Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Resistance Movement**

***The question is not “Why didn’t more Jews fight back?”, the question is***

***“How were so many people able to fight back in the face of such adversity?”.***

During WWII, an estimated \_20,000-30,000\_\_ Jews fought bravely in resistance groups.

*Before we look at the many ways in which people were able to resist and fight back, let’s consider the enormous obstacles that they faced in order to do so.*

Germany had already easily defeated two powerful nations and civilians were mostly unarmed

For example, an entire ghetto in Lithuania was killed after two boys successfully escaped.

Nazis held entire families and communities responsible for individual acts of resistance

Nazi Policy of Collective Responsibility

Germans had Superior Weaponry/Military

**Obstacles to Resistance**

Isolation of Jews and Lack of Weapons

Secrecy of Nazi Atrocities

It was often difficult to find hiding places and sympathetic local populations

People who did help Jews did so under punishment of death

Many people taken to Auschwitz were forced to write postcards to friends and relatives just before they were gassed saying, “Arrived safely. I am well.”

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Used guns, grenades and homemade bombs to attack Nazis. Fighting lasted for 28 days. Of the 56,000 captured, 7,000 were shot and the rest sent to camps.

Prisoners escaped and informed sympathetic leaders of the death camps, including sketches of the buildings.

Attempts to Inform the Outside World

Stole documents, tampered with machinery, set fires in factories

Acts of Sabotage

Armed Ghetto Resistance

**Resistance in the Camps**

Alleviate Suffering of Others

**Resistance in the Ghettos**

Using Newspapers and Radios

Included gathering food, money, and medical supplies

Armed Camp Resistance

Couriers

Prisoners at Sobibor carried out a plan to attack the Nazi officers, set fire to the camp and break open the gate. 200 managed to escape.

Used smuggled radios to spread news of the war.

Sent messages and smuggled weapons. Tried to spread word of mass murders.

Focused on keeping alive and sabotaging Nazi efforts. In 1943 they attacked railway lines. When Germans attacked, they found 20,000 people operating in the forests of Soviet territory.

Largest partisan movement in Europe

Germans first destroyed potential sources of resistance, including professors, artists, teachers, writers, etc

Jewish Resistance

Polish Resistance

**“Upstander” Resistance**

These fighters were prevalent throughout Europe and operated in forests, cities and mountains.

While other upstanders only allowed single young men, these groups sometimes included women, children and elderly in “family camps”.

Soviet Resistance

Resistance set up rudimentary schools to educate children since Nazis believed only the most basic education was necessary for these “subhuman” Poles.

**Many people also consider just surviving to be an act of resistance.**

**Explain why you think this is.**

**Resistance in**

**Nazi Germany**

Some groups did not welcome these fighters due to anti-Semitism.

Attending secret classes to study religious and secular topics.

Refers to attempts by people to maintain their humanity and personal integrity.

Underground Schools and Libraries

Gathering evidence of atrocities to undermine German efforts to hide the truth of the Holocaust.

**Spiritual**

**Resistance**

Documenting the Holocaust

Secret Religious Activities

Through secret prayer, communities could build morale and reaffirm cultural and religious identity.

Children at Therensienstadt painted pictures and wrote poems to help them deal psychologically with their circumstances.

Cultural Activities

The only German group that spoke out against Nazi genocidal policies.

Since the Nazis arrested or killed all opposition, and spies were everywhere, there were fewer people willing/able to resist.

White Rose Movement

Resistance was limited and largely ineffective

Operated secret printing presses to publish books with disguised covers, including one about concentration camps with secretly made photographs included.

Distributing Anti-Nazi Literature

Many different plots to get rid of Hitler were planned and in some cases attempted.

Assassination Plots

Couriers

Secret Religious Activities

Collective Responsibility

Polish Resistance

Documenting the Holocaust

Alleviate Suffering of Others

Soviet Resistance

Assassination Plots

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Using Newspapers and Radio

Sabotage

Cultural Activities

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Armed Camp Uprisings

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