

Trudy Gold | Civil War in Eastern Europe

- Okay, morning everyone and yeah, over to you.

- Oh good morning. Good morning, Judy, good morning, Wendy and I'd like to make one or two explanations. I didn't manage to talk about Kristallnacht last week. And it's such an important subject that in consultation with Wendy, what I've decided to do is when we come onto the Shoah, which will be in a couple of months, I will begin with Kristallnacht. And the other thing I wanted to say to you is it is very, very interesting. I had a lot of correspondence about Rhodesia and Jews coming to Rhodesia and people have offered to send me books, et cetera.

And it's very, very interesting because this isn't an area I studied. And then on accident, I met up with my friend Helen Fry, who's been researching in the foreign office and she's doing some work on Kendrick. Kendrick was, he was in Vienna from 1928 to 19, 1925 to 1938. He was the passport officer. And it appears, and Helen's working on all of this, that he actually did a deal with the high commissioner in Rhodesia. And not only that, he forged passports and he had quite a lot to do with Austrian Jews and later unchecked Jews making it to Rhodesia. So I'm just giving you a heads up and I'm going to find out a lot more about it.

But in order to run everything, as it were in chunks so that we can really have an overview of Jewish history, Wendy and I decided that the start, we would go as up to 1939 in Europe as much as possible, so that when we go to the shoah, you actually look at all the components. And that is why I'm kind of going backwards into the Civil War in Russia. Now, this is very important. It's important for the history of in itself. And it's also important because what is going to happen to Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, the Ukraine and it's going to manifest itself during World War II. Now, the first thing to say about World War I is that it is absolutely catastrophic.

And it doesn't matter, what William was talking about in his last presentation, appeasement was really about we cannot bear another war like the First World War. It changed everything. It didn't just change borders, it wasn't just responsible for murders and murders and murders and murders. It cheapened life, it changed a century. And I think it's important to remember when you are looking at the shoah, without World War I, there were many ingredients that led to the shoah. Without World War I, it's very unlikely it could have happened.

It cheapens life, it cynisizes and if you like, it kind of unleashes the beast. So what I'm going to look at now is what actually happened in the Russian Empire at the end of World War I and the Russian Civil War, which is going to be so destructive for Jews. So I'm going to start very briefly and a lot of you know this information or you will have read about it. I'm going to talk about the end of Tsarist Empire. Now, if you think how the big powers were ranged, of course on one side you have the British, the French, the Russians and later the Americans.

On the other side you have the Habsburg Empire or the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the German Empire and the Turkish Empire. And of course, we've already begun to look at what happened

when the Turkish Empire was dismembered. The Balfour Declaration and the Partition of Palestine, be talking about that later on. So basically in terms of Russia, there isn't one great big decisive battle in Russia. What happens is that in the end, the Russian people, they'd had enough, the Czar Nicholas II, was one of the most inept characters that could ever rule. He might have made it as a gentleman farmer. He was very much like his cousin, George V, they didn't understand the swirling events that were around their heads.

He had made a marriage, of course to Alexandra. They had our daughters and then the haemophiliac son and all their lives were concentrated on that. And because of that and because Alexandra believed in faith healers, she came under the spell of a man called Grigori Rasputin. And she believed he could cure her son. And when war breaks out and Nicholas decides to take control of the army, basically Alexandra and Rasputin are running Russia in the most unbelievable way. Now, as far as the Jewish population was concerned, the Jewish population of course lived to the west of the Russian Empire in what was called the Pale of Settlement. Could the Jews be trusted?

Now, this is a comment from the Tsarist finance minister Peter Bark, his dates are 1869 to 1937. He said to this, he said this to Nicholas in the summer of 1915, "We cannot and must not simultaneously wage war against Germany and the Jews. In that case we cannot count on victory." Because what was happening is Russian Jews were regarded as harmful and dangerous and consequently the Russian generals were terrified that the Jews would hand property and provisions over to the German army. Remember, the German army sweeps into what was the Pale of Settlement. So consequently, they begin to expel Jews.

Men are drafted into the army, but women, children and the elderly, in the winter of 1914-15 are frog marched into the Russian interior and at least 189 Jewish communities were deported. It's known as the Great Retreat. It was a most appalling time. Remember, the constraints of civilization are breaking down. It was a time of looting, of raping and of murder. So you've got this appalling situation, Europe is suffering and the Jews, you have this particular, if you like, this nuance of suffering. I'm going to read now from Lenin.

Now Lenin of course, later becomes the head of the Bolshevik state. Eight of his speeches were recorded on gramophone, most of them were suppressed under Khrushchev and this is one that was suppressed in Stalin and Khrushchev's time, but after the fall of communism, it's available. And this is his, this is Lenin's take on what was happening to the Jews. "The Tsarist policy in alliance with the landowners and capitalists organised pogroms against the Jews.

The landowners and capitalists used to divert the hatred of the workers and the peasants who were tortured by want against the Jews. Only the most ignorant and downtrodden people can believe the slanders and lies that are spread against the Jews. It's not the Jews who are the enemy of the working people, the enemy are the capitalists of all countries. Amongst the Jews there are working people and they form the majority. They are our brothers and like us, oppressed by capital.

They are our comrades in the struggle against capitalism in the struggle for socialism." And then he goes on to say, "Amongst the Jews there are kulaks, exploiters and capitalists, just as there as they are amongst Russians and amongst all peoples of all nations, rich Jews like rich Russians and the rich in all countries are an alliance to oppress, crush, rob, disunite the workers. Shame on a cursed Tsarism, which tortured and persecuted the Jews. Shame on those who ferment hatred towards the Jews who ferment hatred towards other nations."

And that was a speech in 1919 after the revolution. And I think a very, very, a very strong speech saying basic and Lenin was never an antisemite. He might have had a lot of other problems, but he was not an antisemite. In fact, the latest research is that he was a court of Jewish and of course the anti-Semitic parties in Russia today are very much playing that. Now Russia is disintegrating and of course it's totally in the interests of Germany to bring Russia out of the war. And this time, some very, very interesting characters come to the fore. Can we please see the first slide if you don't mind? Judy? Is it up? Can you let me know, Judy, 'cause I can't see.

*Slides are displayed throughout the following section:*

- [Judy] Yes, it's up, it's Alexander Helphand.

- Alright, well could we do it this way? Because I can't see the slides, my technology's appalling. Could you just announce the slide so I know it's there? Now have a look at that face, he was known as Parvus. His name was Alexander Helphand, his dates are 1867 to 1924. His name was Israel Lazarevich Gelfand, he was actually born in the shtetl in Belarus. He was a very, very interesting man, well educated. He broke away from his Judaism, very, very well educated and he flees to Germany. Tsarist Russia at the turn of the century, was a terrible, terrible place for all minority groups. And the revolution was absolutely brewing.

He lived in Germany, he became a very close friend of Rosa Luxemburg. Rosa Luxemburg, of course, who is going to lead the revolution in Berlin. He spent time in prison with Trotsky in Siberia. He had an incredible, I'm having notices saying that some people can't see the slides. So Judy, I dunno if you want to comment on that, I presume the most of you can. Anyway, he's imprisoned with Trotsky, then he moves to Turkey, he's a nomad. And in Turkey he sets up an arms trading business and he becomes the financial advisor to the Young Turk Revolution. So we have this character, Alexander Helphand known as Parvus, he's a revolutionary, he works with the revolutionaries, but he's also an entrepreneur.

He's the editor in the Turkish Empire, he's the editor of the Young Turk daily paper. He dealt with food deliveries to the Turkish army. he even went into business with Krupp. And there is a rumour that he spied for the British and there's a rumour that he spied for the British. So basically he's an extraordinary character. But he's a socialist, he's a communist and he believes passionately that the best way to destroy Russia is from within. So as early as 1915, he

suggests to the German authorities a plan, a preparation or and I'm quoting of massive political strikes in Russia from the German government to sponsor the Bolsheviks and create a revolution. Now I'm going to tell you what happened to him in the end.

After the revolution, he actually finishes up in the 32 roomed mansion in Berlin on Peacock Island writing his memoirs. He was one of those extraordinary characters. But he managed, he was a multimillionaire revolutionary with contacts everywhere. And he managed to persuade the German government, they were very suspicious at first of dealing with him, that if they could actually get involved in activities, in communist activities, what they might do, what they might be able to do, is to ferment revolution. And it fell into their laps because in February 1918, there was a revolution. It was all too much for the Russian people.

You know, troops going to the front without arms, without boots. You know what it's like in a Russian winter, people starving. And soldiers and sailors and worker Soviets begin to be set up. There's a revolution. It's a liberal revolution led by Kerensky. What Parvus, Helphand suggests to the Germans is they send into Russia in a sealed train, revolutionaries, the Bolsheviks, the communists. Because the problem with the liberal revolution, it was a patriotic revolution. They're still fighting the Germans. If we can send the revolutionaries back into Russia and if they can win, they would take Russia out of the war and this is in Germany's interest.

So believe it or not, the Germans actually set up this train and off it goes. It pours into a station on the Swiss border, on board there are 10 women, two children, and 20 men. The Russian Minister of War in the provisional government under Kerensky, he said of them, "They are extreme elements consisting of Jews and imbeciles." There were 19 Bolsheviks, six Mensheviks, the Mensheviks believed in general revolution, gradual revolution, the Bolsheviks wanted violent revolution and six members of the Jewish Bund, half the people on the train were born Jewish. Now, there's two things to say here.

Number one, once you ascribe to communism, you give up all notion of nationality. We are one people now, religion is the opium of the masses. But the other important point is, the first line of the communist manifesto, workers of the world unite you have nothing to lose, nothing to lose, but your chains. So Alexander Helphand, he sets his train in motion and it sets off for Russia. Now, who was on board? Can we go to the next slide, which I can now see Judy? Can we please go to the slide of some of the characters on the train? Okay, this is Grigory Zinoviev. Grigory Zinoviev was born Hirsh Apfelbaum. He came from the Ukraine, he later became head of the Communist International. His subject was philosophy and literature at the university.

He became a Bolshevik very early on in 1903 and he had his own city named for him, Zinovyevsk. When the politburo was created after the successful revolution, nearly every one of the politburo were born Jewish. Now please don't say to me, so what, because one of the main reasons for the unbelievably high level of anti-Semitism is because the majority of these characters are born Jews. And if you believe in race, if you really believe in race, it's about how you define them. Grigory Zinoviev would have to, would never say that he was a Jew.

He's an international man of the workers and he's going to create a revolution. But look at that sensitive Jewish face. Ironically, he is going to be murdered by Stalin. I'll be talking a lot more about these characters next time when I look at interwar Russia because these characters are going to have huge power and then they're going to lose it. Can we now come to the next individual? Kamenev, Kamenev was born Leo Rosenfeld, he was the brother-in-law of Trotsky. He's on the train and he is head of the Soviet state and acting prime minister after Lenin's death. So that's Kamenev, we will see him again next week.

Can we go to the next slide please Judy? Here you have Sokolnikov, born Yankelevich Brilliant, the son of a Jewish doctor. He had a doctor, son of a Jewish doctor from the Ukraine. He had a doctorate in economics and is going to be on the politburo, he is one of the inner circle. Now there's quite a few people saying they haven't, can't see the slides, I think obviously most of you can. May I please suggest that you press, that perhaps if you press screen share, that's what I did and I can now see the slides. Now I'm going to, these was on the train. I'm going to point out some others who came in, in different ways because it's important for you to see just how all these, how all these Jews are so important in the revolution.

Can I mention flashing questions on the screen is rather distracting. I'd be very grateful if you put them in the chat box and then I can discuss them all with you later on. Okay, somebody else who's going to rush into Russia, Yakov Sverdlov. His dates are 1885 to 1919, born Solomon Sverdlov, his father was already a revolutionary. He was a really interesting literary man, very close to Maxim Gorky. And he becomes chairman of the All-Russian Central Committee. He died in the pandemic of 1919. In fact, the town of Svedlov was named for him. And it was probably him who gave the order for the assassination of the Romanoff's. Then also came into Russia, Karl Radek, 1885 to 1939, Vice-Commissar for Foreign Affairs and a very, very close friend of Trotsky. So if we could go on now and see pictures of Sverdlov, those very sensitive faces you see? Okay, the next one please. Here you have Karl Radek.

Should we go on please Judy? Now this is Julius Martov. Julius Martov, what a sensitive face. He came from a middle class Jewish family in Constantinople. He and his sister, Lydia Dan were leaders of the Mensheviks. And he was originally a very close colleague of Lenin's. When Lenin was in London, he founded his paper called Iskra, The Spark and he worked with him on that. And then can we see the big one, the biggest one of them all. And of course that is Lev Davidovich Trotsky. Trotsky, I'm going to tell you a little bit about Trotsky, but I'm going to tell you an awful lot more about Trotsky later on as we progress through the course. Trotsky was born in 1879 in Odessa and those of you who were with us a couple of months ago, I did a whole session on Odessa, one of the most fascinating cities in eastern Europe.

It was a seaport, it was a third Jewish, it was probably the freest place in the Pale of Settlement for Jews and it was very much a city of ideas. It was a city of the great conservatoires, it's a city of writers, it was also a city of Zionism and ironically and later on in the course, what I want to do is bring together Trotsky and Jabotinsky because their dates were almost the same. They came,

they spent much of their time in Odessa and they were very similar. They were both brilliant, they were both arrogant, they were both unbelievable orators.

They were great organisers and they both ploughed their own furrow. And what is fascinating about them, Trotsky, you think when they lived, they're born in 1879, they come to maturity at the worst possible time in Russia where everybody's persecuted, okay, not just the Jews and Trotsky turns to the whole world. He's got to save the whole world from the ghastly Tsarist regime. Jabotinsky takes the other road and he decides to save the Jews and it's fascinating because in the end, both of them lost.

Both of them lost, in so far as Trotsky's dream came to dust and Jabotinsky who tried so hard to force the British to do something in Palestine and of course died before the whole horror, but was pretty aware of what was going to happen. So that's Lev Davidovich Bronstein who is going to become number two, to Lenin and he is the man who is going to create The Red Army. So can we see the last of the slides of the individuals?

Now this is Adolf Joffe. Adolf Joffe was Trotsky's number two. They were very, very close. He was actually a Karaite, which is a fascinating black brand of Judaism, which maybe we can ask Jeremy to explore sometime but it's a fascination. And he was born in 1883, he commits suicide in 1927 and it's got a lot to do with Trotsky being hounded out of the party. They are incredibly close. Now what happens is that they are successful, the revolutionaries are successful and basically they create, they create the communist state.

They manage with brilliant organisational skills. When Lenin, when the train and of course Lenin was on the train, when the train arrived at the station, thousands of people were out to greet them. They took over the provisional government, they took over, you know, it's fascinating, how do you take over a city? They took over all the means of communication. You take over the railway stations, you take over the press, you take over every kind of telecommunication. That's how you take power. And that's what the Bolshevik actually did. And they kept their promise. Can we see the next slide please, Judy? Now this is so important.

This is Trotsky and Jaffe arriving at Brest-Litovsk where they sign a deal with the German army. Now, do you realise how important this is? Now just have a look at their faces, have a look at Trotsky, have a look at Jaffe and look at the German high command. Okay, put that in your brains for a long, long time because can you imagine what that image of the Jew did to antisemitism in Germany? Here you have the very Jewish looking Trotsky and the even more Jewish looking Jaffe meeting the German high command with their military hats. And of course they are now going to sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and please don't forget the protocols of the elders of Zion. And this is all going to fuel into this terrible canard that all Jews are communists and all Jews are capitalists. And I wanted you to see that picture.

And thank you Judy, so much for finding it for me. Obviously it's, I think it is so, so powerful. And the Germans and the Soviets, what they do is they negotiate the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. It's

signed on March the 3rd, 1918. So, it's signed between the Russians, the Germans, the Austria-Hungarians, the Bulgarians, and the Ottomans and it's signed in German controlled Brest-Litovsk. It took two months of negotiation. Now, I want you to take this in very, very careful, many of you will know it, but I think it's important because later on when we're going to talk about the Second World War, you've got all these countries were once under the Tsarist Empire.

The Tsarist Empire has collapsed, and Bolsheviks seize control over the Baltic states to Germany. This is important for a lot of you online because I know particularly our South African friends, most of their families came from Lithuania and Latvia. Latvia and Lithuania had been under the control of the Tsars, the Bolsheviks send Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania to Germany. These are going to be vassal states under German princes. They recognise an independent Ukraine, they don't mention Poland. The Germans refuse to acknowledge any Polish representatives. There's huge hostility between Poland and Germany.

Now obviously the treaty is going to be annulled by the Armistice on the 11th of November, 1918. But it's important to remember that for those few months under German control, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania are going to, the independence movements are going to come to the fore, in Poland, the independence movement is going to come to the fore and these areas all have huge Jewish populations. So, you know, that's always been the Zionist argument. The outside world acts, all the Jews can do is react. Now, it's not going to be quite as simple as that because there's going to be a lot of opposition to the Bolsheviks.

They've managed to take control of some of the cities, but there are forces opposed to the Bolsheviks and I think it might be quite a good idea now, if you don't mind, Judy, let's have a look at some of the characters. That is Alexander Kolchak, he is going to be in charge of The White Army. The White Army I'll talk about in more detail in a minute. This is the main opposition to the Soviets. Can we see the next one? When he is killed, the White Army is taken over by Anton Denikin, General Denikin. So you have an Admiral Kolchak and General Denikin. Okay, this now in the Ukraine, the Ukrainian nationalists are going to go for independence.

There is absolute mayhem in Eastern Europe. And this is Symon Petliura, who is going to lead the Ukrainian nationalist movement. Thank you, now this is Shalem Schwatzbard. He is a Jew and he's going to assassinate Petliura, keep that in your heads, we'll be covering it today. And then can we see the last figure? This is an interesting man. He, so we've got the Bolsheviks known as The Reds, The Whites who are of course those against the Bolsheviks. Who are the whites? They're made up of landowners, generals, aristocrats, reactionaries, socialists who hate communism, liberals who hate communism.

Now, Nestor Makhno is fascinating 'cause he's an anarchist and anarchy believes you destroy everything. And law, we won't even need war if we give everyone what we need and he controlled in the Ukraine, something known as The Black Army. So do you get a notion of what is going on now? You're going to see revolution after revolution.

*Slides conclude.*

And who is going to lead The Red Army? It's Trotsky. Brilliant, brilliant Lev Davidovich Bronstein, he turns out to be a brilliant general. He has the red guards, he pulls the red guards into units and through hostage taking and through all sorts of other things, he manages to pull together an army and he becomes incredibly successful. I'm sure you've all seen pictures of Trotsky on his train, shooting from capital to city to city, just getting everybody going. And from January, 1918, it is Trotsky who is in charge of the reorganisation of The Red Army.

Every unit had a political commissar to maintain an inverted commerce loyalty. And then he went for mandatory conscription of the peasantry and tragically to ensure compliance, there was a lot of hostage taking and quite a lot of terror. This is also interesting. He did take some Tsarist officers as military specialists and held their families hostage. He was absolutely ruthless. But this is The Red Army who are to protect the revolution and I told you about The White Army and basically they are going to fight it out. Now, the point about The White Army, once the war is over, The White Army also had the support of foreign troops.

Winston Churchill, Winston Churchill committed British troops, French troops and American troops were all committed to fight with The Whites against Bolshevism. Churchill said, "Bolshevism must be strangled at cradle." Don't forget that revolution's broken out in Germany. William's last lecture, he talked about revolution in Hungary, I've already mentioned what happened in Germany. Nearly every one of the leaders were Jewish. Churchill actually wrote a fascinating article in the illustrated Sunday Herald saying, "We must encourage Zionism because Zionism will stop the Jews being communists."

He liked Jews, he had many, many good relations with Jews. And in the 30's, he was brilliant in parliament, but he hated communism. And if you don't believe me, have a look at his body language when he meets Stalin at Yalta, I'm sure you've all seen the footage. It's all, it's extraordinary. He loathes communism. You see, he believed in the freedom of the individual. So after the war is over, everything erupts because you've got The Whites now backed by foreign troops, Finland declares independence of Russia and establishes itself in a civil war, The Pol's establish themselves and that's going to lead to a huge war with the Bolsheviks.

And as I've already said, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, they all go for independence. Then once the Germans are defeated and the Germans leave, who leaves with the Germans? And this is also important in Jewish history. A lot of Baltic Germans leave with them and many of them finish up in Munich where they mix in aristocratic circles, bringing with them the protocols of the elders of Zion. And each one of these successor states, actually signs, they actually create their own armies. So you have all these armies in the Russian Empire, that huge empire fighting on different fronts.

Now I'm going to talk a little bit about Deniken, who was the leader of The Whites because I



think it's interesting for you to get a flavour of some of these personalities. His father was a serf. He was recruited for 25 years service into the Russian army. If you remember, serfs were recruited for 25 years. A percentage of Jewish boys went in for 31 years, 25 years service, six years ratification. His father became, after 22 years, his father became an officer. He was also a very, very devoted Russian Orthodox man. Religion is very important to The Whites. Most of The Whites were actually very religious Christians.

And Anton, his son, enrolls in military college. He has a brilliant career. He's promoted to colonel and was in the first World war, was chief of the military district of Kiev. He was chief of staff. Following the October revolution, he escapes to the north caucuses and with other army officers formed an anti-Bolshevik army. And after the death of Kolchak he becomes the commander. And he's a brilliant strategist and he has a very brilliant, brilliant campaign. And he, by the summer of 1919, it was touch and go as to whether his army would take Russia, would take Moscow and it's at this stage, the Bolsheviks under Trotsky sign a deal with the anarchists, The Black Army and manage to defeat The Whites south of Moscow.

And more and more now, the problem was now, in the end, he has to get out. He's in the end, after this, they're defeated. He takes ship to Constantinople, London, Hungary and he finally settles in Paris where he made a living, writing, lecturing and in 1940, he flees to France. He finishes up in America where he was buried with full military office honours. He was a great hero to The Whites. You've got to remember there were so many different factions within The Whites and the problem was, they were all seeing the Jews as the enemy.

Now, one of the problems with this terrible melee in Russia, in old Russia, in the Ukraine, in Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, it's going to be, can you imagine the total anarchy? But who do you think are going to be the major victims? And tragically it is the Jews and most of it and it's very complicated as to who the major perpetrators were. We know there were over 1,100 pogroms. We don't even know the accurate figures. So now the apologist put the figures as low as 50,000 deaths. Jewish historians put them way over 100,000. When I say way over 100, to get accurate figures, you need to know who died in the village.

You have to have people there to tell the story. But the point is, it's a terrible carnage and a terrible loss of life. Now, in Ukraine alone, there were 524 separate pogroms. Now the majority of the pogroms, it appears were actually under Petliura's army in the Ukraine. There were also independent warlords. Now I've travelled in Ukraine a lot, I used to teach there. I'm not talking about Kiev and the cities, when I was teaching there just after communism collapse, it is so primitive to this day. Go back, imagine what it must have been like there. I found it so difficult to work out how Jews survived in that world.

They must, as my friend Felipe, used to say, who came from Eastern Europe. "We walked the same earth and we looked at the same sky." I'm not talking about the big cities where there was fusion, I'm talking about in the little towns, in the little villages and this is where the pogroms occurred. It's lawless. Jews are Christ killers, Jews are communists and if we murder them, we

can take their possessions. We are poor, they're poor, but we can still take their possessions. And independent warlords, there were lots of different, you know, thugs, basically. Mafioso, call them what you like, on the rampage. The White Russians under Deniken are meant to have been responsible for about 250 pogroms, the Polish army and also The Red Army.

So basically the Jews are caught in this absolute terrible vice and it's almost impossible to actually say who was worse. The Red Army, the policy was completely against, was completely against anti-Semitic attacks, obviously. And ironically so was Petliura. But I'm going to talk about, I don't want to rush this. So I'm going to, next time I see you on Monday, I'm actually going to talk about the Ukraine and then go on to Russia. But what I'm going to do is I'm going to Churchill, is actually sending, remember before the defeat of The Whites, Churchill is sending troops in. And this is Churchill and the other Western sponsors.

This is from a war correspondent, John Ernest Hodgson, he's a British correspondent with Deniken's troops. "I have not been with Deniken for more than a month before I was forced to the conclusion that the Jew represented a very big element in Russian upheaval. The officers and men laid practically all the blame for their country's troubles on the Hebrews, they held that the whole cataclysm had been engineered by some great and secret society of international Jews, who in the pay and at the orders of Germany, had seeds to the psychological moment and snatched the reigns of government or the figures and facts that were available seemed to lend colour to this contention.

No less than 82% of the commissars were known to be Jews. The fierce and implacable Trotsky who shared an office with Lenin was a yiddisher whose real name was Bronstein." Remember, this is a British reporter. "Amongst Deniken's officers, this idea was an obsession of such terrible bitterness and insistency, as to make statements of the wildest and most fanatical character. When I told them that England owed a great deal to its loyal Jews, they stared at me asconce and sadly shook their heads in fear for England's credulity in trusting the chosen race.

When the US showed itself against any interference in Russia, the thought gained credence that Winston was a Jew." Now you see Deniken himself, he was extremely religious and he believed that there were many reasons to help the Jews, but he didn't want to. What tends to happen is it all got out of control with the officers and the men. They blamed the Jews for the revolution because now the majority of Jews were never revolutionaries, never forget 50% of the Jews of Eastern Europe are Hasidic. They are completely outside of all of this.

And of those Jews who were politicised, the majority of them were bund. They were still within the fold in terms of Jewishness, it's only the international revolutionaries. But because in the main you are dealing with working class parties, you are dealing with maybe a couple of thousand Jewish intellectuals who changed the world. And ironically, that world actually turned on it and blamed them for the revolution. And a lot of work's been done in Germany on why people voted for the Nazis and it had a lot to do with this.

They come back from Eastern Europe, just think that the army, they've signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, but then they lose the war. They have to evacuate the Baltic states, they go back to Germany, bring all these Baltic Germans with them, Hitler socialised with all these people in Munich, when David did his session on Mein Kampf with you, the protocols was taken as red. It's true, according to Hitler. These people believed there was a world's Jewish plot. Capitalists are Jews, communists are Jews, they want to destroy our civilization. The tragedy, of course, was that the Jews themselves were at such an incredible vulnerable position because this is going to see a terrible upswing in antisemitism, in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Ukraine is maybe the darkest story of them all.

And you know, the Ukrainian story has not been solved to this day. It's fascinating because half of Ukraine is Russian Orthodox, the other half is Polish. The Pol's and the Russians have never stopped arguing over it. Is there such a thing as Ukrainian nationalism? Is there such a thing as Lithuanian nationalism? And I know that many of you online today, your families were really affected by this. The South African community, many of you came from Lithuania, so this is very important. Understand this kind of history.

And later on, when we get involved in the horror of the First World War, if you look at what fascist elements in Lithuania and Latvia, Estonia and Poland, not so much Poland actually and Ukraine did, it is beyond horror. So the brutalization of life is here. This is the most terrible brutalising time. It's going to settle for a while. And in the end, the Treaty of Versailles, all these national, Russia, fascinating. Remember the dream of communism to top all the nations of the world. The Russian army is stopped at Warsaw, the Battle of Warsaw by General Pilsudski, much more about that later on, Poland is going to become independent, Soviet Russia is going to hold, but leads all these territories.

These territories, which had been part of the Russian Empire, are now independent. And in these countries is going to live the bulk of European Jewry. And that's why I wanted to kind of lay the groundwork before we can go on. So I think it's not a bad time to stop because I'm sure there's a lot of questions. So I'm going to have a look. What I will do is I'll read the questions out loud so you can hear them. Ah, this is from Catherine, this is information. My grandfather in-law served with the British forces near the White Army Arch Angel.

Now, oh, this is lovely. This is from Marina Benzel who says, I'm from Greece and she's just saying, why did the Russian revolutionaries change their name? All revolutionaries change their names, be they Jew or or not? Trotsky's name he took from his jailer in Siberia. Nearly all these seems to be about the slides.

That's all of those, have we got any others? Yes, on the Q and A, let's see what's on the Q and A. Judy, I can't see the question. Oh yeah, yes, let's get the Q and A.

Q&A and Comments:

Q: Will you be talking about Kristallnacht?

A: Yes, very much so Etta. I've decided it's much too big a topic and it's much more than a topic when I begin to talk about the Shoah and of course we will be spending quite a lot of time on it, we will begin with Kristallnacht. Now, this is all, please could you mention this course of which this, okay. Basically, this is someone who's just joined the course. We've been going now for, April will be our anniversary.

And basically, I've been trying to run a modern Jewish history course but Wendy and I have been discussing this and what I'm proposing to do in a month or so, I'm discussing this with Wendy and Judy, I'm going to take Thursday, 5 o'clock slot revision for those, some of you and new for others of you, I'm going to do a condensed view, an overview of modern Jewish history to get us all to the same point and I'll be recommending books for you. So that's what I intend to do. So, yes.

- Yeah but Trudy, Trudy I'm sorry I have to jump in. Not from next week.

- No, not for next week. We haven't talking of months. In a couple of months, Wendy, I said.

- Yeah, so what they should do is every Sunday we send out the weekly programme and then they should see what's on. But in time we will do it.

- Yes exactly.

- But it will probably happen weeks in advance and it's not on the schedule just yet.

- No, so what we do is, as you know, Judy puts up the schedule for every week. But Wendy and I have been discussing, that in a couple of months we're going to do a revision slot, is that right, Wendy? On a Thursday we were talking about, but not every Thursday.

- Possibly, possibly. Don't make any promises.

- No, no, but I think we-

- We are doing our best to fit into everybody's work schedules and to add extra time.

- Okay. No, wait a minute, what we got here? Okay, I think that's all of those. Are there any more?

Q: Is Trotsky revered in Russia today?

A: Ooh, that's an interesting one. Trotsky was written out of history by Stalin. You know, because he was terribly important. The pictures of Trotsky were taken away, you can see gaps

in pictures. He hasn't been rehabilitated, but more and more, more and more people are interested in him.

Q: This is from Shirley, my grandfather was shot coming out of synagogue in front of his family, he was a scribe.

A: Oh my goodness, how awful.

Q: Can you comment on the age of all the people you show?

A: They seem, this is from Jack, can I comment on the age of all the people you showed, they seem very young when they died. Yes, most of them were murdered, Jack, I'll be talking about it next week.

Q: Recommend a book on Russian history as it affects the Jews.

A: I will, there's not just one, I will recommend a couple. I think that's it actually, I think there's no more. That's good. See if there's any more, I think that's it Judy and Wendy.

Q: Did you find out about the Pince massacre of 1919?

A: Not specifically, but I know there was a terrible massacre in Pince. Now I, that was The Whites, wasn't it in Pince? Now this is another interesting point. Churchill's involvement with the White Army would certainly have enhanced Stalin's suspicion of the UK, definitely, yes.

Q: What was the importance of The Black Army?

A: There were a few thousand troops, it was the anarchists and their importance, their main importance in terms of the war, is that Trotsky did a deal with them to defeat The Whites and then of course turned against them. Trotsky was my husband's mother's cousin and I believe you are anonymous I see, yeah.

Why not Bronstein, why not? Now this is another one, my great uncle came from Babruysk in 1898, he was a communist until his dying day, but left Russia because he thought the communist could never succeed. He insisted that when he died, his ashes were thrown over Marx's tomb, oh that's lovely Leila.

Q: Can I talk about the fate of shtetl's in the Ukraine?

A: I will be looking at Ukrainian history, of course I will, but not yet, I mean, we're getting there. At the moment, remember, we're in 1919.

Q: Was Tula near Moscow, this is from Carol.

A: Was Tula near Moscow in the Pale of Settlement? I know my father's family came from there. No, it wasn't, but Jews were allowed to live outside the Pale in certain circumstances, Carol. So if you know what your father did for a living, that's where you start if you're interested. They'd allowed certain Jews who had specific skills or had enough money, they were allowed to live outside The Pale.

Q: When was Trotsky forced into exile?

A: It was in stages. He was finally kicked out of the party in 1927, he goes to Turkey, he finishes up in Mexico, as you all know.

Q: How many Jews are there in Odessa now, says Susan.

A: I'm not sure. There's a lot of, there's a vibrant community because we've taken some trips to Odessa. I'm not sure. You know, it's a fascinating question, can you recreate Jewish life in Eastern Europe? Were there any many Jews fighting for The White Army? Asked Alan, I very much doubt it, unless they've been conscripted or pushed in.

Q: What proportion of the Bolsheviks were Jewish?

A: Ah, good question. The question is Marion, I can't answer that question, but I can tell you, the majority of the leadership were born Jewish. And that's the problem. The majority of Jews were never communists.

Q: Did the czars start, this is from Mark, did the czars start with the pogroms and then later continue with The Whites?

A: Good question. The pogroms, of course, the major pogroms were of course 1881 to 1914. The Whites continued with the pogroms, yes. But then so did Petliura's army and so did all these anarchist armies. So basically the Jews were getting it from every group. Look, humanity had sunk to the best deal. Jews are Christ killers, Jews are communists and besides, if we destroy them, we can take their possessions. It was a terrible dark time.

Q: Will I be discussing Bolshevism versus Stalinism?

A: Yes, there are huge differences. I don't know if we're going to have, that is certainly beyond my competence. It's not what I'm, it's nothing I've really studied. But there are people who have. I will suggest, you know, looking at political ideology is perhaps very interesting.

Q: And this Danny saying his grandfather's Uncle Visobel, was prominent in the Haskalah movement in Odessa.

A: Yes, Odessa was the centre of the Haskalah, the enlightenment, extraordinary place.

Q: Eli, why was Trotsky murdered?

A: Because Stalin would never forgive him. Stalin made a terrible, he was a terrible enemy, he had him murdered by one of his agents and practically all of Trotsky's family were murdered by Stalin's agents. If you want to read about Stalin, Simon Sebag Montefiore has written, "Stalin" and "Young Stalin," they're brilliant books. That will really get you, you see, I like biography and I think that's a very good introduction to the world of Stalin and Russia. Simon Sebag is a very good scholar.

Q: Okay, somebody asked where modern Jewish history starts.

A: That is a very, very good question. I started with the European Enlightenment and the French and American Revolutions. I think that's it, isn't it?

Q: Oh, there's another one here. Odessa was the centre of Hebrew literature until the Revolution, yes.

A: Odessa was one of the most exciting, interesting cities in the Pale of Settlement, maybe in the world and it's very beautiful. It was created by Catherine and she had it, Catherine the Great and she had it built like a French city, a man called Derushla, those of you who have been there, I mean I've been to the Opera House in Odessa, Trotsky wrote a novel about it, I beg your pardon, Jabotinsky wrote a novel about it.

And it was a very vibrant, fascinating city. It was a seaport, you had the area of the Turks, the area of the Greeks, the area of the French, the area of the Jews and most Jews in Odessa actually spoke Russian or Ukrainian, which is interesting because they didn't speak Yiddish much. They were more, I won't say assimilated, but they were more part of the life and of course music was the great tradition of Odessa.

Some of the greatest musicians that hit the West came from like Heifetz came from Odessa, don't forget the writers, don't forget Isaac Babel, Sholem Aleichem was there for a while. Most of the great writers, Jewish writers, passed through Odessa. It's a fascinating place to visit. I don't know if it's ever going to be possible again. I think Judy and Wendy, that's about it.

- Okay?

- Thanks, yeah, thanks Trudy. So we will all reconvene it in an hour, in one hour for Jeremy Rosen, for those who'd like to listen. Lovely, all right God bless.

- Enjoy the rest of your evening everyone. Thank you, bye bye.

- [Trudy] Bye.