

Trudy Gold - The Jewish World on the Edge of War

- Yesterday was an absolute triumph.

- It was a triumph. You know, we had 3,000 participants.

- Yeah, I know. That is something.

- On Zoom.

- And Josh is special, don't you think?

- Oh, yeah. Oh yes.

- Yes. So what I want to say is that when we have our reunion, we have our celebration, our reunion, on the 11th of April. We're going to have a, so Alan is organising a celebration for one year. For one-year success, I'm going to open up the platform so that we can have more than 3,000 people.

- Oh, fantastic. That is a lovely idea.

- And then on the 18th, we're going to have another wonderful programme.

- With Mona.

- With Mona Golabek, yes.

- Yeah, yeah.

- "The Pianist of Willesden Lane."

- Yeah.

- So how are we doing for time? It's three minutes pass.

- Tell me when to start then.

- If you're ready, we can begin.

- Should we give them one more minute?

- All right, no, no. I just want to say welcome everybody, and thank you, Trudes, again, and thank you, Judy and Trudy. And now over to you.

- Thank you.

- Jewish World in 1939.

- '39.

- Looking forward.

Visual slides are displayed throughout the presentation.

- And thank you both Wendy and Judy for keeping me sane. Now, this, what we're going to do this evening is to give an overview of what's happening in the Jewish world on the eve of war. And to do that, I'm stepping back to one area that most of you know quite a lot about. So I'm not going very, I'm going to go quite speedily, but I need to go back to the Evian Conference. Now, before we get into this presentation, I think it's important to remember that what we're actually dealing with is the evil of Nazism. But what comes up very much in this presentation is what other people did not do. And it meant that the Jewish community worldwide, and this is really, really highlighted in Palestine, they had the most terrible dilemmas to face, unprecedented dilemmas. So we'll be looking at issues today, which really, are very, very painful. Now, if you recall, because of the process of Nazism and the policy against the Jews, and then of course in March, 1938, the Anschluss, there was condemnation of Nazism.

There was enough pressure for Roosevelt to convene a conference. It was actually convened by a man called McDonald, who later became a great friend of the Zionists and of Israel. And the whole issue was to look at the situation of German and Austrian Jewry, because as I've said to you many times, Hitler wanted a judenrein reich. He wanted the economic, social, and political exclusion of the Jews from the German sphere of influence, which now of course meant Austria. And his purpose at this stage is to get them out and to ruin them economically. So at the Evian Conference, 32 countries came together, and basically nothing changed. The Dominican Republic said they'd taken a hundred thousand as long as they retrained, but that fell apart. The Dutch and the Danes actually did take in a few more, but in effect, the world said nothing. And I'm just going to read you one, two of the memos.

This was the briefing for Lord Halifax, the British foreign minister, before the conference. "The question of the Jews in Central Europe will be raised sooner or later and can only be resolved comprehensively and perhaps radically. And the organisers were absolutely frightened of having a conference, why? Because of the level, not just what's going on in Germany, in Austria, but the level of anti-Semitism in Romania, in Hungary, and Poland was absolutely extraordinary." And this is something I'm going to be talking about next week. In fact, the US really put pressure on Romania to participate. And the foreign minister Petrescu, he actually said to the American ambassador, he hoped that Jewish resettlement would be extended to his country. If we're talking about Jews leaving the Nazi sphere of influence, they've got to lead us. And this is an

interview with one of the leading Nazi papers. "We have to force the Western democracies to choose between opening up new territories for Jewish immigration and accepting a violent solution to the conflict. It is difficult to constrain people from carrying out pogroms. And those in Paris and London should be made to know that we won't always be able to do this.

A decision must be taken quickly." September the 20th, 1938, there's a discussion between Hitler and the Polish ambassador Lipski. This is what der Fuehrer stated. "The Jewish problem could be solved by immigration to the British colonies based on an agreement with Poland, Hungary, and Romania." The foreign minister of Poland, Jozef Beck, this is the answer. "On this score, I told Hitler we would erect a magnificent monument to him in Warsaw if he brought about such a solution." Because at this stage, the Polish-German relations were okay because the Nazis were about to invade Sudetenland. And Hitler was promising the Poles a Czech border town. So alliances keep on shifting. And let's just mention France at this stage. France was completely polarised between the left and the right. And the right-wing government had actually suggested perhaps the idea of shipping the Ostjuden who'd settled in France to the island of Madagascar was a solution. So at a time of huge unemployment, at a time of the polarisation of politics from country to country, just think about Europe in the '30s.

You have Franco in Spain, the horrible civil war. You had Mussolini in Italy. You have these ultra-right-wing governments in Eastern Europe. France completely polarised. And the Nazis in Germany and in Austria. And then of course Stalin in Russia. So basically, it's a very dark world, in fact, to quote a very famous book on the period, "The Dark Valley." And in fact, the Canadian prime minister, William Mackenzie Lyon King, he said, "We would have riots if we agreed to a policy that admitted large numbers of Jews." At the Evian Conference, South Africa said, "We have enough." And the British diplomats themselves, well, they're not going to open the gates to Palestine. And as a response to that, you have that tragic note of Golda Meir. And she says this, "I don't think that anyone who didn't live through it can understand what I felt at Evian. A mixture of sorrow, rage, frustration, and horror. I wanted to get up and scream it more. 'Don't you know that the numbers are human beings who may spend the rest of their lives in concentration camps or wandering around like lepers if you don't let them in?'"

Now, this is a German foreign policy memo on policies regarding Jews. This is fascinating. "In North America, in South America, in France, in Holland, Scandinavia, and Greece, whenever the scream of Jewish migrants has poured in, a clear increase in anti-Semitism has been recorded. It must be the aim of German foreign policy to strengthen this wave of anti-Semitism." And going on with this kind of idea, it's important to remember that the level in Britain was high. I mean, you had Halifax, you had of course a government of national unity, and then Chamberlain, and the appeasement lobby. Already, the White Paper's not going to be issued until May, 1939. but already the British government is realising that their best interests lie in appeasing the Arabs. And they are about to ditch Zionism. And America, think about America at this period. Under Roosevelt, those who hated him called him Rosenvelt, by the way.

They called New York, Jew York. And some of the infamous characters, you have Lindbergh,

you have Father Coughlin, you have the German Bund, and also you have Joseph Kennedy, who of course had made an absolute fortune and was ambassador to London. In London, he was part of the Cliveden Set. He was very friendly with Nancy Astor. They shared a loathing of communism and a loathing of Jews. She wrote to Kennedy, this is a letter from Nancy Astor to Joseph Kennedy. Hitler would have to do more than just give a rough time to the killers of Christ before she would be in favour of launching Armageddon to save them. Let me repeat that. Hitler would have to do more than just give a rough time to the killers of Christ before she would be in favour of launching Armageddon to save them. Remember, Kennedy was a Catholic.

And Kennedy replied, "The Jew media in US would be a problem," I'm quoting, "and the Jew pundits in New York and LA were already making noises contrived to set a match to the fuse of the world." And this is a letter from Joe Jr. This is Joe Jr., of course, the eldest son who died in the war. "Jews were at the head of big business in law. It's to their credit they get so far, but their methods have been unscrupulous. The lawyers and the judges were Jews. And if you have a case against a Jew, you're always sure to lose it. As for the brutality it concerned, it must have been necessary to use some." Now, let me quote Edward, Prince of Wales. This is to a German relative. "It's no business of ours to interfere in Germany's internal affairs, re Jews or anything else. Dictators are very popular these days. We might want one in England before long."

And of course, there was a very close relationship between Wallis Simpson and Ribbentrop, who was ambassador in London. And on October, 1937, four months after their marriage, and despite the opposition of the government, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor travelled to Nazi Germany. And you have that infamous footage where he is giving the Nazi salute. He actually dined with both Goebbels and Goering and visited an SS training school. And on the 22nd of October, he goes to the Berghof, Hitler's home, for a meeting. And it's extraordinary, he was to go on a trip to America, but Jewish organisations did manage to put a stop to that. And back in England, the Right Club, which is a very right-wing fascist organisation, which was very much coming to the fore, so although there were people in the Houses of Parliament like Josiah Wedgwood, like Nancy Astor, there were many incredible people who were speaking out. On the other hand, you have these people who are in favour of appeasement.

They don't like Jews anyway, and you have a horror story. So after the Evian Conference, against the backdrop of rising anti-Semitism, Hitler fulfils one of the missions of the German Workers' Party manifesto. He had always said back in 1920 that the Ostjuden were to be expelled. Anyone not a German citizen prior to 1914 would be expelled. On October the 26th, 1938, just a few months after Evian, he actually took out 18,000 Polish Jews, can we see the first slide, Judy? And here you have those poor, unfortunate people. You know, they're only allowed to take a small suitcase with them, they are pulled out of their homes, and they are sent where? They're sent on a march, and then some of them on trains to Zbaszyn, on the border of Poland and Germany. And I've already talked about the hostility in Germany, in Poland. So it's a terrible situation. In fact, a friend of mine was in Zbaszyn as a small boy, and he said it was absolutely extraordinary. He was a German Jew, of course, of Eastern European origin.

And he said it was only a day later that Jews came down from Warsaw with food for us. It was cold. Those of you who've been to Poland will know that by October it's very cold. They were in barns. The Germans have been shooting at them, the Poles shooting in the other direction. It was a horrible, horrible thing. And a postcard was sent by the Grynszpan family to their son Herschel in Paris. Herschel goes into the German embassy in Paris. Let's have a picture of Herschel, please, Judy. That's Herschel Grynszpan. We're not sure when he died, actually. There are those who say he lived after the war. But the point is, he was this young man who goes into the German embassy in Paris and he shoots the German attache. And he says this. He immediately surrenders to the French police. He says this, "Being a Jew is not a crime. I hope President Roosevelt will take pity on us. I'm not a dog. I didn't mean to kill. I lost my head." In his pocket was a note. "May God forgive me. I must protest so the whole world hears my press."

And you've got to remember also, the background to this is absolutely appalling, because in response to Herschel Grynszpan, as an excuse, the reality was that a lot of the German local, the local Nazi party officials, they didn't have enough money. The local lender didn't have enough money. Goebbels wanted to radicalise. There was a debate. And finally, it led to Kristallnacht, which is the first organised state pogrom in Germany. And can we see some of, can we see the next slide, please? Yes, that is Ernst vom Rath, who was the German diplomat who was shot by Grynszpan. There is a rumour that they might have been lovers. There's a long, strange story in all of this. And the reason I'm going quite quickly is I have, I'm actually repeating, because I have been over this area, those of you who've been online a while. So I'm hoping to satisfy those who've joined and those who are online before. But I know most of you know a lot about this. So can we see the next slide, please?

And of course, it's Goebbels, one of the evil geniuses of Nazism, perhaps the greatest propagandist of the 20th century. Believe me, we'll be spending a lot of time on his biography. There's something that Wendy said, get into the psychology of these characters. So this is the Joseph Goebbels who really pushed for Kristallnacht. And let's have a look at that terrible scene. Yeah, can you imagine the horror? I'm pleased to announce that in a couple of weeks, my friend Anita Lasker-Wallfisch has agreed to speak. And she's 95 now, so she has very clear memories of Kristallnacht. And basically, during that attack, 276 synagogues were burnt down, destroyed by fire. 7,000 businesses destroyed. Jewish hospitals were attacked across Germany, Austria, the Sudetenland. 30,000 men were arrested and taken to concentration camps. 91 people were murdered that night in terror. But according to Richard Evans, his figures, and you've got to remember the opening up of the archives, after the collapse of communism, we had, remember the archives, the Gestapo archives were in East Berlin. So after the collapse of communism, a lot more evidence has come to light. A further 638 died of maltreatment, torture, and there were an awful lot of suicides. I'm going to be discussing this with Anita and I, and those of you who are of German descent online, you will know that for many of your parents, your grandparents, it really was their culture. And this is the double blow.

And it's after Kristallnacht. There wasn't a Jew left in Germany who didn't want to get out. The

following day, all Jewish children were banned from schools, communal organisations. And to make it worse, the community itself was fine. It had caused Kristallnacht, one billion marks, which is \$5.5 billion, which was 20% of all the remaining Jewish assets in Germany. So, and all insurance policy claims. You know, if you had a business and it was burnt down, the claims went to the Nazi state. Now, this, remember, it was perpetrated by paramilitaries under, really under the SS. So it's a state-organized pogrom. And the reports, and it's got to be said that the reports in the foreign press, in most of the foreign press, was very respectful. The Americans record their ambassador, but didn't break off diplomatic relations. So against the backdrop, and it's important to remember, because I'm giving you the negative of people's responses, there are an awful lot of people who were absolutely horrified by Kristallnacht. And this is one American report. This is the American consul. This is his report. "In Leipzig, in one of the Jewish sections, an 18-year-old boy was hurled from a three-story window to land with both legs broken on a street littered with burning beds and other household furniture." Three synagogues were fired simultaneously by incendiary bombs. All sacred objects and records desecrated or destroyed, in most instances, hurled through the windows and burnt in the street." This is the mob on the rampage. This is the unleashing of the beast. This is the taking away of any concept of law. There's that extraordinary comment by the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn who survived the camps.

He said what the Nazis did is to overturn the Ten Commandments. If you take the Ten Commandments as a rule of life, they unleashed, remember that quote of Heine, "If the talisman of the cross will ever fall, the hammer of Thor," they really unleashed the primitive, primeval, take away that level of civilization. And this is how he ended it. It was a barrage of ferocity, has had no equal either in Germany or very likely anywhere in the world since savagery, if ever. And this is Thomas Dewey, "The civilised world stands revolted by a bloody pogrom against a defenceless people." Even Herbert Hoover, "These individuals are taking Germany back 450 years in civilization to Torquemada's expulsion of the Jews from Spain." The Manchester Guardian, "Jews are begging for visas. I understand that neither Great Britain or the United States are making any concessions. And for the great majority of those applying, there is little hope." So, and so it goes on. But it's at this stage that, on the 15th of November, 1938, a few days after Kristallnacht, that Quaker leaders, the archbishop of Canterbury Temple, and Jewish leaders did appeal for help to Chamberlain.

At first they asked for 5,000, but because the Colonial Office refused to allow 10,000 children into Palestine, this is before the White Paper, this is the 15th of November, '38, they upped it to 10,000. And the agencies all came together. They called themselves the Movement for the Care of Children from Germany. Now, what they had to do was to find homes and to sponsor for all the children. You had to give 50 pounds sponsorship, which would finance their eventual immigration away from England. And what happened was there were some extraordinary individuals. They were sent to Austria in Germany to work with the Central British Fund to appeal for foster homes. On the BBC, they actually broadcast on the BBC Home Service. And 500 offers. People like the Attenborough family. I'm sure those of you who don't live in England will know of the Attenborough family. Of course, one of them is that incredible anthropologist. So Harold Macmillan took in children, Maggie Thatcher took in children, and they didn't insist that

these homes be Jewish. And frankly, with the hindsight of history, the Jewish community did not step up to the plate as perhaps it should have done.

So the first group of children arrived in Harwich on the 2nd of December, 1938. And over the next nine months, 10,000 came to the UK. There were other kinder in France, Belgium, Holland, and Sweden. And on March '39, transports were organised from Prague. Can we see the next picture if you don't mind, Judy? That's more Kristallnacht. Can we go on, Adolf Eichmann, I'm going to talk about Adolf Eichmann in a minute, but I'd like first to look at the picture of Nicholas Winton. Now, Nicholas Winton is an extraordinary character. I had the pleasure of knowing him. He didn't think he'd done anything special. The story, look, he was born to German Jewish parents, but he was living a very non-Jewish life. He lived in the country. He was quite a wealthy businessman. And he was approached by a friend of his in Prague, a woman called Doreen Warriner, who was working for the British Commission for Rescuers. And he cancelled his skiing holiday. He was a man of huge dynamism. He managed to get to Prague and arrange for a shipment of 669 Czech children and found homes for them in Britain and arranged for their safe passage to Britain. And, you know, the sort of issues they faced, I mean, for example, they had to get official permission from the Dutch to cross over to the Hook of Holland. And Dutch officials were making life very difficult. But he managed to get guarantees of people who would take on the children. He paid a lot of it for himself.

And through summer of '39, he actually placed pictures of the children in the Picture Post to try and get families to accept a child. And tragically, the last group of children, he got his 669 out. The last group of children was actually going to leave on the 1st of September, there were 250 of them, but he couldn't, because war broke out. And of those 250 children, only two of them actually survived. But he was recognised in the most peculiar way because some of his children, by this time, middle-aged and elderly, they actually contacted Esther Rantzen, British Jewish television personality, and this was back in the '90s, and they had a whole special programme on him. Films were made about him. And I had one of the most peculiar experiences in my life, because a chap came into the office when I ran the LJCC. And he said, "I want you to put together a study pack on Nicholas Winton, because I'm one of his children." And he resourced an incredible study pack on a rescuer as a sort of monument to Winton, but also to show what is possible. And it went to every school in the country. And Winton's children, many of them have had incredible lives and really enriched British society.

You see, this is the other side of the coin. If you look at the refugees who came to England, and of course the, and not only the refugees, but the kinder. Many of them had extraordinary lives, and they really did help people and create an incredible cultural explosion that we'll be talking about a lot later on in the course. Now, can, I'm afraid, can I ask you to flick back to Adolph Eichmann, if you don't mind, Judy? Yes, Adolf Eichmann. To quote Hannah Arendt's "The Banality of Evil," and we'll be arguing about him a lot in the future. What was he? This was the bureaucrat. He had a very, very boring, ordinary background. He was born in Austria. He never really made it at school. He went to the same school as Kaltenbrunner, who later became head of the Gestapo. He became a vacuum salesman. And in 1933, he joined the illegal Nazi party in

Austria. He went over to Germany. He was a good bureaucrat, a good organiser, and he worked his way up. And by 1937, he was the main bureaucrats working on the Jewish Question. He became an expert in Jewish affairs. He learnt Hebrew, he learnt Yiddish.

In 1937, he and his boss actually went to Palestine, but that's another story for another time. And in 1938, after the Anschluss, he sets up an immigration bureau in the Rothschild mansion in Vienna to really steal as much money as possible from Jews before he kicks them out of Germany. And it also has to be said though, but in both Austria, and he opens this, he also opens up in Berlin in January, 1939, another office. And it must be said, there were some incredible consuls. I mean, for example, in Vienna, you had Kendrick, more about him later on. And of course, he's, Helen Fry's doing research on him at the moment. Her book comes out in September. And evidently, he got a lot of people to Africa, which is something that, Wendy knows about this. She's doing, Helen's doing more and more research, and I think this is a very interesting part of the story. You have Kendrick. You also have Manli Ho, who was the Chinese consul in Vienna, who was giving visas to Jews to go through to Shanghai. Shanghai, the Chinese city took in over 25,000 Jews.

So against the evil, please don't forget, there are also people that behaved in an extraordinary way. And I guess the key, for me, the key to understanding this period of history, if it's going to mean anything, and let's face it, why on earth do we study this? Why do we think about it? We think about it to honour our own families and to honour the dead. But surely, every moral dilemma you ever want people to think about is here. And that's why I think we should study it. And it's just as important and more important to study the rescuers. We've got to get away with our fascination for evil. I mean, the question is, look at that evil. That man embodies evil, but look at him. Those of you who saw pictures or film of him in the dock in Jerusalem, what a tiny little man he was. And yet what he was capable of doing, mindless bureaucracy to please his masters going up beyond the quota. And at this stage, he is the bureaucrat in charge of the Final Solution for his masters. He was not the initiator. He was the one who carried it all out meticulously, going above and beyond the call of duty. And of course, later on, we're going to find out that he did instigate. But you're looking at that face, and I always think of the Leonard Cohen poem, colour of eyes, brown, colour of hair, brown, build, medium.

What did you expect? Horns and talons. Anyway, Judy, let's wipe him off the screen and go beyond Nicholas Winton. Nicholas Winton, can we go back to Nicholas Winton, please? Don't get stuck on Eichmann, please. Judy? Thank you. Now, this is better. This is the ship, the St. Louis. Now, this is an extraordinary story. On May the 13th, 1939, the St. Louis set sail from Hamburg. On board were 937 German Jews. And they had visas for Cuba. They're under the command of Gustav Schroeder, who is the German commander. They dropped anchor in Cuba. They already knew on the high seas that there was going to be a problem with the visas. It was very corrupt. The Joint were there doing everything they could to try and make things happen. But the ship was denied entry. Only 28 passengers were actually allowed to disembark. The Joint did everything it could, but no. And then they went to the States with 907 passengers on board. Cordell Hull, the Secretary of State, advised Roosevelt not to accept any Jews.

I've already mentioned to you that you have the German Bund. The level of hatred of difference, hatred of Jews, hatred of foreigners. Remember Phil's lecture on, really on what was going on in the '30s in Germany. Already America changed its mind about, the nation of immigrants is on a different path after the First World War. And America refuses to allow any of them in. The Coast Guards were actually sent out to protect the American coastline. Academics and clergy in Canada tried to persuade the prime minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King, to accept them. But the director of Canada's immigration branch was a man called Frederick Glare. He was very hostile, he was an anti-Semite, and he persuaded the government not to let anyone in. And in fact, between '33 and '39, the Canadian government only allowed 5,000 into Canada. And it has to be said that 20,000 made it to Mexico, 70,000 in the end to Britain, and 200,000 in the end did make it to America.

But Canada, Canada's record and Australia's record is absolutely appalling. It was in the year 2000 that Blair's nephew actually apologised to the Jewish people. There's a worldwide outcry. There's a lot of good people actually saying, can you imagine these people, they're on this ship, they're going from place to place to place. It's now May, 1939. The situation is dire. And this ship going from country to country to country. And Schroeder actually made the decision. He's not an Nazi, he's a German. He's not an Nazi. He made the decision that he would actually wreck the boat off the British coast so that most of them could get to the shore. But it's at this stage, that there's so much pressure, because you can imagine there's a lot of children on that boat as well. And you can imagine that the press, the liberal press from country to country to country was going crazy. And as a result, Neville Chamberlain, and remember what Neville Chamberlain has said about Palestine, "If I'm going to offend anyone, let me offend the Jews." He agrees to take 288 people, 32%. The French took in 224. 214 went to Belgium. And 181 to Holland.

And tragically, obviously those who came to England, the majority of them survived, well, they survived the war, but the majority of those in the other countries, they were victims of the Holocaust. In 1993. Schroeder, can we see his picture, please? That's Captain Schroeder. In 1993, he was actually honoured as a righteous Gentile. Okay, can we go on please, Judy, if you don't mind? You see, you realise what I'm doing. I'm trying to give you a bird's eye view of the increase of the tension in the Jewish world. So if we could see the next slide, please. Judy? Yeah. You've seen him before, Haj Amin al-Husseini. Let's look now at the Arab world. Now, Haj Amin al-Husseini crossed the boundary from anti-Zionism to anti-Semitism. And as early as 1933, he had made overtures to Adolf Hitler. Hitler didn't think that much of the Arabs, and the language he uses is, I don't, look, unfortunately, when you're using language that was used by racists, you can offend other people. So he actually said the whole Eastern question is not worth the bones of a single Pomeranian grenadier.

But after Mussolini conquered Libya, the whole of the Middle East was in the ear of German radio, and you begin to see a huge propaganda programme. And gradually, the Germans realise that if they're going to go for war, and in '37, '38, war is likely, then basically we want the Arabs on our side. And many, let me explain how anti-Semitism first hit the Arab world, because when

we look at the Jews of the Arab world, and it's a long and glorious history, I'm going to suggest to you that anti-Semitism was actually a foreign import. The most important anti-Semitic event of the 19th century was the Damascus Blood Libel. But that was actually an import from France and Austria. It's actually when the French and British colonials are in the Middle East, you begin to see Arab Christians studying in Paris, where, in the Sorbonne, at the time of the Dreyfus affair. And consequently, this is when you begin to see it actually creeping in. And basically, we have al-Jundi, who was one of the most important of the spiritual leaders of Haj Amin al-Husseini, he describes how he was looking for Alfred Rosenberg's "Myth of the Twentieth Century" in Damascus. And he found a French version belonging to Michel Aflaq, who later becomes one of the founders of the Ba'ath Party. And in fact, the Mufti did believe that his interests and those of Germany would coincide. And in the war, he's going to spend much of the war with Hitler. And Hitler reveals to him the Final Solution.

And some of his broadcasts during the war are absolutely extraordinary. And if you do not doubt that he crossed the line between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, let me just read to you, this is a speech of his in 1943, world Jewry leads the allied enemies in the abyss of depravity and ruin, just as it did in the age of the Prophet. In England as well as in America, only Jewish influence is dominant. It is the same Jewish influence that stands behind godless communism. It is the Jewry that drove the nations into the war of attrition from its tragic destiny. Only the Jew will benefit." This is Ibn Saud. The Saudis of course have taken over in the Hejaz. This is he speaking to an American diplomat in 1937. "My hatred of the Jews derives from the persecution of Jesus and their rejection of Muhammad. For a Muslim to kill a Jew ensures his immediate entry into heaven. Why did the British reward the stiff-necked Jews who had mistreated Isa, Jesus, and a cursed race that since the world began has rejected the prophets and bites the hands of everyone who helped it? So basically, of course, it's much more complicated than that. And it was perfectly possible to be an Arab in the Middle East who was against Zionism.

That does not make you an anti-Semite. But what I'm saying is certainly with the Mufti and Ibn Saud, they did cross the war. And he makes this apert that Haj Amin al-Husseini in 1942 when the Final Solution is underway. I'm going to read you one of his broadcasts. Before the, and remember the Zionist in Palestine, they'd been fighting him between '36 and '39, and now they're facing the White Paper, and they're facing incidents like the ship, the St. Louis. So basically, and they're running the ships into Palestine. And if the ships are attacked by the British, you know, this is the hopelessness, and this is a speech of the Mufti. "Before the outbreak of war and before the actors took up arms to stop Anglo-Saxon Jewish greed, there was one nation who had fought alone against these forces For more than 20 years. That nation is our own Arab nation, which has fought against the English and the Jews in Egypt and Palestine, Iraq and Syria, and in all parts of the Arabian Peninsula. After the outbreak of the present war, our nation continued in their struggle determined to achieve its aims, that is liberty, independence, and sovereignty.

From the outbreak of this war, the Arab nation has had neither peace nor neutrality. It was engaged alone in the hardest struggle against the Anglo-Saxon Jewish policies. This war was

for the Arab people, none other than the continuation of the uninterrupted struggle, which is sustained alone for 20 years. Today, the Arab people has at its side the powerful enemies of its own enemy. In this war, the Arabs are not neutral. They cannot be neutral for the reasons I have already given, and for the interests they have in the results of this war. If God forbid, England should be victorious. The Jews will dominate the world. England and her allies would deny the Arabs any freedom and independence, would strike the Arab fatherland to its heart, and would tear away parts of it to form a Jewish country whose ambition would not be limited to Palestine, but would extend to other Arab countries. But if on the contrary, England loses and its allies are defeated, the Jewish Question from which for us constitutes the greatest danger, would be finally resolved. All threats against the Arabs would disappear, and millions of Arabs would be freed, and many Muslims in Asia and in Africa would be saved."

I think it's important to give you a notion of the Mufti, because he's going to come into the picture, I'm afraid, time and time again. And later on, we're going to find that he is instrumental, after the monarchies fall and after Farouk falls in Egypt, he's going to be instrumental in bringing Nazi propagandists to work for NASA. So it's a very complicated picture. Now let's turn to Zionism and the Jews of Palestine. Think about it. The British issue the White Paper in May, 1939. In August '39, the Soviets signed a deal with Hitler, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a non-aggression pact. In preparation for that, Stalin cynically removed Jews from the foreign office. And the other important thing of course that happens from a Jewish point of view, and it must have been absolutely heartbreaking, was the 21st Zionist Congress in Geneva. The dates were April the, August the 16th to August the 25th, 1939. I've seen some footage of it, and I found someone who would digitalize some of this footage, so I'll be able to show it to you. So they're in the shadow of the White Paper, and they're in the shadow of the war. And Weizmann gives an incredible address. I read you something from it when we looked at his appeal to the British. And basically in 1939, the situation was absolutely desperate.

And he talks about it, all the Zionist leaders talk about it, how they said goodbye at that congress. And later, and of course most of the delegates from Eastern Europe, they never saw them again. Weizmann then went to England. He saw Churchill, and he said to Churchill, "After the war, we want to build up a state of three or four million." And Churchill evidently said, according to Weizmann's autobiography, "I quite agree with that." Meanwhile, what is actually going on in Palestine? Well, and again, you come to the huge dilemmas. Back in, after the Arab Riots of 1929, I already mentioned to you that the Haganah had been created in 1920. The Haganah was the army of self-defense. But after the Arab Riots, a group of Haganah commanders, and can we see some people, please? Can we see First Avraham Tehomi. Avraham Tehomi, he was a Haganah commander. He and a man called David Razieli, they decided to break away from the Haganah because they didn't, they wanted a different approach. They felt that after the Arab Riots, there would be no, there could be no accommodation, and that the British were going to betray them.

If you remember, and we looked at this last week, after the Arab Riots, the Commission actually said it was the fault, the real cause was Jewish immigration. But then, and they then said, "We

won't have any more Jews in Palestine if there's any unemployed Arabs." It was then changed. But basically, a few of the commanders of Haganah thought that we'd got to go more onto the attack. And they found the Irgun. Now, the mentor, the spiritual leader as it were, of the Irgun was of course Vladimir Jabotinsky. Jabotinsky was not allowed into Palestine, but he is very much the guiding force behind it. And the majority of the people who joined the Irgun are in fact Betar. And there was a terrible schism, and it lasted until 1937. You have the Arab Riots of 1936. And it's at this stage, there's a kind of melding of the differences. And Tehomi goes back to the Haganah, but David Raziel goes on and he continues the running of the Irgun. They have three, the Irgun is much smaller than the Haganah. If you remember, I mentioned to you that Orde Windgate was already training them in the art of night fighting. So the Haganah is the underground army, really, of the Yishuv, and the Irgun are out on a limb.

They're far more the people of Jabotinsky. Ideologically, they're very different, because of course, and it's important to remember, the Histadrut and the Yishuv in the main is socialists. They're funneling most of their people to the Kibbutz Movement. David Raziel believed in a mixed economy, like many of these young characters, but be they Haganah or Irgun, they had incredible personal lives. I mean, I'll just give you a little touch of Raziel's biography. His family, he was born in Grodno, in Belarus. The majority of them, of course, came from Eastern Europe. The family went to Palestine, they were strong Zionists, as early as 1913. His father was very religious. He taught at a religious school in Tel Aviv. During World War I, they were expelled to Egypt. Why? Because they were sick. Remember, the Turks are opposed to the Russians. Ironically, they're expelled as enemy aliens. And they return, they don't return to Palestine till 1923. He graduated from school, and then he went to a yeshiva in Jerusalem. His study partner was Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Cook, the son of the great Rav Cook of the Mandate, who I will do a session on later on. And he goes on to the Hebrew U. He studies maths, he studies philosophy. These characters were poets. They were thinkers. He joined the Haganah.

And his, later on, his sister Esther, became a member of the Knesset for Herut. He leaves the Haganah for the Irgun, and he becomes leader of the Jerusalem chapter, and in 1938, commander-in-chief of the Irgun. You know, it's interesting, he actually died in 1941. You know, when war broke out, 50,000 young Jews in Palestine, be they Irgun, Haganah, they all volunteered for the British Army. The British wouldn't let them in. Churchill wanted them in the army, but it got bogged down, British, the British administration, they knew they'd be training people who eventually would fight against them. And it was only after Rommel and Egypt that they allowed Jews into the army. But they did use quite a few Jews for clandestine meetings and missions. There was, despite all the British efforts to help the Arabs, there was a pro-Arab uprising, pro-Axis uprising in Iraq where, and it was very much orchestrated by the Mufti, where the Iraqi, the new Iraqi government was horrifically pro-Nazi. And there was an appalling pogrom in Baghdad in 1941, but more about that, Raziel, later on. But Raziel actually dies fighting for the British in 1941. And Moshe Dayan ironically lost an eye fighting for the British.

There was another young man, look, in 19, when, in 1939, during the White Paper, the Irgun between, between the issuing of the White Paper in May and the war, the Irgun went to war with

the British as well as the Nazis. They were also running ships into Palestine. It's only about a thousand men. When war was declared, the Irgun through their lot in with the British. But there was a small group of Irgun, and can we see the face, please? Of Avraham Stern. Yes, another poet, and a very sensitive, clever man, but went in for tactics, which many people described as terrorists. He said the British were as bad as the Nazis. And he continued the war against the British until he was actually shot in police custody. But more about, again, more about him later on. And just to give you the figures, as I said, there were about, the, during, the Haganah had about 10,000 men and 40,000 reservists. There were only about a thousand in the, only about a thousand in the Irgun. And the Stern was even smaller, but it doesn't matter.

It became very, very effective in terror tactics. You know, now, we look back, but you've got to remember, they didn't, these are the dilemmas. And I should also mention that Jabotinsky was in Poland trying to do a deal with the Polish government. They were prepared, just as Abba Ahimeir had screamed at Arlosoroff for doing a deal, now the right wingers are doing, trying to do deals with anti-Semitic governments to save Jews. And what I would say about this period, and I know, I'm sure online, there's going to be many of you who are, who would take sides politically over this. Because don't forget, these are the political parties of Israel. After Israel becomes a state, of course you have Mapai, which is in power for many years. But then of course it is the followers of Begin. After the death of David Razieli, it's in actually 1944 that Menachem Begin lands in Palestine with Anders' forces. And he takes over the Irgun. And this is where the lines are drawn. They're drawn politically, they're drawn in terms of all sorts of ideology. And I think the tragedy is, they all wanted to save Jews, but they all went in different ways about it. And it really, it's the story of Israel.

If we spend time on this particular period, when they were up against the most appalling odds, I mean, you know, it's fascinating. If ever there was a time of Jewish powerlessness, this was it. In the end, it didn't matter whether you were Haganah, or Irgun, or Lehi, or whether you were a Weizmann, a Ben-Gurion, a Jabotinsky, a Begin, a Golda Meir. Remember what she said at Evian? In the end, there was no power. And in the end, six million of our people were murdered. And yet the image of Jewish power still goes on, which I find absolutely extraordinary. So rather than getting to, and of course it's going to involve issues like Arlosoroff, it's going to involve the Castro affair. My thought on all of this, and I go back to my friend Anita, who did survive Auschwitz. She said, if you're in hell, please don't make moral judgments unless, you can make a judgement about a perpetrator, a collaborator. But can you really make judgements about people who at the time were all human beings, had to make decisions. So I hope I've managed to pull together a picture for you. I know it's a little bit bitty, but what I've tried to do is to get you to 1939. And tomorrow, William will be talking about Europe on the edge of war.

And then on Thursday, what I've decided to do is to look at Poland. But I want to also look at Poland today, because there's a lovely book called "Poland, What Do I Have to Do With You?" And as so many of you online today, your families have come from Eastern Europe. Whether you want to call it Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, or Russia, it was all part of Eastern Europe. And it was once the kingdom of Lithuania, Poland. And we have had a presence in

Poland since the 13th century. I think it's important to actually talk about the big issues, because as you know at the moment, there's a real problem in Poland where criticism of Poland and accusing them of collaboration could be a crime. So we've got a lot to discuss. Anyway, Wendy, I think we should stop there. I'll take questions, shall I?

- Yeah, that's great. Thank you, Trudy.

Q&A and Comments:

- Okay, let me start.

We've got a lovely compliment, Wendy and Judy. Happy International Women's Day to the three great women at the heart of lockdown. That is so lovely. Thank you so much for, yes, we're getting nicely.

Yes, this is from Betty Lowenstein. The Dominican Republic would only take in the Jews to replace the Haitian workers they've massacred. You see, this is the problem, human nature, what is wrong with us?

Yes, not quite the whole world. Yes, I'm talking about the world of Europe.

his is from Graham Perry, the Chinese consular officer in Vienna. Yes, I mentioned Manli Ho. I met his daughter. Yes. And also, Graham, it's important to remember, there were some incredible diplomats. There were some incredible people. And we're going to do sessions on rescuers.

Oh, I agree with you.

Who wrote "The Dark Valley?" Here's Brendan. Oh, someone answered it. I do love this group.

Joan Shapiro saying that Mackenzie King, none is too many. Yes.

This is Lawrence Siegel. I believe it was Blair who said none is too many. Nonetheless, William Lyon Mackenzie King said the sorrows which the Jews have to bear at this time are almost beyond comprehension. Something will have to be done by our country, but nothing happened.

Ellie Strauss, we learned in college that abdication was based on the king's sympathy for anti-Semitic groups. It could have been a thread, Ellie, but I don't, I wouldn't give that too much credence.

Let me just read you something on the subject of the St. Louis. This is an article in the Daily Express. "The German line of St. Louie arrived in Antwerp with her cargo. The plight of these refugees has one sympathy. The decision to allow some of them to land in this country was

approved. This example must not set a precedent. There is no room for any more refugees in this country."

Yes, this is from Marilyn. Jews generally contribute to a country economically, politically. Yes, yes, one could say that, but the problem with race hatred of any kind, it's not based on logic. You know, if you think about it, every wave of immigration into this country has benefited England, has benefited England. And I'm sure the same is true of South Africa, of Canada, America, Australia, any country of immigrants. But basically, unfortunately, we haven't progressed to understand as to why we need scapegoats. And it's usually the immigrant.

This is from Jonathan. A young Jew committed suicide at the League of Nations. That is very interesting.

Q: Was Kristallnacht perpetrated by the police only, or is it the general public as well?

A: It's interesting. It was paras under the control of the police. It was interesting, because there was, if a bill, there was a synagogue that was attached to the homes next door and they didn't touch it. Yes, quite a few people did join in. You know, this is the problem. Venality, you could go into a Jewish home and take all the property. The same thing happened in Eastern Europe. You know, if you unleash the base forces, and there is no redress in law.

This is from Frieda about Goebbels. Interesting, Frieda, can we talk, it's very good points you've raised, but I want to deal with them when we deal with the biography.

- Please read it out, Trude, what is the point?

- The question is a very long question. It's very good question.

Peter Longerich in his biography of Goebbels shows that the monster slowly developed his dedication in Nazism. It took him some time. What is sure is that Goebbels was very, very ambitious. At the time, as a young man, he even was not an anti-Semite. He was a communist actually. It also took him some time. It is not only Magda that had a Jewish stain on her past. Also Goebbels had three serious love affairs with Jewish women. I don't know about Jewish women. He had an affair with a Czech actress, which of course not a problem. It's a very important point, Frieda. And what we think we're going to do is actually look deeply into their biographies. What is certainly true about Goebbels? Don't forget he and his wife commit suicide and kill all their children in the bunker. It's a very good point, but we will come back to it.

Q: This is from Barry. Impossible question, but do you think if Evian had happened after Kristallnacht, the outcome might have been different?

A: You see, that's a very interesting question, Barry. But if it hadn't been for Evian, would there have been Kristallnacht? Because look, Kristallnacht was an excuse, wasn't it? Basically, the

world said, "We're not going to help, we're not going to do anything. So do what you like."

This is from Friedman, I don't the first name.

The actions of FDR have been criticised, justifiably, I believe, for ignoring the efforts to assist the Jews when he was in a position to do so. More importantly, he failed to fully utilise immigration voters over which he had control, or even the temporary sanctuary on the Virgin Islands to save even the relatively small numbers.

Q: Ah, yes. Margaret, what about Rabbi Schonfeld?

A: He personally saved hundreds of children. Yes, this is important. And we, Margaret, I promise you we're going to be dealing with Rabbi Schonfeld later on, because this is when we go back to Britain. There are so, you know, he was a hero too. Schonfeld say he was in correspondence with a man called Rabbi Weissmandl, who is very important in the story. And he got in touch with him to save Orthodox children, religious children. And Schonfeld, I know his son. Schonfeld used to go around the Jewish religious quarters and say, "You take one, you take one." He was a powerhouse.

And this is from Judith. We took a German young adolescent in Blackpool who stayed with us for many years until she immigrated to Israel and had four son. Wonderful, wonderful.

Quakers in England took some Jewish children. Yes, of course they did. The point, it's a very good point, Esther. Look, only about 50% of the kids went to Jewish families. As I said to you, Maggie Thatcher's family took in a kinder. They were saved. That's the point. Good people, there are always good people. We have to work out why there are good people. And if you think in a different way of the evacuated children in England, some of the families were absolutely wonderful to the evacuees, others were appalling. Human nature.

Judy Lapin has recommended "Nicky's Family," part of the Boston Jewish Film.

I know Verschaffelt, one of the kinder. Yes. Was she ever reunited with her family or did they perish? I presume you are asking Esther.

I know who's who. I don't know which, who are you referring to, Judy? Joe Schlesinger, a broadcaster on CBC, was one of Nicky's children, yes. So by the way, was Lord Alfred Dubs, who's such a fighter for human rights.

This is from Burn Morris, as quoted by Abella and Troper, an anonymous senior Canadian official, 1945, responding to a discussion about how many Jews would be allowed in after the war. Even then he said, when the horrors were known, none is too many. Of course he was in a comfortable political climate in Ottawa that encouraged anti-Semitism from the Prime Minister Blair before and during the war.

This is Vivian. I had the privilege of nominating Nicholas Winton for the Freedom of the City of London, a joyous occasion. And I thank my sister Sandra for asking me why he'd not be given the Freedom. He was an incredible man. He'd put it away in his attic. He'd more or less forgotten about it. He hadn't told his wife. It was only when she found the papers, and he realised he'd done something special. That's what's so fascinating about Nicholas Winton. He was a really modest type. He didn't understand what the fuss was all about. He said, "I behaved like a human being."

Yes, it was the "Esther Rantzen Show" in 1988, Paul.

Yes, this is from Bernie Stern. Nicholas Winton's son came to Toronto, and we had a dinner for him in his honour. We had little stones with the names of Jewish children who died in the Shoah. Well, that's remarkable.

Vivian marks, by Vivian Kaplan, now in Canada, was in China. From Heather Kaplan, she is my sister-in-law. I have never known a group like this. I ask a question, someone asks a question, I get it answered. It's amazing.

The Holocaust was above all a German enterprise. The decisions, plans, and organisations. The majority of its executors were Germans. It was a German drive to kill Jews. No Germans, no Holocaust.

Yes, it's a very important point, Rachel. We can't get too stuck on bystanders and collaborators. I hate the terms, but it's shorthand. The Nazis did it. But the point is, particularly when we get to the Shoah, there's an incredible amount of collaborators from country to country. And when you're dealing with, for example, in Lithuania, in Latvia, in Estonia and the Ukraine, you know, there are, even after the Final Solution, that terrible euphemistic phrase, even after it had begun, there are reports back from the perpetrators, reporting back to head office, saying that the Latvians, the Lithuanians, they're being overzealous in their murders. So the Germans, the Nazis unleashed it, because not all Germans were Nazis. And I think we have to be careful here. It's all about people.

Yes, Margaret, I know, unfortunately there are, and she's talking about the instantaneous text. I know it's not perfect, but the point is, you can switch it off if you don't want it. The reason we made the decision to do it is there are people who are very hard of hearing, and at least it gives them a certain sense.

Yes, of course, Eichmann was born in Austria.

Yes, you can turn it off. And Xena, we're not turning it off, because as I said, Wendy had a very long think about this. We're not turning it off, because we've had reports from many people who really can't hear, and it's really helping them.

- And Trudy, and we are trying to accommodate everybody.

- Exactly. Now this is-

- So if it distracts, turn it off. If it doesn't, turn it on. So, you know, it's very simple.

- Yeah, and this is from Patty, I like this. Helena Bonham Carter's grandfather was consul in Morocco and stamped Jewish passports to let hundreds of people to Spain.

Q: Oh, this is a difficult question, Margaret. What do you think inspired some of those many intelligent men to join the Nazi Party? Do you think they were all originally committed to obliterate the Jews?

A: Please give me notice on that, because I promise you when we look at Wannsee, I'm going to be spending at least half an hour on it. It's a terribly important question. Just because you voted in for Hitler in 1933, it didn't mean you voted for the Final Solution. People joined the Nazi Party for all sorts of motives. There's been an incredible number of surveys on it. And it's a rollercoaster, and it's a terrible, terrible story.

The inner circle, don't remember, Hitler didn't intend to murder them in nine, he was letting them out. You see, this is one of the reasons that we concentrate on the bystanders and the collaborators, because Hitler and his cohorts set it in motion. But it's also about the world didn't do. As I said to you right at the beginning, the reason we should study this terrible period of history is because I really do believe, you know, the key to human behaviour is here.

And this is from Joan. I spent the day at the Eichmann trial. We'll never forget seeing him in the glass booth. Oh, Joan, I hope you've written about that. That's extraordinary. This is from Ellie Strauss. My mother knew Eichmann, saw him several times in Budapest, and heard him saying, "This time, I'm going to do a thorough job." My God.

Yes, Judy Miller is mentioning the 60-minute TV show on Nicholas Winton.

I met the baby who was tossed to her waiting relatives in the USA. That was off the boat. Oh, unbelievable. Yes, there is a very good film called "The Voyage of the Damned" about the St. Louie, yes. There's another film called "Ship of Fools," it's fiction. You can get, they're both on Prime. And actually what I did yesterday, I actually punched in Jewish movies into my Prime, and both these films came up. "Ship of Fools" is a brilliant film.

Gisela Feldman and Sonja Sternberg were on the St. Louis with their mother, and both belonged to our show in Cheshire in England. Susan Alexandra, shame Canada. Yeah, okay. A lot of you are getting very cross about the Canadians.

And this is another one from Ellie again. A good friend of mine was on a ship from Antwerp. They docked at Norfolk, and Coast Guards wanted them gone. Eleanor Roosevelt happened to be there and intervene. Yes, Eleanor Roosevelt is a bit of an unsung hero. She was fantastic. She was involved in all sorts of civil rights programmes as well, as was Albert Einstein.

This is from Bonnie. I think we should study Holocaust history to protect our Jewish future. Your review of pre-Holocaust history helps us to be conscious of the risk. I'm going to get on the risk, conscious of the risk to the Jewish and Israeli community in crossing the boundaries between respectful dialogue and anti-Israel culture. Okay, you're getting onto my hobby horse, Bonnie. I believe passionately we can only really teach the Shoah within the context of Jewish history. We've ripped it out of its context, and it's becoming meaningless. And I'm saying this with heavy heart and the Judah eyes. And I also agree with you about this. So many of our children and grandchildren don't know the history. That's why with Wendy's help, we made those teaching films. They are actually specifically teaching films. They're not meant to be special glossy productions. They're actually to give our kids the university information.

Look, without getting into the argument of Israel, which I know everybody's got different views on, I think one of the problems is that it's, there's that quote of Howard Jacobson, they can't forgive us the Holocaust. And Israel is the child of the Holocaust. I think one of the most appalling experiences I ever had with a Jewish educator, when she actually said to me, what's the connection between Israel and the Holocaust? And she was in a very high position, and that really, really got to me. Anyway, but we'll talk more about this later on.

This is from Ellen Driesen. I think it's important to note that after 11, 12 years of FDR presidency, German quota of immigration was not fulfilled. FDR simply did not to win the Jews. Ellie Strauss, I've long believed he was indifferent, but more and more information was coming out that he was an arrogant anti-Semite. It's complicated. We're going to spend more time on this.

Tehomi spent many years in Hong Kong and died. Yeah, the story of Tehomi is quite problematic. My question is, what did the Jews in America, South Africa, and Australia have to say all about this? We will be spending a lot of time on the American response and the English response. And I will be bringing people in to look at the South African response. I don't know about Australia. It will be interesting to find someone who knows that subject. And I think it's a very good point. America's incredibly complicated. And we will spend a lot of time on it. We haven't, yes, the first Maccabiah Games was a way of bringing Jews to Palestine, nought has been mentioned about this. No, that's a very, very good point, and I think it's something that should be redressed. Thank you.

Q: Also, why have I not mentioned Avraham Stern?

A: I did, I did mention Avraham Stern, but there's going to be a lot more about him when we actually get to Palestine itself.

This is, a cousin of my mother was a young girl who joined the Stern. This is from Natie Nachman. I had a handwritten letter from an uncle in Poland written in 1939 to my father in South Africa saying he was worried about the Jews in South Africa because of the Greyshirts, and just suggested my father send myself and brothers to Poland, which could be safer. Wow.

Don't forget, we looked at the trial of the protocols, and we talked about the Greyshirts about six months ago. Look, it's complicated. You know, I was in Poland just after communism fell, and Ronald Lauder had taken, he really did some wonderful things in Poland. And he set up a Jewish school. And he wanted this brilliant Jewish educator. Her husband was an archivist. So he cleaned up the Jewish Historical Institute, and I was with my partner who is a Polish Jew in, who was a Polish Jew, born in America, but that's where his family came from. And we were in the archives. We found seven passports of Jews who had come back to Poland for whatever reason between 1936 and 1939. And of course they were all murdered. So why did people move? Who knows the stories.

Look, don't forget the words of Nahum Goldmann. Remember what he said? "I could not have imagined the infernal, even in 1939. You needed the soul of a Dante, nothing like the Shoah." Because it is, look, of course, mass murder, appalling events go back to the dawn of history. But the point about the Shoah is it's going to be a plan covered over a four-year period and it's international, and it's bureaucratic, and it's industrialised. Nothing like that could have been imagined. We didn't have televisions.

Q: Wouldn't it'd been, you know, one thing, somehow, if there'd been more instant media, would it have made a difference?

A: One of the things that I think is really going to upset you is when I do a session on the press and just how much was known.

This is from Lily, a comment on the Kindertransport from Frankfurt. A cousin tells her happy, successful story how she also recounted how many children were not so fortunate were abused by their host families. She never forgot her family and kept in touch, helping them financially through the years. Yes, yes, Lily. People are people. Some were magnificent, and some were terrible. I had a terribly sophisticated friend whose mother was an extraordinary Viennese Jewess, incredible woman. And she was kind of, you know, she became a maid, and they treated her terribly badly. If this is true, no, the UK did not rescue more Jews than the rest of the world. 40,000 to Palestine, More went to America actually, 200,000 in the end. Yes, Flor Kent, a friend of wonderful sculptor, created the Kindertransport memorial at Liverpool Street. It's a life cast of a girl aged eight.

Q: Yes, it's absolutely splendid, Valerie, thank you. What about Wilfrid Israel?

A: Yes, I've already talked about Wilfrid Israel in the past, because he's a bit of a hero of mine. I will be mentioning him again. Of course, he owned a string of department stores and was part

British, he was half British, half German, and a great hero. His plane went down with Leslie Howard's plane over on a flight from Lisbon.

Q: This is from Melvin. How much of the Canadian in US anti-Jewish immigration was fear of communism rather than theological?

A: Very important question, Melvin. It's both, isn't it? Money, none. Maureen, arrived in South Africa, couldn't get them to tell me more. Appreciate you fill in some burps, thank you.

Yes, South America. Yes, South America took in quite a few Jews. There was already a big Jewish community in Argentina. Don't forget that Baron de Hirsch had bought tracks of land for Eastern European Jews.

Q: Alan Maggie, Did the outcome of the Evian Conference have any direct effect on the Final Solution?

A: I'm afraid I'm going to have to say yes to that. It doesn't mean necessarily complicity. But Hitler, it's written in Goebbels' diary. "We savages are better than the so-called civilised world." You see, if you want a judenrein reich, it means getting the Jews out. But if they're being, if the doors are being closed, and when Hitler goes for the invasion of Russia, then there can no longer be a judenrein reich. And that's when they begin the murders. Of course, between '39 and '41, thousands and thousands of Jews died of starvation, a shot in the ghettos.

Yes, this is from Michael Block. Meridor and Raziell were in a Jeep in Iraq that was shot up by a German aeroplane. Raziell was killed and Meridor survived, returned to Israel, and took over the Irgun until Begin arrived. He was head of World Betar in Poland with 250,000 members. Thank you for that, Michael. You see, this is, the story of the Haganah, the Irgun, and the Stern is an incredible story. I get really upset personally there are such quarrels between them, because in many ways, they argued over tactics, but in the end, they were all trying to save Jews. And I think it's so much, you know, the way it kind of was riven in Israeli politics for so long, I suppose you could say it still is. Rhodesia took in Jews who were denied entry into South Africa.

Alan, this is fascinating, and I think it's going to tie up with Helen Fry's research on Kendrick. And I believe, oh, look, I can't because the book hasn't been published yet, but I've spoken to Wendy, and we're going to invite her in. But I guess, I think there was a deal between, Kendrick was, he later on became head of MI6. A fascinating man. Begin in Poland. Yes, Begin, of course, his story is incredible. Marion would like to know more about organisations that helped to rebuild Jewish lives between 1945 and '48. Yes, yes, we will be dealing with this.

Q: Now, Lynn. Did not the Nazis take a lot of their tactics from that of the United States dealing with the Blacks from their conception in the Civil War?

A: Look, what happened to the Black population in America, slavery, you know, we can find

parallels in mistreatment when you refuse to see the other as human.

No, I don't. I think the Nazis, the concept of the concentration camp, they certainly took from the British. No, I think that route is a different route. But of course what happened is also appalling.

Q: Would Hitler have succeeded, this is from Brian, without the enthusiastic participation of the locals in Ukraine, Romania, and Hungary?

A: Interesting question. Yeah, I want to think about that. Can you hold that, Brian?

Q: This is from Barbara. Will you talk about Hannah Arendt?

A: It is going to be discussed, but I'm leaving Hannah Arendt to Dennis and David. She is an extraordinary woman. And in advance, can I suggest to you, those of you who have Prime television, Prime channel, and I'm sure it's on Netflix, look up the film called "Hannah Arendt." It's very good. It's a feature film, but it's very good. And of course she's very controversial.

Yolanda, unfortunately, I've looked at the Evian Conference twice already. I'll find a book for you. So I think that's enough.

- Trude, I want, yeah, I just want to say, you know what, we have, I'm having a look here, we have another presentation on the Israeli general election in 40 minutes.

- That'll be very exciting. I better get another coffee.

- Well, it's going to be, yeah, I'm very excited. I wonder if we're going to hear anything new. But, so yeah, I want to give you all a break. I want to give Judy a break. I want to thank everybody for joining us this morning. And see you all in 40 minutes.

- God bless, darling. Be well, Wendy. God bless you.

- Thank you. And to you. Okay, bye-bye.