

RESEARCH TOPICS AND SOURCES



TOPIC	OVERVIEW	SOURCES
Partisans	Some Jews joined secret, armed organizations to fight the Nazis. Partisans organized in forests or formed underground groups in cities, and engaged in acts of sabotage and destruction. Some were fighters, but others were scouts, cooks, and caretakers of the young and sick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: Partisans • Article: Jewish Partisans • Testimony: Sulia Rubin, Mira Shelub • Diary: Life of Jewish Partisans and Jewish Family Camps in the Forest • Video: Introduction to the Jewish Partisans
Uprising at Auschwitz-Birkenau	Sonderkommandos were work units made up of death camp prisoners who were forced to dispose of gas chamber victims. In October 1944, the Sonderkommando at Auschwitz-Birkenau planned a rebellion by smuggling in gunpowder to destroy the gas chambers and crematoria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: The Revolt at Auschwitz-Birkenau • Article: Roza Robotka • Testimony: Anna Heilman and bio, Dario Gabbai, Lusia Haberfeld • Article: "Zalman Gradowski" from Personal Testimonies Handout
Cultural Expression	Alongside the hunger, the crowding, and the constant hardship, a rich spiritual and cultural life existed in many ghettos. Jews often risked their lives for higher values including educating their children, maintaining traditions and sustaining centuries-old cultural activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: Theater and Music in the Vilna Ghetto • Testimony: Charlene Schiff describes a clandestine school for children in the Horochow ghetto, Cultural Life in the Vilna Ghetto • Diary: The Diary of Yitzchak Rudashevski • Music: Music of the Holocaust (During the War) • Photos: To Live with Honor and to Die with Honor • Art: Art in the Holocaust

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<p>Petr Ginz: Resistance Through Art and Writing</p>	<p>At age 14, Petr Ginz (1928-1944) became the editor-in-chief of a magazine, <i>Vedem</i> ("In the Lead"), produced secretly in Terezin, the ghetto and camp where he was imprisoned. Petr helped to create hundreds of pages of essays, poems, and drawings documenting their life in Terezin and their inner thoughts and feelings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: Terezin Teens Fought Back with Underground Magazine • Diary: "The Diary of My Brother" • Video: "Vedem" by Petr Ginz • Video: Petr Ginz and the Boys of Vedem • Video: The Last Flight of Petr Ginz (trailer) • Study Guide: The Last Flight of Petr Ginz
<p>Women who Resisted</p>	<p>The involvement of women in resistance efforts is often overlooked. However, women played active and critical roles as couriers and smugglers, armed partisan fighters, members of ghetto and concentration camp resistance groups, and leaders of rescue and aid operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: The Female Couriers During the Holocaust • Article: Women of Valor – Irena Sendler • Testimony: Anna Heilman, Lusia Haberkfeld, Vera Laska • Podcast: Choosing to Act: Jewish Women's Resistance in the Holocaust • Video: Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Zivia Lubetkin • Videos: Rachel Auerbach and the Soup Kitchen in the Warsaw Ghetto
<p>Escape from the Sobibor Killing Center</p>	<p>On October 14, 1943, Jewish prisoners at the Sobibor extermination camp carried out an organized uprising, luring 11 SS officers to secluded locations and killing them. Nearly 300 prisoners then broke through the barbed wire fencing and escaped, though most were killed in the aftermath by guards, police units, or in the surrounding minefields. About 50 of the escapees survived the war.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: The Aftermath of the Sobibor Revolt • Testimony: Chaim Engel (clip 23), Thomas Blatt (clip 24), Philip Bialowitz (clip 25), Selma Engel • Photo: Survivors of the Sobibor death camp who took part in the revolt • Video: "I Have to Write Everything Down": The Diaries of Selma and Chaim Engel • Video: The Sobibor Uprising