

Educators-in-Residence Spring 2021

Visiting Poland

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World History/European History, 9-12



Center for
EUROPEAN STUDIES
at the University of Florida

See Attachment

Visiting Poland

Rachel Rothstein

Educators-in-Residence Spring 2021 Closing Conference

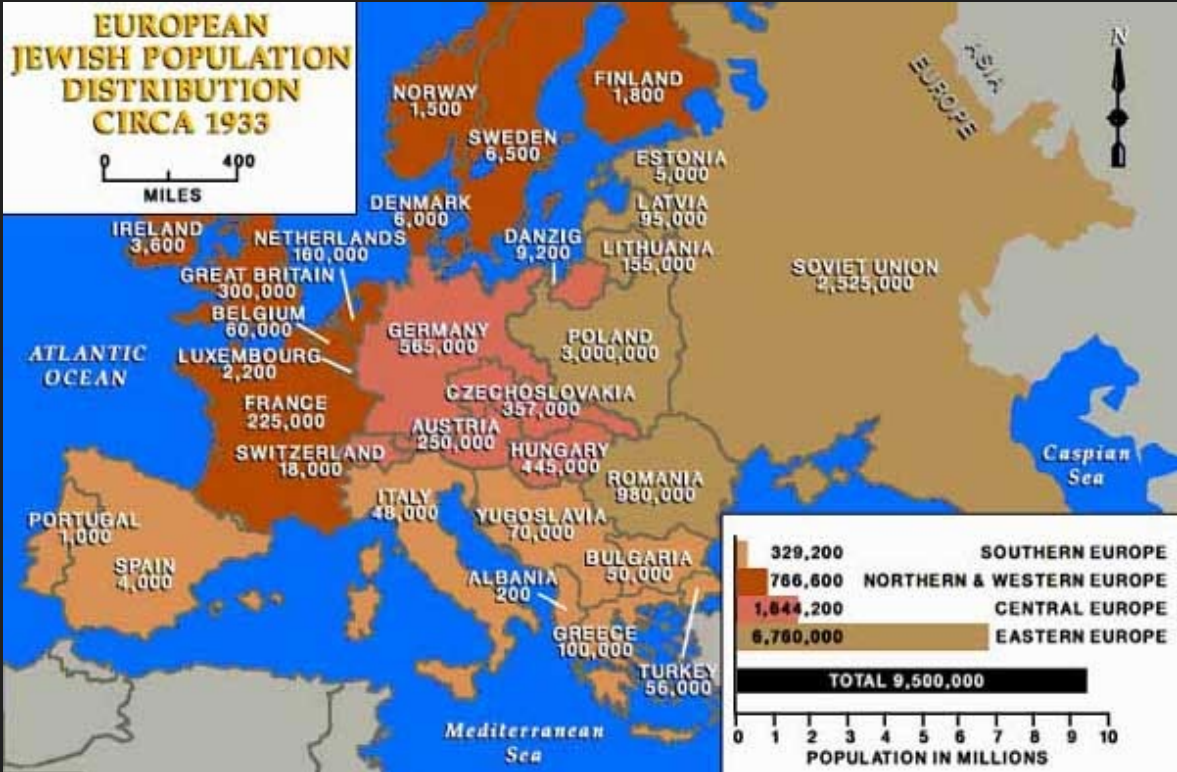
Overview/Description of Lesson

In January I will be taking part of our senior class to Poland to learn about Poland's rich Jewish history, the Holocaust, and the post-war Jewish community as part of our 3 week Israel Poland Experience trip. This lesson will help prepare students with a brief review of some of the historical context (students had a unit on the Holocaust during their junior year) before focusing on 2 memorials that we'll be visiting during our trip - the memorial at the back of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Rapoport Warsaw Ghetto memorial in Warsaw.

Expected Outcomes

Students are familiar with the basic historical context when we arrive in Poland and they are able to make connections between what we learned and what we will see during our trip.

Historical Context



"All the News That's
Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA

Partly cloudy and occasional warm-
er today. Tomorrow generally fair
with moderate temperatures.
Temperature—High, 67; Low, 41

Copyright, 1939, by The New York Times Company.

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GERMAN ARMY ATTACKS POLAND; CITIES BOMBED, PORT BLOCKADED; DANZIG IS ACCEPTED INTO REICH

BRITISH MOBILIZING

Navy Raised to Its Full Strength, Army and Air Reserves Called Up

PARLIAMENT IS CONVOKED

Midnight Meeting to Hold by Ministers—Negotiations Admitted Failure

By The Associated Press.
LONDON, Friday, Sept. 1.—The
British Parliament was summoned
to meet today at 8 P. M. (13 hours
in New York).

British Call Up Forces

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS IN
LONDON, Friday, Sept. 1.—All
attempts to bring about direct
negotiations between Germany and

Bulletins on Europe's Conflict

London News of Warsaw Bombing

LONDON, Friday, Sept. 1 (AP).—Reuters British news agency said it had learned from Polish sources in Paris that Warsaw was bombed today.

French Cabinet Begins Day of War

PARIS, Friday, Sept. 1 (AP).—The French news agency said today that official French dispatches from Germany indicated that "the Reich began hostilities on Poland this morning."

The agency also reported that the Polish Embassy here had announced that "Germany violated the Polish frontier at four points."
"German reports of pretended violation of German territory by Poland are pure invention, as is the fabric of 'attacks' by Polish insurgents on Gdansk," the embassy announcement said.

Attack on Berlin Forest Reported

LONDON, Friday, Sept. 1 (AP).—A Reuters dispatch from Paris said:

"The following is given with all reserves: According to uncorroborated reports received here, the Germans have begun an offensive with extreme violence on the whole Polish front."
First Wave of Bombs Swept Into Gdansk
GLESWICH, Germany, Friday, Sept. 1 (AP).—An army

HOSTILITIES BEGUN

Warsaw Reports German Offensive Moving on Three Objectives

ROOSEVELT WANTS NAVY

Also Notifies Army Leaders of Warfare—Envoys Tell of Bombing of 4 Cities

By JEREMY SCAPING
WARSAW, Friday, Sept. 1.—The
news here today that German
troops had begun an attack on
Poland, and that they were
advancing on Gdansk, Cracow and
Warsaw, was met here with
astonishment.
At Gdansk, three bombs exploded
in the city.
The regular German Army started
an offensive in the direction of
Gdansk in Upper Silesia and

FREE CITY IS SEIZED

Forster Notifies Hitler of Order Putting Danzig Into the Reich

ACCEPTED BY CHANCELLOR

Polen Ready, Made Their Preparations After Hostilities Appeared Inevitable

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.
DANZIG, Friday, Sept. 1.—Mr.
Forster, Danzig's mayor, today
notified Hitler of the decision
of the Danzig government to
accept the incorporation of
the city into the Reich.
In a telegram to Chancellor
Hitler, Forster explained his
action as necessary to insure "the

Hitler Acts Against Poland



HITLER GIVES WORD

In a Proclamation He Accuses Warsaw of Appeal to Arms

FOREIGNERS ARE WARNED

They Remain in Poland at Own Risk—Nazis to Shoot at Any Planes Flying Over Reich

By OTTO D. VOLCKMANN
BERLIN, Friday, Sept. 1.—
Charging that Germany had been
attacked, Chancellor Hitler at 11:30
o'clock this morning issued a pro-
clamation to the army declaring
that from now on there will be
shoot with force and killing on the
ground forces "to finish once and
for all."

Ghettoization



Everyday Life in the Warsaw Ghetto



Small Group Activity

Split students into pairs and have them go through the photographs and answer the following questions to prepare for our group discussion:

- What do you see in the photographs?
- How do these photographs help us understand the experience in the Warsaw Ghetto?
- What surprises you about these photographs?
- How do these photographs differ from other photographs you've seen from the Holocaust period?
- Why do you think these photographs were taken and by whom?



























Deportation



Post-war Memorialization



Thinking about Memorials

- Depiction - literal vs. abstract
- Who or what is it memorializing
- Who is memorializing
- Space
- Time

Memorializing the Holocaust

- Early Jewish attempts to memorialize - Yizker Books
- Auschwitz Museum and Memorial - give students background and history regarding the memorialization and preservation of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau

יחזקאל הרפנס

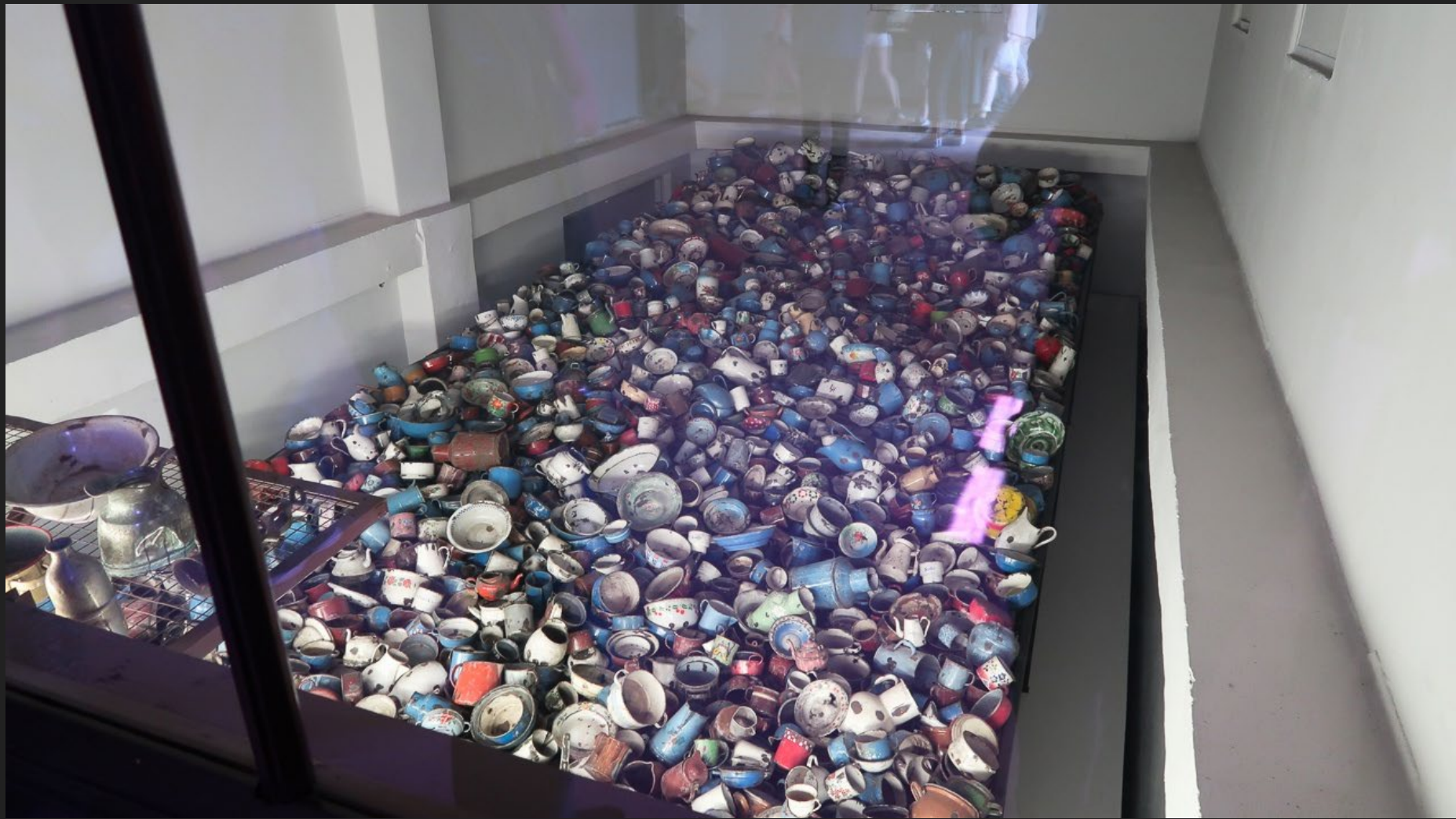
טלמך

תולדות קהילה יהודית
במורדות הקרפטים











Small group discussion

- Have students return to their pairs and jot down notes for our larger group discussion when we come back together.
- Read the quote on the following slide
- Was this project doomed from the start? What would happen if no winner was determined?
- Then, look at the next slide with the two pictures of a monument
 - What do you see in the image in the left?
 - What do you see in the image on the right?
- Lastly, look at the slide with the two plaques. How do they differ?

Henry Moore at Auschwitz Memorial Announcement

“The choice of a monument to commemorate Auschwitz has not been an easy task. Essentially, what has been attempted has been the creation - or in the case of the jury, the choice - of a monument to crime and ugliness, to murder and to horror. The crime was of such stupendous proportions that any work of art must be on an appropriate scale. But, apart from this, is it in fact possible to create a work of art that can express the emotions engendered by Auschwitz?

It is my conviction that a very great sculptor - a new Michelangelo or a new Rodin - might have achieved this. The odds against such a design turning up among the many maquettes submitted were always enormous. And none did. Nor were any of the purely architectural...projects fully satisfactory.

There were, in the end, three projects, all of which were judged good, but none of which was considered entirely adequate. The jury considered that its primary task was not to award a prize, to decide which of these three was the best, but rather to ensure that the finest possible monument be built at Auschwitz.

With this end in view, a unanimous decision was reached: the three best teams have been asked to submit, if possible, in collaboration, but if necessary singly, a new project or new projects. A final judging will take place in 1959. The jury will meet again to decide whether one of these projects is worthy of its approval, and if so, which.”



FOUR MILLION
PEOPLE SUFFERED
AND DIED HERE
AT THE HANDS
OF THE NAZI
MURDERERS
BETWEEN THE YEARS
1940 AND 1945

FOR EVER LET THIS PLACE BE
A CRY OF DESPAIR
AND A WARNING TO HUMANITY,
WHERE THE NAZIS MURDERED
ABOUT ONE AND A HALF
MILLION
MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN,
MAINLY JEWS
FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES
OF EUROPE.

AUSCHWITZ - BIRKENAU
1940 - 1945

Rapoport Memorial

- Give students background information on the memorial.
- Discuss Rapoport quotes about the memorial (see next slides)
- Have students write down what they see on each side of the memorial (see next slides).
- Discuss the politicization of the memorial since it was created (see next slides).

Nathan Rapaport's Warsaw Ghetto Monument - 1948 (5th anniversary of WGU)

“Could I have made a stone with a hole in it and said, ‘Voila! The heroism of the Jews?’ No, I needed to show the heroism, to illustrate it literally in figures everyone, not just artists would respond to. This was to be a public monument, after all. And what do human beings respond to? Faces, figures, the human form. I did not want to represent resistance in the abstract: it was not an abstract uprising. It was real”

Nathan Rapaport's Warsaw Ghetto Monument - 1948 (5th anniversary of WGU)

“A clearly national monument for the Jews, not a Polish monument. I wanted to show the Polish people who we really were.”







The memorial's backdrop today - POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in the background





West German
Chancellor Willy Brandt

1988 - 45th Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

“We commemorate this struggle today in a special way because in this land, the land of so many uprisings, the uprising of the Jewish fighters was perhaps the most Polish of all uprisings.”

- Lech Wałęsa, leader of Solidarity

Resources

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- <https://aboutjewishpeople.com/warsaw-ghetto-color-photos/>
- James E. Young's book (1993): *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*