is from Sally. "There's a recently published story that IBM enabled the Nazis, to assemble the list of Jewish memberships, and later to assign them to the freight cars." Look, there's a real problem with many of the German industrial firms. And at the end of the war, these people were not brought to justice. And it's complicated. And this is something we'll be spending, we've been discussing this with Wendy, and we're going to spend quite a lot of time on this period, because something like 10% of people who were guilty of war crimes were ever brought to justice. German industry, Krupp, IBM, Ford. Ford actually got money from the German government, I beg your pardon, from the American government, because his plant in Germany was bombed by them. But at the end of the war, Stalin, Germany divided, West Germany had to be bolstered up against communism. A lot of the top German scientists were brought either to America or Russia or Britain. So it's it, yeah, they went along with it. They went along with it for self-interest.

What studying the Shoah teaches me, is you see, one of the reasons I think it's important to study, and that's why we're preparing, and I should mention, the films aren't just about the Shoah, it's about Jewish history, because so many kids don't understand their own history. I do still believe that one of the reasons we study, of course we study just to honour our own people and all the other victims, but we also study, because I think the key to humanity is in all this kind of study.

And this is Alan saying, "These petty laws are so familiar. I lived in South Africa during Apartheid," Yes, "and you can think about the deep South." Yes, unfortunately.

And this is from Eli, "My aunts and uncle had to scrub the sidewalk with toothbrushes. To this day, I still feel the air in beautiful Vienna is antisemitic." It's very complicated, isn't it, going to Vienna?

This is Monica. "I interviewed a survivor who saw women who had to use their nails to scrub sidewalks.

Isn't it ironic that Hitler is an Aryan?" Look, it's, he's an Aryan-looking, yes, it's nothing, so many of you are logical. This is not about logic.

"Can we have a link toward the films?" It's trudygold.com. I'm no good at technology, but that's what the lovely Oliver tells me. What I would like you to do, look, I didn't seem to be synchronised in the films, and when I look at, I cringe. But the information is good, and I think the footage is good. And I'm hoping those of you with grandchildren and children, they actually begin with the French Revolution. So it's trudygold.com.

And again, thank you so much to the Kirsh Foundation for making it happen. And at the moment, for your information, I'm working on a film on antisemitism on the left.

Yes, this is from Jonathan. "Ironically, Eichmann set up his headquarters in Vienna at the Rothschild Mansion, didn't he just..." Wendy, I think, should we, there's so many questions, but they can be-

- Okay, all right-

- [Trudy] Later on.

- Okay. Trudy, I also think that we can do a session on the rights, on Körner, and I've been listening to a lot of, I've been sitting in on a lot of seminars and briefings,

- [Trudy] Yeah.

- as to what's going on with extremism. And it's pretty frightening here in the States.

- [Trudy] It is.

- And it's the right, much more the right than the left.

- It's complicated, isn't it? I think ideology, extremist ideology is always dangerous.

- [Wendy] Yeah.

- Yeah, of course, I think that's a brilliant idea.

- And it's an interesting, a new form of fanaticism and extremism and hate speech.

- [Trudy] Yeah.

- And Internet and social media. And it's taken on a different form now. We are fighting a different battle.

- Yeah. And we're not really prepared, are we?

- Well, we are getting equipped, we are becoming more knowledgeable about what's going on. But thank you again for a fantastic presentation, Trudy, as always.

- Thank you Wendy.

- And in one hour, we'll have Robert Fox, who will depress us even more with current affairs.

- Can I just say, I know we're dealing with dark subjects Wendy, but we've survived. We've survived somehow.

- [Wendy] Of course, of course.

- And we go on surviving, and we go on till

- [Wendy] Exactly.

- [Trudy] we change the world. And so we have to cling to that as well.

- I know, I agree. And it really is, I really, I feel optimism and I speak to my friends in the UK. People are already upbeat and excited about the future. So...

- [Trudy] Okay, let's...

- Yeah.

- We got to change things for the children, haven't we? Exactly, exactly. All right, see you soon.

- [Trudy] Bye-bye.

- Bye-bye everybody, thanks for joining us, bye-bye.